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DOOMADGEE ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES – ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 22nd SEPTEMBER 2015

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council held in the Inlet Room, 121-123 Esplanade Cairns on Tuesday 22nd September 2015.

PRESENT

Cr F O'Keefe	Mayor
Cr T Douglas	Deputy Mayor
Cr V Ned	Councillor

Council Officers:

R Richardson	Chief Executive Officer
A Seiler	Deputy Chief Executive Officer

APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr E Cairns	Councillor
Cr J Ned	Councillor
A David	Manager Finance
G Richardson	Community Services Manager
G Jeffries	Manager Infrastructure and Projects

The Mayor officially opened the meeting at 12:30.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved Cr F O'Keefe Seconded Cr V Ned that the Minutes of the previous Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 26th August 2015, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED (3/0)

Moved Cr F O'Keefe Seconded Cr T Douglas that the Minutes of the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 10th September 2015, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and recommendations contained within those minutes be accepted 'en-bloc'.

CARRIED (3/0)

DISCLOSURE OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

ELECTED MEMBERS REPORTS

Nil

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

7.1 Appointment of Government Champions

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Not Applicable
APPLICANT:	Not Applicable
FILE NUMBER:	
AUTHOR:	Rod Richardson, Chief Executive Officer
CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Not applicable
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Not applicable
DATE OF REPORT:	17 September 2015

SUMMARY

Consideration of the appointment of Mr Barry Broe, Coordinator-General, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) to the role of Government Champion to Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council.

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BACKGROUND

Council's previous Government Champion was Mr Craig Evans, former Director-General of the then Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience and this individual no longer holds the position of Director General.

COMMENT

The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP, Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, would like to ensure that the Government Champion program is re-established to its full potential.

It is therefore proposed to assign a new Government Champion to Doomadgee, and DATSIP has proposed Mr Barry Broe, Coordinator-General to fulfil this role. Correspondence outlining this submission including biographical details are attached.

CONSULTATION

Nil

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 2009

STRATEGIC ASSOCIATION / ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLAN

Not applicable

RISK ASSESSMENT

Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Not applicable

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Not applicable

POLICY ASSOCIATION

Not applicable

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the offer from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to appoint Mr Barry Broe, Coordinator General to the position of Government Champion for Doomadgee.

Moved Cr F O'Keefe Seconded Cr V Ned that Council accept the offer from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to appoint Mr Barry Broe, Coordinator General to the position of Government Champion for Doomadgee.

CARRIED (3/0)

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7.2 Queensland Local Government Elections (Caretaker provisions 2016)

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Not Applicable
APPLICANT:	Not Applicable
FILE NUMBER:	
AUTHOR:	Rod Richardson, Chief Executive Officer
CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Not applicable
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Not applicable
DATE OF REPORT:	17 September 2015

SUMMARY

Acknowledgement of the Queensland Local Government Elections (Caretaker provisions 2016) in the lead-up to the 2016 Ordinary Election in March 2016

BACKGROUND

The Chief Executive Officer has already request the Electoral Commission of Queensland to undertake the role of Returning Officer and manage the 2016 Election process on behalf of Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council.

COMMENT

The attached correspondence clearly outlines the restrictions imposed on Council during the caretaker period which commences when the Electoral Commission of Queensland publishes the notice of the quadrennial elections calling for nominations and will conclude when the ECQ publishes the declaration of the poll notice for Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council.

The notice of election is Saturday 6th February 2016 and the last day for receipt of Postal Ballots is Tuesday 29th March 2016, following which a declaration of election can be expected to be announced.

Council should prepare for the caretaker period by planning to make any major policy decisions before or after the election period. A major policy decision includes a decision”

- About the appointment, termination or remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer
- To enter into a contract where the total value is more than the great of the following:
 - \$200,000; or,
 - 1% of the Council’s net rates and utilities as stated in the Council’s most recent audited financial statements

CONSULTATION

Nil

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 2009

STRATEGIC ASSOCIATION / ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLAN

Not applicable

RISK ASSESSMENT

Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Not applicable

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Not applicable

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POLICY ASSOCIATION

Not applicable

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

That Council acknowledge receipt of the correspondence dated 9 September 2015 from the Electoral Commissioner regarding the caretaker provisions surrounding the quadrennial election period 6 February 2016 to 29 March 2016 (or until such time as a declaration of election is made).

