



SHIRE OF MT MARSHALL

Infrastructure & Development Committee

**Minutes of meeting held on
Wednesday 19 May 2010
held in Council Chambers,
Monger Street, Bencubbin,
commencing at 5:44pm.**

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1.0 Declaration Of Opening / Announcement Of Visitors

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 5:44pm and welcomed everyone present.

2.0 Record Of Attendance / Apologies

Attendance

Cr PA Gillett	Chairman / President
Cr IN Miguel	Deputy President / Committee Member
Cr MR Shemeld	Councillor / Committee
Mrs Eva Haydon	Chief Executive Officer / Committee
Mr Rod Munns	Shire Engineer / Committee
Cr DA Miguel	Councillor / Deputy
Cr CJ Kirby	Councillor / Deputy
Cr RN Breakell	Councillor
Mr Matthew Gilfellow	Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Apologies

Cr MP Hogan	Councillor / Committee
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3.0 Confirmation Of Minutes Of Previous Meeting

3.1 Minutes of Infrastructure and Development Committee Meeting 17 February 2010

I&D2010/004 COMMITTEE DECISION / OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Infrastructure and Development Committee Meeting Tuesday 17 February 2010 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Moved Cr MR Shemeld Seconded Cr IN Miguel Carried 6/0

4.0 Petitions / Deputations / Presentations / Submissions

Nil

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5.0 Reports of Officers

5.1 Engineer

Nil

5.2 Chief Executive Officer

5.2.2 Engineering Administration Officer

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Shire of Mt Marshall
NAME OF APPLICANT:	N/A
FILE REFERENCE:	S1/14 + F1/3
AUTHOR:	Eva Haydon – Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	No Interest to Disclose
DATE:	11 May 2010
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	Nil
CONSULTATION:	Rod Munns – Engineer Senior Administration Officer – Jack Walker
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
POLICY IMPLICATIONS:	Nil
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:	2010/2011 Budget provision
STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Absolute Majority

I&D2010/005 COMMITTEE DECISION / OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the position of Engineering Administration Officer be created and funding provision be made in the 2010/2011 draft budget for that position.

Moved Cr IN Miguel

Seconded Cr RN Breakell

Carried 6/0

BACKGROUND:

It has become evident that the Engineer is drowning in paperwork and with the imminent arrival of ROMANS II, this situation is unlikely to improve. The best solution would be to advertise for a technical officer, however, in today's labour market, it is unlikely to result in a suitable appointment.

The most cost effective solution would be to appoint an administration officer who could take on an assortment of tasks within the works area. This would enable the Engineer to catch up on outstanding tasks and provide some engineering support to neighbouring shires. It would also free up some of the Works Supervisor's time and enable him to provide more assistance to the Road Construction Crew and undertake training in some basic engineering duties, such as surveying.

COMMENT:

Nil

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5.3 Deputy Chief Executive Officer

5.3.1 Digital Television

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Shire of Mt Marshall
NAME OF APPLICANT:	N/A
FILE REFERENCE:	A6/23
AUTHOR:	Matthew Gilfellon – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Potential benefit of any shire subsidy scheme
DATE:	12 May 2010
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	5.3.1a Correspondence from Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy 5.3.1b Federal Government Media Release
CONSULTATION:	Eva Haydon – Chief Executive Officer
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
POLICY IMPLICATIONS:	TP1.5 Radio Masts/Satellite Dishes
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:	Future budget provision
STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:	Shire’s perceived responsibility for rebroadcasting
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

For committee consideration.

I&D2010/006 COMMITTEE DECISION:

That due to the exorbitant cost of providing digital television rebroadcasting the residents of the Shire of Mt Marshall be advised they should prepare for the cessation of analogue television rebroadcasting in 2013.

Moved Cr PA Gillett Seconded Cr DA Miguel Carried 6/0

BACKGROUND:

Currently the shire owns two self-help transmission facilities that rebroadcast an analogue television signal in the Beacon and Bencubbin town sites. In the second half of 2013 the analogue signal will cease and the digital television signal will need to be used. There are two ways of doing this. The shire can purchase two self-help transmission facilities to rebroadcast the digital signal or satellites can be installed on dwellings that are capable of receiving a digital signal.

