

MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 30 MARCH 2021

1 OPEN MEETING

The meeting opened at 11:35AM

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Elected Members:

- Cr Rex Edmunds - President
- Cr Claude Holtze
- Cr Lenard Sing

Apologies

- Cr Teresa Timber – Deputy President
- Cr John Mooren

Staff:

- Cathy Winsley - CEO

Visitors:

- Cathryn Hutton – Consultant
- Representatives from Local Government and Regional Development - Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
 - Maree De Lacey - Executive Director
 - Brad Jolly - Director

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

That Council accepts the apology of Cr Timber and Cr Moren for the Special Council Meeting held on 30 March 2022.

Moved: Rex Edmunds

Seconded: Lenard Sing

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declaration of conflict of interest

4 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Maree De Lacey discussed the intention of the NTG to listen to the aspirations of each of the Councils and communities in the region with regards to where they would like to

CW: How does Belyuen manage to ensure that it continues to have representation in any larger council. Cathy indicated that Belyuen was concerned that due to its small size it would have a very small number of representatives within the broader council.

How will the NTG make the decision?

MD: Minister for LG will make a decision that is the best interest of everyone in the region.

Encourage you to tell the government about what matters to you about the whole thing.

LS: How will the meetings happen? Will we have to go to Darwin?

MD: It will depend on what decisions the resulting council makes. Some regional councils move their meetings around to different communities (Local Authority areas) so that the Council sees all the communities in the region.

It would unlikely that there would be 5 councillors from Belyuen present on the big council however the community would still (potentially) have an Local Authority and there would be as many Local Authority members as the "big Council" appoints.

BJ: There is a new body called "local government representation committee" this committee make sure that issues of representation are addressed.

MD: BCGC needs to be clear about the view with regards to Wards. For example, do you want a ward created so that people in Belyuen can vote for local representatives on "big council".

BJ: There could be a range of outcomes arising from the consultation process. Given this, it would be best for BCGC to be clear about what it wants out of the process. For example:

- Need to have appropriate representation
- Would like to have a Local Authority
- Do not want to be connected with XXX
- Want to be connected with XXX

CW: How is the decision being made and who does the calculations to determine whether a proposal is actually viable. It is very difficult for BCGC to grow because there is just not enough money.

MD: The Minister wants the resulting local government(s) to be financially sustainability. This is a critical point for the Minister – want stronger councils both financially and in terms of services to the residents.

CW: What about places like Dundee beach that gets better services than Belyuen but they don't pay a thing?

BJ: Minister is very conscious of the issues of equity. Minister is aware that there are people in some areas that are getting services (such as waste) that they don't have to pay for. Part of the outcome of this process is ensuring that there is fairness.

MD: The submission does not need to be complicated or detailed. It is more important to provide the desirable outcomes for BCGC, what is important and what the community wants to achieve.

CW: Do we need approval from the other councils if we include them in the proposal?

MD: No

BJ: Describes the funding process for Local Authorities. Money allocated to LA can only be spent by LA.

Department will be compiling submission as they come in. After the 20 May (closing) a paper will be put forward to the Minister that outlines the submissions. Once a decision is made the Unit will work with the impacted councils during the transition period.

12.2 COOMALIE AND BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCILS' AMALGAMATION DISCUSSIONS

This report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(a) and 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 as it contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of council or some other person.

<12.2.3.22> That Council asks the CEO commencing drafting a response to the NTG *Have Your Say* consultation regarding incorporation or unincorporated land based on the following:

1. Continued support of joint submission to NTG with Coomalie based on the previous submission
2. Indicates that the following are important considerations for the Council:
 - Local representation on the any resulting council. The council suggested a ward structure that ensures a Belyuen representative is on Council and Belyuen votes for Belyuen representative(s)
 - That Belyuen community forms a local authority
 - Any amalgamation has consideration of communities of interest and does not mix urban and remote communities (not mix Litchfield and Belyuen)
 - Any amalgamation does not include Marakai
 - Considers the future growth of Belyuen
 - Include Wagait, Coomalie and the unincorporated areas.

MOVED: Cr Rex Edmunds

SECONDED: Cr Lenard Sing

RESOLVED

The meeting closed at 1:46PM