Moved Cr V Ned Seconded Cr T Douglas that Council acknowledge receipt of the correspondence dated 9 September 2015 from the Electoral Commissioner regarding the caretaker provisions surrounding the quadrennial election period 6 February 2016 to 29 March 2016 (or until such time as a declaration of election is made).

CARRIED (3/0)

7.3 Appointment of Acting Chief Executive Officer

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Doomadgee QLD 4830
APPLICANT:	Rod Richardson, Chief Executive Officer
FILE NUMBER:	Personal File
AUTHOR:	Rod Richardson, Chief Executive Officer
CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Not applicable
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Not applicable
DATE OF REPORT:	17 September 2015

SUMMARY

Appointment of Mr Adam Seiler, Deputy Chief Executive Officer to the position of Acting Chief Executive Officer for the period Wednesday 30 September to Tuesday 20 October 2015 inclusive

BACKGROUND

The Chief Executive Officer has a number of professional and personal commitments during the above mentioned period, and whilst will be undertaking the role, will be outside of community and often without opportunity to be immediately responsive either side of annual leave.

COMMENT

It is proposed to appoint the Deputy Chief Executive Officer to the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer for the period 30 September to 20 October, subject to extension if necessary. This appointment entitles the incumbent to the base salary equal to that of the Chief Executive Officer.

CONSULTATION

Nil

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 2009

STRATEGIC ASSOCIATION / ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLAN

Not applicable

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RISK ASSESSMENT

Ensured business continuity mitigates any potential risk to Council

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Salaries and Wages (including higher-duties) has been factored within the adopted budget

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Not applicable

POLICY ASSOCIATION

Not applicable

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoint Mr Adam Seiler to the position of Acting Chief Executive Officer for the period Wednesday 30 September 2015 to Tuesday 20 October 2015.

Moved Cr T Douglas Seconded Cr V Ned that Council appoint Mr Adam Seiler to the position of Acting Chief Executive Officer for the period Wednesday 30 September 2015 to Tuesday 20 October 2015.

CARRIED (3/0)

7.4 Budget Amendment – Acquisition (Waste Compactor)

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	DOOMADGEE QLD 4830
APPLICANT:	Not applicable
FILE NUMBER:	
AUTHOR:	Adam Seiler, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Rod Richardson, Chief Executive Officer
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Not applicable
DATE OF REPORT:	17 September 2015

SUMMARY

Approval of a \$70,000 budget amendment from surplus to enable the acquisition of a second-hand Garbage Compactor Unit

BACKGROUND

Following continued issues experienced with Council's Russ Minipactor (Kerbside Waste Collection Vehicle), and despite the unit having been repaired over two weeks in Cairns, we continue to experience issues.

COMMENT

Whilst access to a hire-unit via Burke Shire Council is possible, it is expensive and subject to weather conditions (wet-season road access) and it is proposed to mitigate this risk through the acquisition of a second (spare) Waste Compactor and return the existing unit to Cairns or elsewhere for further repairs.

CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 2009

STRATEGIC ASSOCIATION / ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLAN

Not applicable

RISK ASSESSMENT

Acquisition of a second unit will mitigate health risks associated with an incapacity to collect kerbside waste within the community

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Reduction to Council's surplus of \$70,000

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Acquisition of a new Plant and Equipment asset

POLICY ASSOCIATION

Not applicable

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve a budget amendment of \$70,000 from Council's 2015/2016 Operating Surplus to enable the acquisition of a second-hand kerbside Waste Compaction Unit.

Moved Cr V Ned Seconded Cr T Douglas that Council approve a budget amendment of \$70,000 from Council's 2015/2016 Operating Surplus to enable the acquisition of a second-hand kerbside Waste Compaction Unit.

CARRIED (3/0)

PROPOSED EXTENSION AND REDUCED SET-BACK FROM BOUNDARY - DOOMADGEE CHILD CARE CENTRE (CORNER GOODEEDAWA DRIVE AND SHARPE STREET)

Council received correspondence from NQ Building Solutions following production of the Agenda seeking approval on behalf of the Builder on behalf of the owner of the above premises regarding a proposed extension to the Child Project Unit for the centre.

