

Please note: These minutes are yet to be confirmed as a true record of proceedings

CITY OF BUSSELTON

MINUTES FOR THE GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2021

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MINUTES

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD IN THE UNDALUP ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, SOUTHERN DRIVE, BUSSELTON, ON 8 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 5.30PM.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY / NOTICE OF RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 5.32pm.

The Presiding Member noted this meeting is held on the lands of the Wadandi people and acknowledged them as Traditional Owners, paying respect to their Elders, past and present, and emerging.

2. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Grant Henley Mayor

Cr Kelly Hick Deputy Mayor

Cr Ross Paine

Cr Kate Cox

Cr Phill Cronin

Cr Jo Barrett-Lennard

Cr Paul Carter

Cr Lyndon Miles

Cr Sue Riccelli

Officers

Mr Mike Archer, Chief Executive Officer

Mr Oliver Darby, Director Engineering and Works Services

Mrs Naomi Searle, Director community and Commercial Services

Mr Paul Needham, Director Planning and Development Services

Ms Sarah Pierson, Manager Governance and Corporate Services

Mrs Emma Heys, Governance Coordinator

Ms Melissa Egan, Governance Officer

Apologies:

Nil

Approved Leave of Absence:

Nil

Public:

191

3. CONFIRMATION AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES3.1 Minutes of the General Electors Meeting held 2 December 2019**RESOLUTION****C2102/013** Moved Mr John McCullum, seconded Mr Tom Tuffin**That the Minutes of the General Electors Meeting held 2 December 2019 be received by the meeting of Electors.****CARRIED****4. ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**4.1 Mayors Presentation

The Mayor presented an overview of the City's achievements in the 2019/2020 financial year.

4.2 Receive the 2019-2020 Annual Report

The Mayor asked Electors if they had any questions regarding the 2019-2020 Annual Report.

4.3 Receive the 2019-2020 Financial Report

The Mayor asked Electors if they had any questions regarding the 2019-2020 Financial Report.

Mr Brian O'Connor

Question

Can you explain how you can meet your financial obligations with just \$1.6 million in unrestricted cash funds while the current short-term liabilities amount to \$21.7 million?

Response

(Mr Tony Nottle, Director Financial and Corporate Services)

We draw from our reserves to help fund expenditures throughout the year. The local government regulations state that funds are restricted and cannot be included in the current ratio calculations, but they are able to be used for specific purposes, outlined in the reserve purposes within the statements; for example, maintenance, capital upgrades and improvements. The Department of Local Government determine that the funds are restricted even though they can be used for a wide variety of things.

RESOLUTION**C2102/014** Moved Mr Terry Thompson, seconded Mr John McCallum**That the City of Busselton 2019-2020 Annual Report and the City of Busselton 2019-2020 Financial Report be received by the meeting of Electors.****CARRIED**

5. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Keith Simms

Question

In the 2008 Pegasus Venue Management feasibility study on the BEACH project, it states the venue market would not be able to sustain two venues of this size within 50km of each other. We currently have the Margaret River HEART, which is approximately 50km south of Busselton and we have the BREC which is approximately 50km north of Busselton. Why has the Council ignored expert advice from the study it had commissioned?

Response

(Mrs Naomi Searle, Director Community and Commercial Services)

That report was commissioned in 2008, many years ago. As with projects that are developed over time, a number of reports and market demand analyses are developed to inform the project, and a number of reports have been commissioned since the 2008 report. Last year, an updated market demand analysis identified the demand for a performing arts centre here in Busselton. It indicated 650 seats would be viable for this region – “viable” meaning that there was demand to build the project. It considered BREC and Margaret River HEART, and identified a 650-seat capacity performing arts centre that could also be flexible and able to be utilised for a range of purposes and functions, such as a convention centre.

Mr Vince Beard

Question

My understanding is the City of Busselton does not support the Department of Transport’s plan to dredge sand from Morgan Street beach, west of Port Geographe Marina. What will be the trigger point for the City to support such action by the Department of Transport?

Response

(Mayor)

The Department of Transport looked at sites to obtain sand for the nourishment of Wonnerup. One of the sites that they looked at was where there has been an incursion of sand, near Morgan Street. They were looking at perhaps translocating that over to Wonnerup. The thoughts expressed by the City and the residents group was that this was inappropriate. Our concern, and the concern of the residents more broadly, is that until the pocket adjacent to the western groyne is filled and naturally bypassing to an extent where the seagrass wrack accumulation is no longer a significant issue, it is too early to source that sand. Our concern is that until the needs of the western beach are met, we should explore other sources for sand nourishment at Wonnerup, including offshore dredging of the sandbar that has occurred there.

