



# CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting held on 22 March 2022



**SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND  
MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION**

**Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island Council held at the George Fam Chambers at 7.00pm on Tuesday 22 March 2022**

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## CONFIRMED MINUTES

### Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island held at the George Fam Chambers at 7.00pm on Tuesday 22 March 2022

#### 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

- 1.1 The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.
- 1.2 Shire President introduced the Hon. Warren SNOWDON, Federal Member for Lingiari and Vincent JEISMAN from his office.

Shire President THOMSON thanked the Hon. Warren SNOWDON for his contributions on Christmas Island during his 34 years as member. In 1987 the Christmas Island Assembly was dismissed by the Commonwealth and the Mine was shut down on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1987.

From 1988-90/91 there was struggle between the Union of Christmas Island Workers and the Commonwealth for the re-establishment of the phosphate mine. SNOWDON assisted the union members in getting the mine reopened. Shire President THOMSON paid tribute to the Hon. Warren SNOWDON's role in that; *it was appropriate that a Labor man would do that to represent the interests of the electorate.*

THOMSON stated that the people of Christmas Island have voted for him since as it was admirable what he accomplished in that era. Stated that there would not be the modern Christmas Island today had he not joined forces with the community at that time and worked with Islanders the way that he did representing their interests at the highest levels.

Shire President THOMSON noted that he has been in the role for 34 years and expressed disappointment that the COVID pandemic had caused the postponement of the annual Union Day Festival; it would have been a great opportunity for union members and residents to wish him a large farewell. Invited the Hon. Warren SNOWDON to return to visit the Island in his retirement.

Shire President THOMSON introduced Vince JEISMAN from the office of the federal member for Lingiari. Paid tribute to his dedication and indefatigability in his efforts to keep track of developments and concerns on Christmas Island, so far from the Alice Springs hub. Noted his very consistent efforts to be accessible to the electorate across great distances and time zones during all his years of service.

- 1.3 The Hon. Warren SNOWDON addresses Council. He endorses the comments made about Vince JEISMAN and puts forward he has been an indispensable part of the office. SNOWDON notes that JEISMAN maintains the relations on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island and has been a key advisor in getting the outcomes delivered in the electorate.

The Hon. Warren SNOWDON expresses that he considers it to be his life's luck and a privilege to have been able to stand on the green carpet as the House of Representatives member contributing to national debate for the Lingiari electorate for so long. He says that it is partly due to Christmas Islanders.

SNOWDON expresses that he is humbled by the Shire President's remarks and states that *'nothing which I have achieved could have been made without this community.'* Recalls his first interaction with Christmas Islanders in October 1987 at a meeting in a highway motel in Perth before coming to the Island for the first time in February 1988.

Recalled the Cabinet decision to close the mine in 1987 and the Islanders' earnest desires to see it reopen, knowing that it was still viable. Put forward that his relationship grew with Christmas Islanders since then working with the Union of Christmas Island Workers and the community to help revive it. States that he *'was just a participant. A link. A link in Parliament.'*

Recalls his first evening on Christmas Island at a welcome function at the Pink House and being greeted by Cr FOO Kee Heng. The Hon. Warren SNOWDON learnt the phrase *'yam seng'* for the first time and says that he has had a wonderful relationship with Cr FOO since then. *'It is with great pride I can call you friend.'*

Elaborates that it has been a positive experience as the Member for Lingiari over the last 35 years and thinks he has made between 50 – 60 visits to the Island in that time. Recalls his time as Minister for Territories in the 1990s and the great changes he has seen across his years.

The Hon. Warren SNOWDON recalled the execution of a depopulation strategy for Christmas Island and the fierce resistance the Union of Christmas Island Workers and community put up. *'That's the reason why you're here.'* Passes on his heartfelt thanks to Christmas Islanders.

Recalled the disbanding of the Christmas Island Services Corporation and then the implementation of the WA Applied Laws regime and the Local Government Shire building itself up over time.