Council was provided a copy of a site plan showing the layout of the proposed extension in relation to the existing building and the road frontage boundaries of the premises.

The proposed extension will reduce the set back from the Sharpe Street boundary to approximately 3850mm and Council is requested to approve this proposal in principle, so that final design (including detailed construction drawings) can be prepared for certification and subsequent issue of a building approval.

Moved Cr T Douglas Seconded Cr V Ned that Council, approve (in-principle) the proposed extensions to the Doomadgee Child Care Centre (Corner Goodeedawa Drive and Sharpe Street, Doomadgee) and permit the reduced set back to an area of approximately 3850mm from the Sharpe Street boundary.

CARRIED (3/0)

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Nil

MANAGER FINANCE’S REPORT

9.1 Monthly Report (Chief Financial Officer) – August 2015

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Not applicable
APPLICANT:	Not applicable
FILE NUMBER:	5103
AUTHOR:	Arminda David, Chief Financial Officer
CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Not applicable
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Not applicable
DATE OF REPORT:	07 July 2015

SUMMARY

Presentation of the Monthly Financial Report to Council.

BACKGROUND

1. Financial Report
2. Cash position
3. Job summary with comparative and movement report
4. Worksheets – detail analysis with graph report
5. FAG grant
6. SGFA grant
7. Guest house
8. Revenue and expenditure detail with original and amended budget
9. Revenue and expenditure summary with original and amended budget
10. Balance sheet
11. Financial reporting – Statement of comprehensive income, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow, and Capital Expenditure
12. Debtors and Creditors Aged Trial Balance
13. QTC statement – Capital Guaranteed cash fund
14. QTC statement – Sports and art precinct

COMMENT

Commentary is contained within the attached report

CONSULTATION

Not applicable

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 2009

STRATEGIC ASSOCIATION / ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLAN

Not applicable

RISK ASSESSMENT

Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Not applicable

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Not applicable

POLICY ASSOCIATION

Not applicable

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

That the Monthly Financial Reports for the month ended 31 August 2015, as presented, be received.

Moved Cr F O'Keefe Seconded Cr T Douglas that the Monthly Financial Reports for the month ended 31 August 2015, as presented, be received.

CARRIED (3/0)

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECTS MANAGER'S REPORT

11.1 Monthly Report (Infrastructure and Projects Manager) – August 2015

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Not applicable
APPLICANT:	Not applicable
FILE NUMBER:	
AUTHOR:	Garry Jeffries, Infrastructure and Projects Manager
CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Not applicable
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Not applicable
DATE OF REPORT:	17 September 2015

SUMMARY

Presentation of the Monthly Activity report to Council.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable

COMMENT

NDRRA Works:

There are ongoing meeting with QRA and Auditors to closeout this claim and receive final payment

TIDS Works:

Woollogarang West Road:

The roadworks crew will be giving the 2.5km section of this road a final trim in the next 7-10days in final preparation for the bitumen sealing.

An order has been issued to Koppen Bitumen for the sealing, which they will be doing in conjunction with some work they are doing for the Burke Shire.

Youth Hub:

Concept drawings for a media room are currently being prepared for approval and costing.

New Houses Building Project:

This project is proceeding very well and there are currently:-

- The first six house have reached the stage of painting and door/window installation in preparation for placing the ceilings and rooves;
- The second five have the slabs poured and blocks walls nearing completion;
- The electrical & plumbing rough in will follow in preparation for the pouring of concrete block fill;

Workshop:

Operations are continuing as per normal.

The Concrete Batcher has returned from the warranty work in Mt Isa and is back in operation.

The rubbish truck has returned from Cairns and operated for a short period but is having similar problems again. Serious consideration needs to be given to acquiring a second hand unit as standby.

The Council Grader and Hino truck are at Isa Diesel for overhaul works.

All other plant has only required minor repairs and routine servicing.

General Gang:

Operations are continuing as per normal.

The open space crew and the general gang have been working together on keeping the community clean.