Question

What authority and ability does the City have in preventing the Department of Transport going ahead with their otherwise planned dredging of sand?

Response

(Mayor)

On a technical note, we do not have any power below the high water mark; it is the realm of the State. But we have an agreement with the Department of Transport and successive Ministers to work collaboratively to get the best outcome for the residents and the realignment project.

Mr Vernon Bussell

Question

How is Council's promised application for the upgrading of the undeveloped section of the historic Ford Road north-south crossing progressing?

Response

(Mayor)

The short answer is that it is not. We do have money in our Long Term Financial Plan to do an environmental application. The environmental application to construct Ford Road would take a couple of years to do, and then it has an expiry time. Until we are planning to seriously construct Ford Road, there is no point going ahead with the environmental approval process; to spend potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars to get an approval, and then not go ahead and have it expire.

Question

In relation to the extractive industry application on Nuttman Road, as CEO, can you rule that the proponents must adhere to the requirement included when the original submissions were taken, that a 200m section of the unsealed section of the Nuttman Road corridor would be sealed to a proper haulage standard prior to the commencement of the haulage of gravel from the extraction site, to help alleviate dust, noise and corrugation issues?

Response

(Mr Mike Archer, Chief Executive Officer)

I cannot override the Council's decision-making process. We will not know until Wednesday night whether the Council is going to approve that extraction pit. I am not in a position to start negotiating with the applicant and other people until Council has made a decision. If it is approved, Council has said they would be prepared for me to talk to the applicant, yourself and others about the proposal to seal that 200m.

Response

(Mr Paul Needham, Director Planning & Development Services)

From a planning perspective, City officers are of the view that the extension of the narrow seal was not appropriate and it was more appropriate to widen the existing narrow seal to make it a full seal and to also widen the existing gravel road to be a 7m formation. The fundamental issue is whether the Councillors are aware of the issues you are raising and I think it is clear they are aware of those issues. It is for the Council, on Wednesday night, to determine whether they agree with the recommendation of officers.

Dr Andrew Dickie

Question

I am a medical practitioner; my specialty is pathology and my sub-specialty is medical microbiology which concerns human diseases relating to microbes, bacteria, fungi and parasites. Cyno-bacteria produce a wide range of very damaging toxins. It is known from results taken by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation recently that at least two toxic cyno-bacterial species are present in high concentrations in the Lower Vasse River, but there have been no public alerts issued. What exactly is the City doing to address the cyno-bacterial public health risk along the 5.5km stretch of the Lower Vasse River?

Response

(Mayor)

We have been communicating regularly with the Department of Health, the Department of Water and environmental regulators and have acted in accordance with that advice. We have passed on all of the complaints, suggestions and reports to the Department of Health. We do not have the technical capability to address or assess those health questions. We have agreed to undertake any actions that the Department of Health and DWER ask us to. We have committed to any additional testing as appropriate.

Response

(Cr Sue Riccelli)

Following a meeting that was held between the City, DWER and Department of Health, the Department of Health will brief the City of Busselton and the Lower Vasse River Management Advisory Group on potential health impacts of cyno-bacteria in the Lower Vasse River by late March / early April; DWER will provide the Department of Health with historical information on phytoplankton monitoring results; and DWER and the Department of Health will draft a consensus statement on what constitutes an adequate phytoplankton monitoring regime. The Department of Health will then provide the City with a statement outlining the Department's position on potential health impacts of cyno-bacteria blooms in waterways. DWER will also respond to community requests for information related to use of water from the Vasse River for irrigation purposes. I believe there is another meeting in the next couple of weeks to see how that is all progressing.

Question

Why was the tender to improve the water quality and to decrease cyno-bacteria blooms only for an 800m section of the river and not the whole 5.5km?

Response

(Cr Riccelli)

My understanding is the focus was on the area that was the subject of the most blue-green algae, and that has the most population. Also, substantial funding is required to cover the entire section.

Response

(Mr Needham)

When we put the tender out, we were conscious we did not have unlimited funds and we made a decision to focus on a particular section of the river. The work that is being undertaken has identified some opportunities to address issues in more sections of the river. It should not be assumed the only work being undertaken is the work by Alluvium. City staff have been doing work on costings and sediment removal, including in other sections of the river. There are potentially other funding opportunities in the relatively near term if the Council and the Lower Vasse River Management Advisory Group decide to make it a priority.