Recollected meeting the Manager for Recreation, Community Services and Training Oliver LINES and Research and Grants Officer Karin LINES in the Christmas Island Casino in the 1990s. Noted that there were many stories to be told from that era, all wonderful memories.

The Hon. Warren SNOWDON stated that when the writs are issued, his time as a House of Representatives Member will be over. Spoke about the new Labor candidate for Lingiari Marion SCRYMGOUR and her credentials. Puts that she will be a great fit for Christmas Islanders.

*'I say thank you again. I don't have the right words to express my appreciation.'*

- 1.4 Vincent JEISMAN addresses Council. Expresses that it has been a great experience coming to the Island over the years and serving the people.

## **2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE/ DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST**

- 2.1 Record of Attendance  
Shire President  
Deputy President  
Councillors

Cr Gordon **THOMSON**  
Cr Kee Heng **FOO**  
Cr Philip **WOO**  
Cr Kelvin Kok Bin **LEE**  
Cr Hafiz **MASLI**  
Cr Vincent Cheng-Siew **SAW**

Chief Executive Officer  
A/Manager Finance and Admin  
Manager Community/Recreation Services  
Research and Grants Officer  
Manager Research, Policy, Governance & Grants/Minute Taker

David **PRICE**  
Kevin **WILSON**  
Olivier **LINES**  
Karin **LINES**  
Chris **SU**

- 2.2 **Leave of Absence**

Cr Morgan Boon **Hwa SOH**

- 2.3 **Apologies**  
Councillor  
Councillor  
Manager Works, Services & Waste

Cr Azmi **YON**  
Cr Farzian **ZAINAL**  
Graeme **HEDDITCH**

## 2.4 Declarations of Financial/Impartiality/Proximity Interest

## 3 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

## 4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4.1 Caitlin **PINK** of Flying Fish Cove requests Council make available the Community Garden site on Vagabond Road for gardening projects again. Noted that it had not been active in some time and saw an opportunity for local participation.

Shire President **THOMSON** recalled the active years of the Community Garden, as a project with the CI Neighbourhood Centre in providing a space for asylum seekers at the neighbouring Phosphate Hill Camp to be able to visit and undertake gardening activities. Welcomes new ideas for the Community Garden site now that the asylum seeker use era is over.

Shire to return to Caitlin **PINK** after internal discussions on how to present the Community Garden again to residents for use.

4.2 Cr **FOO** raised on behalf of ratepayers who approached him about the lack of availability of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) on Island. Cr **FOO** noted that the WA Government issued 15 free RAT tests to every household in the state in recent weeks. Residents on Christmas Island have to purchase them from local retailers. Cr **FOO** put that the Commonwealth should mirror the WA Government's practice on Island.

Shire President requested that the Councillors revisit this matter in Item 12, '*New Business of an Urgent Nature Introduced by Decision of the Meeting*' for considered discussion and a resolution.

## 5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5.1 Cr SOH – Leave of Absence

### Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr WOO

Res. No: 11/22

That the leave of absence application submitted by Cr Morgan SOH (22/3/22 to 26/4/22) be approved.

Carried: 6/0

## 6 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

## 7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS/BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 7.1 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 February 2022

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

### Council Resolution

Moved: Cr FOO

Seconded: Cr MASLI

Res. No: 12/22

That Council adopt the unconfirmed minutes of the 8 February 2022 Council Meeting.

Carried: 6/0

### 7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings

## 8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

## 9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### 9.1 Minutes of Community Consultative Committee Meetings

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr MASLI**

**Seconded: Cr LEE**

**Res. No: 13/22**

That the Confirmed Minutes of the Community Consultative Committee meeting of June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021, June 7<sup>th</sup> 2021, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021, November 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 and Information Session with Fisheries Management Committee August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 be received.