The airport maintenance is being done on a continual basis as required.

These crews have almost completed the fencing around Top Park and installation of the Guard Rail to the shop car park has been completed. Only the signs and speed bumps are outstanding for this project.

Airport:

Airport operations are continuing as per normal.

Airport inspections are carried out each day, airport lighting and electrical inspections are carried out monthly as per legislative requirements.

The CASA visit went well with only a couple of administration items requiring attention.

The annual airport and lighting inspection will be undertaken next month by Qld Airport Consultants as part of their regional inspection program.

Construction drawings for the Terminal Upgrade are nearing completion and final tenders will be obtained from the short listed Contractors for its construction.

Water and Sewerage:

Operations are continuing as per normal.

The plant operating fine on a semi-automated basis and negotiations are being held with suppliers in respect of the SCADA upgrade. Tenders for the SCADA upgrade will be called in the near future.

Other Matters:

The CEO and Infrastructure Manager inspected some accommodation & ablution units at the Myuma Camp at Thornton and it is considered that these units are of good condition and suitable for the Rodeo Ground Project. An order will be placed for these units and Robert Baker (Builder) will install footings in preparation for the delivery of these units.

CONSULTATION

Not applicable

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 2009

STRATEGIC ASSOCIATION / ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLAN

Not applicable

RISK ASSESSMENT

Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Not applicable

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Not applicable

POLICY ASSOCIATION

Not applicable

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

That the Monthly Activity Report (Infrastructure and Projects) be received.

Moved Cr F O'Keefe Seconded Cr T Douglas that the Monthly Activity Report (Infrastructure and Projects) be received.

CARRIED (3/0)

COMMUNITY SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

12.1 Monthly Report (Community Services Manager) – August 2015

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Not applicable
APPLICANT:	Not applicable
FILE NUMBER:	
AUTHOR:	Gail Richardson, Community Services Manager
CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Not applicable
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Not applicable
DATE OF REPORT:	11 September 2015

SUMMARY

Presentation of the Monthly Activity report to Council.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable

COMMENT

Animal Pest & Environmental Control:-

We have had a lot more horse come into town due to water drying up out in bush from this we had put down 1 horse that was down due to its health and 1 pony that that had been attached by dogs and was not in a good way. Police assisted council in doing this.

We had have a few more cases of the Parvo Virus resulting in more dog deaths in the community. The vet will be back in the community on the 14th of September.

Leon Moreland and Shane Booth will attend Environmental & Animal Management Workshop in Cairns starting the 14th of September the focus of this workshop is animal health and the course is being run by a qualified vet.

Youth Hub:

Priyanka has joined Brendan Peter at the Hub as the Senior Youth Coordinator and has started to make an impact already in activities and having more youth attending on a regular basis.

Extract of her report as follows:

Doomadgee Youth Hub - Monthly Report: August 2015

Summary:

The aim this month was to increase engagement and knowledge of the youth hub and start to get more youth through the doors. A number of engagement strategies were undertaken including:

- 1. Regular advertisement of upcoming activities on the radio*
- 2. Development of a 'Doomadgee Youth Hub' Facebook page*
- 3. Posters put up around community*
- 4. Driving through community and talking with individuals*
- 5. Advertising through the government and engagement coordinator*

Workshops:

A jewellery and felt workshop was held from Monday 17 August till Thursday 27 August. There were 12 – 15 community members engaged each day. There were over 100 pieces of silver jewellery and approx. 10 felt blankets made.

Events:

Thursday 27 August: Jewellery and Felt exhibition

As the culminating event for the workshop, an exhibition was held. There was good attendance from community stakeholders and high school students. Many stakeholders were interested in purchasing items and this is currently in negotiation. There was low attendance by the artists as there had been a death in the community.

Wednesday 12 August: Community BBQ

A community BBQ was held to engage the youth. There were a number of stakeholders that attended including PCYC and the school, however there were only 6 youth in the target age group.

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Collaboration:

Doomadgee School: The school have asked to schedule in visits to the youth hub as rewards for attendance for their high school students and to assist with the relationship building between the teachers and students:

- Monday 2 – 3pm: Year 7 students
- Tuesday: 2 – 3pm: Year 8 – 10 boys
- Wednesday 2 – 3pm: Year 8 – 10 girls

The youth hub and school have collaborated on the next workshop “Indigenous Hip Hop Projects” to share costs.