Question

How was it known that the problem was worse in that 800m section of the river when nobody tested the section of the river above the Strelly Street bridge?

Response

(Mr Needham)

The community pressure we were facing was around that specific section, which is more visible to the general community. The work that Alluvium are doing has identified some opportunities to look at more of the river and we are doing work separate to this work. At an officer level, we are not ignoring the section of the river up to the Isaac Street area.

Mr Robert Mildwaters

Question

In relation to the Vasse River, why is the tender process so short for such a complex matter? Solair, an internationally acclaimed company, offered to clean the Vasse River for free and it was turned down by the City. Why did you not respond? What are you doing about the river?

Response

(Mayor)

The tender process was five weeks. There were eight respondents that specialise in that area. The tender was evaluated by staff and other representatives of agencies with relevant expertise. Under the Local Government Act, we are required to put this process out for tender and we awarded a tender for the work. We have engaged a company with specialist expertise to come in and do the work. We are following the advice of the Department of Health, the Department of Water and the environmental regulator, which we are required to do. There is a responsibility of the State Government to contribute towards any rehabilitation and remediation work. The Swan River is not managed by the local government, it is managed by the Swan River Trust and the State Government. The river is the responsibility of myriad agencies, including the Department of Water and the environmental regulator. We have taken this on to drive it, to get the agencies to come in, to get the funding and get the process done.

Mr Stuart Anderson

Question

Alluvium readily admit their proposal will not reduce the algae in the Vasse River, it will only help control it. Four fountains would help control the algae. There are also bacteria enzyme products you can put in. The community want immediate action to fix the river now.

Response

(Mayor)

All of those suggestions have been amongst many others discussed by the Lower Vasse River Management Advisory Group. Fountains and aeration are not new and have been trialled previously with varying degrees of success. As Dr Dickie pointed out, there are health issues with atomising and spraying the river water until it is cleaned up. Once the river is clean, aeration is a tool in maintaining that cleanliness. There will need to be a whole body of work undertaken, including the removal of the sediment, which has its own environmental implications.

Mrs Leslie Dewar

Question

What is the City's position on allowing multi-level development by the Masonic homes, so we can have a higher level of aged care?

Response

(Mayor)

The Masonic in Broadwater had a proposal, I think about 15 years ago, for a 5-storey development on that site. At that time, there was some opposition to the height in that area. We have more recently seen Cape Care in Dunsborough and Ellenvale in response to needs for various levels of aged care in the community. It could be something we revisit again. I am not aware that we have had an approach from the owners or developers of that land.

Mr Robert Griffith**Statement**

In relation to the Vasse River, I've said this before, all you have to do it put a bung across the Vasse Diversion Drain, transfer the water, open the floodgates and let it run. When the water gets too high, it goes over the bung and out to sea.

Response

Not applicable.

Mr Don Evill**Question**

In the business case study for the BEACH project, it states that groups like the Weld Theatre are going to be charged as a not-for-profit organisation. That results in a rate of \$1,545.00 plus outgoings per hire. How will the Weld Theatre be able to hold its events when you are hiring out the BEACH to other commercial organisations? What are the lease arrangements for the Weld Theatre?

Response

(Mrs Searle)

The Weld Theatre will operate and remain located within the Weld Theatre on a lease arrangement. In the draft business plan on the City's YourSay website, it identifies a number of community and commercial rates. They are only proposed. The financial projections are based on rates that have been derived from an analysis of other like facilities, such as Port Macquarie Glasshouse, Karratha Red Earth, etc. These rates will need to go through a formal resolution of Council when they consider the fees and charges. We also have a budget line item for various discounts for community groups.

Question

You are asking the Weld Theatre to pay \$1,500 per hire, is that correct?

Response

(Mrs Searle)

No, there is a different tiered arrangement for community groups for various spaces. There is not one standard rate.

Mr Len Boyling**Question**

Is the Weld Theatre lease going to be on a month-by-month basis or a longer term basis? What is the meaning of "per hire" in terms of your income proposals?

Response

(Mayor)

The existing Weld Theatre, which is used by the Busselton Repertory Club, pay \$150 per year. They are responsible for outgoings such as insurance. They charge admission to their shows to cover their costs. Should the Busselton Repertory Club desire to hire the performing arts centre, then there would be a cost to that. If there is a cost of \$1,500, for 650 seats, that is about \$2.50, which to open and close a theatre would be standard, in fact pretty generous.