**Carried: 6/0**

## 10 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

### 10.1 Chief Executive Officer

#### 10.1.1 Annual Report 2020/21

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr FOO**

**Seconded: Cr SAW**

**Res. No: 14/22**

1. The Shire of Christmas Island Annual Report for 2021 is accepted.
2. An Elector's General Meeting is held on Tuesday 26 April 2022 commencing at 6.30pm for the purpose prescribed by the Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI).
3. The Chief Executive Officer is give notice of the Elector's Meeting and to ensure that statutory requirements regarding the acceptance of the Annual Report 2021 are met

**Carried: 6/0 Absolute Majority**

### 10.2 Manager Finance & Administration

#### 10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts – February 2022

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr SAW**

**Seconded: Cr LEE**

**Res. No: 15/22**

That Council approves the expenditure as presented in February 2022 Schedule of Accounts.

**Carried: 6/0**

#### 10.2.2 Financial Statements - February 2022

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr FOO**

**Seconded: Cr LEE**

**Res. No: 16/22**

That Council receives the Financial Statements of February 2022 for the Municipal Fund.

**Carried: 6/0**

#### 10.2.3 Christmas Island – Compliance Audit Return (CAR) 2021

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr LEE**

**Seconded: Cr FOO**

**Res. No: 17/22**

Audit Committee review the Christmas Island-Compliance Audit Return (CAR) 2021 and present to council for adoption.

**Carried: 6/0**

### 10.3 Manager Community/Recreation Services & Training

## 10.4 Manager Works, Services & Waste

### 10.4.1 Tender Sale of Items, Plants & Equipment – Tender T01/2022

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr FOO**

**Seconded: Cr LEE**

**Res. No: 18/22**

That Council accepts the following tenders for the Sale of Items, Plant and Equipment at the tendered price submitted.

Description	Plant No/ Asset No	Tenderer	Tendered Price
01 – Stihl Brushcutter	P0010	Eng Huat	\$ 110.00
03 – Stihl Brushcutter	P0010	Eng Huat	\$ 110.00
01 – Kubota Ride on Mower	P0060	Kok Seong Tee	\$ 1000.00
02 – Kubota Ride on Mower	P0210	Kok Seong Tee	\$ 1000.00
03 – Honda Mower HRU-216	N/A	Kim Chey H'ng	\$ 200.00
03 – Chainsaw MS250	P0130	Kim Chey H'ng	\$ 100.00
01 – Hedge Trimmer MS250	P0130	Eng Huat	\$ 110.00
02 – Hedge Trimmer MS250C	P0130	Eng Huat	\$ 110.00

**Carried: 6/0**

### 10.4.2 Sale of Surplus – Tender T02/2022

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr MASLI**

**Seconded: Cr SAW**

**Res. No: 19/22**

That Council Accepts the Tender from Kim Chey H'ng for \$ 5,000.00 for the old Hino Tray Truck

**Carried: 6/0**

### 10.4.3 Tender of Sale of Surplus Trailers

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr SAW**

**Seconded: Cr LEE**

**Res. No: 20/22**

That Council calls for Tenders for the Sale of Surplus Trailers.

**Carried: 6/0**

## 10.5 Manager Governance, Research, Policy & Grants

### 10.5.1 Proposed Heritage Act WA (2018) Application from 1/7/22 to IOTs

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr MASLI**

**Seconded: Cr LEE**

**Res. No: 21/22**

That Council publishes the proposed Local Heritage List on the Shire website in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations 2015 ahead of the Heritage Ordinance commencing on 1 July 2022

**Carried: 6/0**

## 11 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

## 12 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING

### 12.1 Motion To Accept New Business – Rats Tests For Christmas Island

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr LEE**

**Seconded: Cr SAW**

**Res. No: 22/22**

That the Council receive new business regarding Rapid Antigen Tests for Christmas Island

**Carried: 6/0**



12.2 Calling Upon Commonwealth For Free Rat Test Provisions

**Council Resolution**

**Moved: Cr FOO**

**Seconded: Cr LEE**

**Res. No: 23/22**

Council resolves to call upon the Commonwealth to provide Rapid Antigen Tests to Island residents for all purposes at no charge.

**Carried: 6/0**

**13 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

**14 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Shire President closed the meeting at 7.54pm

**15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 26 April 2022**