MyPathway: Jobseekers came to the Jewellery and Felt workshop and this counted towards their “work for the dole” hours. In the future, some MyPathway activities could be run at the Youth Hub.

Attendance: Attendance at the Youth Hub has picked up during the month of August. After a slow start, it is now averaging 20 youth each night: with 325 community members using the facility from 5 August to the 31 August. The majority of the youth are male.

Challenges:

Engagement of females: Although attendance has increased, there are still very few females that utilise the youth hub.

Engagement in activities: Although youth are using the facilities to relax and socialise, they are still not keen to be involved in any structured program or activity and struggle to voice their interests or goals.

Parks:-

Car Park Guard Rail -- has been completed apart from the installation of the signage which I am still waiting for it to happen. Our project is going to be used in future promotion by Suncorp in the wider community which is good for Doomadgee.

I would still like to hear suggestion for what project we can apply for in the next f round of funding. We can only apply for amounts up to \$10,000.00.

We still have a lot of play equipment to be installed at Bottom Park.
Damage has been done to the park table and bench seating install in Top Park.

MY Pathways are going to clean the parks twice a week and water Middle Park as the taps have now been installed.

MyPathways would like to install park tables and bench seating along the top of the river bank along near the Aged Care area.

Radio:-

Sai has had many visitors using the radio to get their particular messages out to the wider community. Discussions are being held for Blackstar to come to Doomadgee and do a breakfast program at the school 7.30 to 9am and a BBQ outside the store following that.

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Swimming Pool:-

The pool is currently empty, not sure what is happening there as we have had no feedback from the school as to when it will be filled. The September QLD Holiday swim program is still going ahead and Stingray is booked to run it and he will arrive 21st of September.

Have had no response from MyPathways in finding suitable participants to assist in at the pool in Lifesaver rolls or in learning how the pool operates.

Cemetery:-

I have meet with MyPathways re the fencing of the cemetery now that our funding has been confirmed. I have allowed \$11,000.00 to assist in the purchase of materials for the fence repairs. Owen to get the quotes and then they will come back to council and we will discuss how we move forward with the project.

I have held back \$5000 for signage for both cemeteries and for any over runs that may occur.

CONSULTATION

Not applicable

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 2009

STRATEGIC ASSOCIATION / ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLAN

Not applicable

RISK ASSESSMENT

Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Not applicable

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Not applicable

POLICY ASSOCIATION

Not applicable

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

That the Monthly Activity Report (Community Services) be received.

Moved Cr V Ned Seconded Cr F O'Keefe that the Monthly Activity Report (Community Services) be received.

CARRIED (3/0)

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12.2 PHD Research Project for Doomadgee (Trauma Counselling)

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Not applicable
APPLICANT:	Not applicable
FILE NUMBER:	
AUTHOR:	Gail Richardson, Community Services Manager
CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Not applicable
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Not applicable
DATE OF REPORT:	17 September 2015

SUMMARY

Consideration by Council of a request to undertake a PHD Research Project of Trauma Counselling within Doomadgee

BACKGROUND

Council has been approached by Ms Yvette Eriksen, a PHD Candidate in Psychology to undertake a research project in Doomadgee.

COMMENT

Below is an extract for the brief for the Community Consultation is extracted as follows:

A brief to provide background for the potential development of a PhD research project with Doomadgee.

Development of a place based, culturally appropriate trauma counselling framework in Doomadgee: Can EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing) be helpful to promote recovery from trauma?

Yvette Eriksen
Psychologist
PhD Candidate, Charles Sturt University

I worked with the Woolbubinya Wellbeing Centre in Doomadgee as a Wellbeing Clinician (psychologist) supporting children and families for almost two years. This year I have been returning to Doomadgee as a consultant on a Breaking the Cycle Project, coordinating the development of a collaborative case management panel to support families with complex wellbeing needs. If you would like to check how my connection with community and work has developed, please speak with Kelly Barclay or Barry Walden, both whom know me well.