Question

So it does not oblige the use of the theatre by the Busselton Repertory Club?

Response

(Mayor)

No.

Question

In relation to the financial statements, on the statement of cash flows, it shows the proceeds from the sale of assets as being \$3.2 million. Does that figure include the \$2.6 million sale of land or properties relating to the performing arts reserve?

Response

(Mayor)

It was in that financial year, yes.

Question

In the untied grants reserve, there is an opening balance of \$1.2 million. \$1.2 million has been transferred out for a specific purpose. At the same time, \$1.39 million has been transferred into the reserve, which would indicate you have received grants which have not been spent during the year. Would that be correct?

Response

(Mayor)

Yes, that is correct. There are grants that are received when the government gives them to you and the expenditure could be in the following financial year.

Question

If \$2.6 million is for the sale of land for the performing arts centre, plus the \$1.3 million received from grants that has not been spent, a total of \$4 million received during the year has not yet been spent. That \$4 million is included in the \$700,000 surplus. If that land had not been sold at that time, if the grant moneys had not been received or had been spent, then the cash flow position would be something like \$3.3 million in the negative. Would I be correct in saying that?

Response

(Mr Tony Nottle, Director Financial and Corporate Services)

Yes, you are correct. Those reserve funds going into the untied grants reserve are tied to specific projects. We would have budgeted any movement of any sales to go straight into the reserves.

Question

Had you not received that money, what would have been the net cash flow movement at the end of the year? It would have been \$3.3 million negative.

Response

(Mr Nottle)

That is correct. To clarify, it does not mean the position would have been negative \$3.3 million. We would have made other choices to make sure we could afford where we were at.

Response

(Cr Paul Carter)

The closing balance of our reserves in 2018/2019 were \$55,590,000. The balance in 2019/2020 was \$59,500,000. That is an increase of reserves, we are not in a deteriorating position.

Mrs Carol-lyn Mills**Question**

I have recently started a housing group called Crash. Busselton has a housing problem. There are over 30 homeless people and 50 young people couch surfing. What is the City of Busselton doing to address the homelessness in Busselton?

Response

(Mayor)

We have been advocating for a number of years, through our local member, to the State Government and Department of Housing. I have personally met with the Department of Communities, the Director General and the South West Regional Manager to address the issue of housing in Busselton. There is latent housing supply that is not being taken up for budgetary reasons, which is unsatisfactory, and we have addressed that through our communications. There is some concern about where money is being directed for maintenance of properties to get people off the street. The Department of Housing had some land on Brown and Duchess Streets that we approved for high density to provide some affordable social welfare housing, and the Department of Housing have now put that block of land up for sale.

Mr Robert Cook**Question**

When the Causeway Road upgrade was in progress, why was the dual lane stopped just after the Veteran Car Club and re-started near Puma?

Response

(Mayor)

We undertook an extension of the Causeway Road duplication on advice from Main Roads with funding available to continue beyond the Rosemary Road roundabout, up to Strelly Street and including the Strelly Street roundabout. Main Roads are responsible for the Busselton Bypass and the approaches to the Bypass. There are issues with land tenure between Molloy Street and where the duplication is. Our staff are talking to the owners of that land with a view to looking at land purchases and finalising the duplication of Causeway Road in the near future.

Question

I find it strange you would do it without all those things in place. It should not have gone ahead without all of the pieces of the puzzle in place.

Response

(Mayor)

The project was underway when we committed the funding to the extension past Strelly Street, but we did not have additional funding from Main Roads to continue any further.

Question

You have funding for widening of a road to accommodate another service station on West Street, but you did not have money to finish another project.

Response

(Mayor)

There was development approval that went through that, if they did construct the service station, they would have to construct a roundabout at their expense, not the City's expense.

Mr Kevin Strapp

Question

In relation to the BEACH, the consultants said that a 625 seat [theatre] was viable. The City has admitted that the likely losses on the BEACH are about \$1.5 million [per year]. How can you say it is viable?

Response

(Mrs Searle)

In terms of viable, it means it would be viable enough to meet that demand, not financially viable. As you have identified, the projections are that the facility would operate at a cost to Council. In 2008, the Pegasus report had a recommendation that the Council proceed with stage 1 only for a 250-seat black box theatre with a potential for it to expand; stage 2 being a 400-seat proscenium arch theatre, bringing it up to a 650-seat theatre. In 2012, there was an arts and cultural assessment which was undertaken, which reviewed the number of seats and type of facility, and made similar recommendations. In 2016, a market demand analysis was commissioned that identified 650 seats as the demand required for our growing community. That took into consideration BREC, HEART and our growing population.