There are no firm figures for a digital self-help transmission facility, however an estimate of \$40,000 per channel has been sourced from Dennis Pease. The digital transmission will give access to up to twelve channels. Based on this estimate, to put a facility in each town to carry all channels would cost around \$960,000. It is likely that these facilities will only provide service to the same area that currently receives it.

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A satellite installation is estimated to cost \$700, though this may vary depending on the tradesman, dwelling location, size of satellite required etc. Shire housing is not eligible for the federal subsidy. To put a satellite on each shire owned dwelling, plus provide a \$300 subsidy for all other dwellings it would cost and estimated \$71,600 (38 shire dwellings x \$700 plus 150 other dwellings x \$300). Certain persons on federal government benefits will be able to access the Household Assistance Scheme which will cover the full cost of satellite installation.

Currently there is \$23,335.74 in the Television and Radio Broadcasting reserve. A transfer to the reserve of \$61,672 was included in the 2009/2010 budget though this is yet to be carried out. This transfer would take the reserve amount to \$85,007.74.

COMMENT:

The cost of installing two digital self-help transmission facilities would appear too large for something that only benefits a portion of ratepayers.

After reading the media releases it seems that the federal subsidy for satellite installation is only for households that currently receive the rebroadcasted transmission. If the shire were to give a specific subsidy amount then it is likely that those paying higher rates, who are likely to not be able to access the federal subsidy, would be making up the shortfall for those whose rates would not cover the shire subsidy or those for whom the subsidy would be a major portion of their rates. Those ratepayers who are ineligible for the federal subsidy will also have to directly contribute funds towards their installation.

Television rebroadcasting is not a traditional area of a local government's activity but was taken on when they took on the rebroadcasting equipment. Every household that has a satellite installed will bear some of the cost either directly through their own pocket or indirectly through their rates. It is up to council to decide if each house should pay their own way or if the shire should be used to distribute the total cost according to the portion of rates paid.

Council will also need to consider how any possible subsidy scheme would affect renters, dwellings already using satellite to access television, dwellings accessing paid television services instead of free-to-air services and any other possible scenarios.

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5.3.2 Bencubbin Caravan Park

LOCATION/ADDRESS: Shire of Mt Marshall
NAME OF APPLICANT: Better Bencubbin Progress Association
FILE REFERENCE: A4/1
AUTHOR: Matthew Gilfellow – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: No Interest to Disclose
DATE: 12 May 2010
ATTACHMENT NUMBER: 5.3.2 Correspondence from Applicant
CONSULTATION: Eva Haydon – Chief Executive Officer
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
POLICY IMPLICATIONS: Nil
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: 2010/2011 Budget provision
STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

For committee consideration.

I&D2010/007 COMMITTEE DECISION:

That:

- 1. Council support the request in principle; and**
- 2. Better Bencubbin Progress Association be requested to present a fully costed proposal to Council.**

Moved Cr PA Gillett

Seconded Cr

Carried

Note: The motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

BACKGROUND:

The Better Bencubbin Progress Association has written to the Shire of Mt Marshall with a proposal to move the Bencubbin caravan park from its present location to the Bencubbin Recreation Ground.

Plans from the Better Bencubbin Progress Association are attached. They have obtained costs for the water and synthetic grass to be placed in the barbeque area. Costs are still to be obtained for the movement of the cabins and ablution block, connection and upgrade of power, septic tanks, barbeque and other miscellaneous expenses. Better Bencubbin Progress Association have stated that they are prepared to contribute 'in-kind'.

COMMENT:

Nil

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8.0 Next Meeting – to be advised

To be advised.

9.0 Closure of Meeting

The Chairman thanked all for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 6:15pm.

These Minutes were confirmed by the Infrastructure & Development Committee at its meeting on

Date

Chairman