Recently I have started a PhD with Charles Sturt University and have the opportunity to develop a research project. This brief is related to the potential of collaborating with community and organisations in Doomadgee to develop a small-scale research project; that may have very positive outcomes for the Doomadgee community.

Having connected with Doomadgee, it is evident that many individuals, families and the community are strongly affected by trauma and loss. Whilst there is incredible strength and resilience in the Doomadgee community, there is still suffering which could be addressed with the development of a place based (i.e. Doomadgee specific), culturally appropriate trauma counselling framework.

Many of the problems we see all the time can be connected with bad things that have happened, including child sexual abuse, domestic violence, other acts of violence, sexual assault, and multiple or traumatic grief (like grief associated with the suicide or sudden death of a loved one). Many in Doomadgee are also still experiencing the ongoing, collective and intergenerational traumatic effects of colonisation, including institutional racism, displacement, and the stolen generations. As you would know better than I, there are

community members who have lived experience of early contact with white people and everything that has followed.

Many people are suffering with the effects of trauma and sometimes may not even realise their problems are related to the bad experiences. Often when people are affected by trauma, it comes out in anger (which can result in violence), sleep problems, drug and alcohol use and abuse, suicidal thoughts and actions, depression and anxiety, unexplained bodily aches and pains, nightmares, doing impulsive or illegal things, and other ways. A history of trauma also strongly influences how people parent their children and have relationships with family and others in the community.

In discussion with Kelly Barclay, Kelly observed that despite the best efforts of the small number of mental health support services in community, there are still many people affected by bad things that have happened to them in their past and present. Kelly observed that what services are doing currently is positive and supportive, but it is not enough and we need something more effective. One of many challenges for a counsellor/mental health professional is that there is no evidence for what really works specifically with Aboriginal people who are affected by trauma. This means that the support provided may be positive, but most of the time is directed to helping a person manage their emotional distress and the obvious issues mentioned above, but it does not help the person to resolve the reason for the issues, which is the trauma itself. Without addressing the reason for the issues, the issues may continue to happen.

There is a kind of therapy designed specifically to help people recover from underlying trauma called EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing). EMDR is a therapy process that helps to reduce the impact of bad experiences from the past that cause problems for people in the present. EMDR is considered worldwide as highly effective in providing real relief for people affected by trauma. The theory and structure of EMDR is very sensitive to, respects, and allows for, cultural beliefs and practices and has been used with many different cultures around the world. Whilst I do not suggest that EMDR is a 'fix all', it has real potential to provide relief to people in Doomadgee who are suffering from the effects of traumas.

I openly acknowledge that EMDR has been developed in a Western/mainstream setting and that most research has been completed in European and American contexts. However as mentioned, EMDR has been applied successfully in many diverse cultures around the world. The crux is, there is currently no evidence for using EMDR with Aboriginal clients, which means counsellors/mental health professionals in Doomadgee are not using it. Therefore people in Doomadgee are unable to access what is potentially highly effective trauma focused counselling. The foundation for this project would be whether we can develop a Doomadgee specific, culturally appropriate, trauma focused counselling process including EMDR.

If a culturally appropriate process for delivery of EMDR were developed, it would have real potential benefits for Doomadgee community members. A positive result from EMDR for one client has the potential to positively affect their immediate family, as well as the broader community. Multiply those by 10 clients, and you have potential positive effects for 10 families, and even more broad effects in the community. Positive outcomes also have the potential to effect policy change about how mental health and support services work with clients who have experienced trauma – which has much broader implications for the future of organisational responses to trauma in the community.

I would like to emphasise that this project aims to be sensitive and responsive to local community and culture, and genuinely wishes to create a collaborative project proposal, which has potential to provide real, positive outcomes to people in Doomadgee. This project would work in accordance with local cultural protocols and national ethics and guidelines for research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, which includes genuine collaboration with community on all aspects of project development and implementation.

Following is an example of how the project may practically unfold in four stages. Please note that this is an example and all aspects are available for discussion; elements may be modified, excluded or added as appropriate during consultation.