Mrs Henrietta Hughes

Question

What is being done about houses that are being used for short-stay accommodation but do not have approval?

Response

(Mayor)

We were the first local government in Western Australia to regulate holiday homes through our holiday home local law in 2012. At that time, there were over 1,000 properties that had been operating as short-term accommodation for decades in Dunsborough and, to a lesser extent, Busselton. We captured a lot of those properties that were trying to do the right thing. We also did succeed in a prosecution, with a sizeable fine in the order of \$10,000. A lot more holiday homes were subsequently registered. We have brought in software that extrapolates data from websites such as Airbnb and Stayz, and which gives accurate data on the addresses of holiday home properties. A couple of years ago, we imposed a differential rate on registered holiday homes so they contribute to marketing and our events program. There are about 50 to 100 holiday homes that operate unregistered, which fluctuates. The compliance rate with people registering holiday homes and therefore being susceptible to our regulations is very high.

Question

What restrictions are you putting in place for those who want to apply for a holiday home when they are in a purely suburban area?

Response

(Mayor)

We are doing a review of the holiday home local law this year and we will invite submissions and undertake consultation. We are tasked with addressing an issue that was well embedded in the fabric of Busselton and Dunsborough. We have dedicated staff members who have that role. Where we do get complaints, our staff act on them pretty quickly.

Mr Keith Simms

Question

Is it correct that, in 2015, the City changed its 2012 rules to allow short-term holiday homes anywhere in the City of Busselton?

Response

(Mayor)

Initially we did try to corral holiday homes, as what you would consider tourism, into certain areas. All areas are however zoned residential and if someone wanted to set up a holiday home, if the properties either side of them were holiday homes, there would be very limited grounds to refuse, because they are all zoned residential. Under the local law, we did have delineated areas, but they were unworkable and unenforceable. We will look further at controls under the review of the local law, which we are doing in the next couple of months.

Mr Donald Henderson

Question

Why were valuable books about the cultivation of native plants taken from the library and put into the book sale?

Response

(Cr Riccelli)

My understanding is they were donated to a garden club so they could be used by the public. I will look into the matter further and provide a response.

Response following meeting (provided by Carol Davies, Library Services Coordinator) *We donated the 9 volume reference set to Geographe Community Landcare Nursery, in consultation with Mr Henderson. It was explained to Mr Henderson that the books would be freely available to all who were interested, and would be a valuable addition to the Geographe Community Landcare library. Our records showed that the items were no longer being borrowed.*

At this point in the meeting, Ms Anne Ryan moved the following motion:

The Electors of the City of Busselton request the Council conduct a referendum as soon as possible on the performing arts and conference project as per resolution 15.1 of Council on 24 June 2020; the resolution being a project between \$28.5 million and \$30.3 million. Further, that a workshop to agree to the wording of any such referendum include community groups such as the Bay to Bay Action Group and other community groups across the district together with interested individuals.

Note: *The resolution referred to in the motion is C2006/066 in relation to agenda item 15.1, as resolved at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 24 June 2020.*

Mr Ray Mountney seconded the motion.

There was opposition to the motion.

Ms Ryan spoke in favour of the motion.

Mr Ray Mountney spoke in favour of the motion.

Mr John McCullum spoke against the motion.

Mrs Joy Poustie spoke in favour of the motion.

Mr Tom Tuffin spoke against the motion.

Mr Vernon Bussell spoke in favour of the motion.

Mr Terry Thompson spoke against the motion.

Mrs Leslie Dewar spoke in favour of the motion.

Mr John Lee spoke against the motion.

Mr Michael Gent spoke in favour of the motion.

Mr Neville Wheatley spoke in favour of the motion.

Mr Martin Watkins spoke in favour of the motion.

The motion was put:

RESOLUTION

C2102/015 Moved Ms Anne Ryan, seconded Mr Ray Mountney

The Electors of the City of Busselton request the Council conduct a referendum as soon as possible on the performing arts and conference project as per resolution 15.1 of Council on 24 June 2020; the resolution being a project between \$28.5 million and \$30.3 million. Further, that a workshop to agree to the wording of any such referendum include community groups such as the Bay to Bay Action Group and other community groups across the district with interested individuals.

CARRIED

***Note:** The resolution referred to in the motion is C2006/066 in relation to agenda item 15.1, as resolved at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 24 June 2020.*

Mr Les Saxey

Question

What is being done about protecting the coastline from erosion and storm events?

Response

(Mayor)

Council will be considering a Coastal Hazard Risk Mapping Scheme in the next month or so. We are one of the only local governments in Western Australia who have established a reserve for the purpose of coastal protection. The State funding for the whole of the Western Australian coast is \$1.7 million. We have looked at the cost of retreat, which is the State Government's preferred course of action. To retreat would mean purchasing all of those beachfront properties between Dunsborough and Wonnerup, approximately worth \$16 billion. The cost of placing a rock wall along the whole length is about a third of that amount.

Ms Mia Krasenstein**Question**

I understand that you are not a panel of experts, but do you have an environmental body or an environmental Councillor? How long will you continue to prioritise money, rates and endless development over listening to your electors and fixing, protecting and sustaining our environment? Do you have any long-term environmental plans?

Response

(Mayor)

Yes we do, we have a whole heap of environmental plans – not just for the Lower Vasse River, but for our coastal environment, to preserve our natural bushland, we have conservation covenants. We are bound by State law. You need to understand what is local government responsibility and what is State Government responsibility. We get 3% of taxes, not the 30% that State Government do. We need the support of the State Government and those agencies and must work in conjunction with those agencies to achieve results for ratepayers. We have planted more than 10,000 trees during the time I have been on Council. That does not include offset planting that developers are required to do. Development can be done in degraded areas that is sympathetic to the natural environment and to provide affordable accommodation and not create wealthy enclaves.

Ms Midge Avery**Question**

Are there any plans to develop Signal Park?

Response

(Mayor)

There are no plans to develop Signal Park other than to maintain it as it is.

Question

Why did the Auditor-General make an adverse opinion on the categories of land, including land under roads, in the financial report?

Response

(Mayor)

The Auditor-General's report is required to be judged against strict criteria. These are criteria that most local governments, including the City of Busselton, do not agree with. Indeed, even the people who make up the ratios do not agree with them and agree they should be changed. We have \$60 million in the bank. As a local government, we are in a pretty good position through some good planning over time. The reserves all have a purpose and we have good planning in place for those purposes.

Question

The Wonnerup South and Ludlow-Hithergreen roads are being upgraded to a sealed road over the last six months. It is taking so long and causing problems with dust. When will this be finished?

Response

(Mr Oliver Darby, Director Engineering and Works Services)

Wonnerup South is waiting to be sealed at the moment. We had delays associated with clearing. Ludlow-Hithergreen is underway at the moment.

Question

The Wonnerup South Road is being built up really high, which would wash water into driveways.

Response

(Mr Darby)

The cross overs will be addressed.

Mr Robert Mildwaters

Question

Would you accept Solair's proposal to clean the Vasse River?

Response

(Mayor)

We would have to know what the proposal is and ask the experts.

Mrs Jill Walsh

Question

The reason why they did not put in a tender is because it was only for 800m of the river. With the Alluvium project, will water have to be pumped from the Leederville aquifer?

Response

(Mayor)

We have some allocations from the Leederville aquifer.

Mrs Ann Stanton

Statement

The opposition to the BEACH was quite overwhelming. If you think of the most iconic building in Australia, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the opposition to that was beyond description. If there had been community agreement or a referendum, it would never have been built. If you wait for the time to be right, it will never happen.

Response

Not applicable.

Mr Stuart Anderson

Question

Can I attend a Lower Vasse River Management Advisory Group meeting and request \$2000 to trial an enzyme product in the river and for dredging from the Strelly Bridge south to the Bypass bridge?

Response

(Cr Riccelli)

We make recommendations to Council and it must be endorsed by Council. If you put your proposal in an email, I am happy to ask the group if they are in agreeance with that.

Response

(Mayor)

The Lower Vasse River Management Advisory Group is only an advisory group and does not have any funding but you are more than welcome to come along. We need to obtain environmental approvals before any work is done on the river.

Response

(Cr Riccelli)

We make recommendations to Council and it must be endorsed by Council. If you put your proposal in an email, I am happy to ask the group if they are in agreeance with that.

Response

(Mayor)

We need to obtain environmental approvals before any work is done on the river.

6. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

THESE MINUTES CONSISTING OF PAGES 1 TO 17 WERE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD ON 10 March 2021
DATE: 10/3/2021 PRESIDING MEMBER: 