Stage 1: Community consultation regarding research

- **Aim:**
 1. *To engage in a culturally appropriate consultation process to assess if it is appropriate to develop a locally responsive research proposal that addresses an identified community need.*
- **Potential consultation process:**
 - *Initial consultation with Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor, CEO and ROC community liaison to discuss potential for collaboration on project.*
 - *Identify locally appropriate consultation required and establish action plan for collaboration, which may include the following:*
 - *Identify who to consult with to discuss and gain community support for project; i.e. Traditional Owners, Elders, family group representatives, etc.*
 - *Identify key organisational stakeholders to consult with to gain organisational support for project.*
 - *Identify a cultural consultant: a representative of the community to liaise with project group regarding cultural protocols and monitor implementation of process.*
 - *Identify a community reference group: A small number of key community representatives to oversee the research development and implementation.*
 - *A formal research proposal can be developed throughout consultation.*
 - *If approved, appropriate organisations provide written support for research proposal (e.g. Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council and others as appropriate).*
 - *Research proposal submitted for formal ethics approval and then to organisations as appropriate.*

Stage 2: Community consultation: Understanding the local context of trauma, wellbeing and resilience, and evaluating EMDR as a potential trauma focused counselling approach.

- **Potential aims:**
 1. *Understand local cultural concepts of wellbeing and the available strengths and resilience within the community,*
 2. *Understand the complex local community experience of trauma and its effects, including cultural beliefs and practices related to trauma and recovery, and*
 3. *In the context of the above, evaluate if EMDR may be appropriate in its current or a modified form, as a locally, culturally sensitive approach to promote recovery from trauma with community members.*
- **Potential methodology (Aim 1 & 2):**
 - *Yarning circles with community members in groups of 1-5 people depending on appropriateness and circumstance (Qualitative research methodology). Total participation may be between 15-25 people.*
 - *The above may include semi-structured discussions about each of the three aims, with a focus on developing a place based, culturally appropriate trauma counselling process.*
 - *The outcomes may be evaluated using a themed approach, identifying patterns and unique contributions across participant groups.*
 - *Participants will be provided an opportunity to check that evaluations are consistent with their beliefs and conclusions from discussions.*
- **Potential methodology (Aim 3):**
 - *Brief experience of EMDR with small number of participants (up to 5); delivered a single session of EMDR to demonstrate process.*
 - *Yarning circle individually or in group to discuss appropriateness of process.*
- **Potential outcomes:**
 - *If appropriate, the outcomes from Stage 2 will inform the provision of Stage 3.*

Stage 3: Delivery and evaluation of trauma focused counselling.

- *Potential aims:*
 1. *To improve the wellbeing and functioning of those whom participate.*
 2. *To assess if the locally developed process of EMDR may be helpful to promote recovery and wellbeing for individual community members who are affected by trauma.*
- *Potential methodology:*
 - *Trauma focused counselling for community members affected by trauma, applying the locally evaluated EMDR process and focusing on improving wellbeing and resilience.*
 - *Participation may include up to 10 adult community members. Participation would be voluntary.*
 - *The counselling process may include conversational evaluation (qualitative methodology) and structured evaluation (quantitative methodology) of the therapy process as appropriate and informed by Stage 2 outcomes.*

Stage 4: Feedback to community.

- *Potential aims:*
 - *To provide community an appropriate summary of outcomes in a useful and practical way.*
 - *To provide recommendations for appropriate trauma informed counselling to existing and future healthcare organisations providing counselling and wellbeing support to Doomadgee community.*
- *Potential methodology:*
 1. *May include:*
 - *Written and/or verbal summaries of project outcomes and subsequent recommendations to appropriate individuals and organisations.*
 - *Capacity building for local staff and community members about trauma, the effects of trauma and how to respond to people affected by trauma.*
 - *Development of brochure/printed material regarding locally specific trauma and care.*
 - *Broader publication of research outcomes as appropriate (with appropriate community agreement and draft review).*

Other considerations

- *The project may span three years, with Stage 1 commencing in 2015, Stage 2 and 3 in 2016 and Stage 4 in 2016-17.*
- *The project coordinator (Yvette Eriksen) would ensure appropriate cultural and clinical supervision throughout the development and implementation of the project.*

My PhD supervisor is Dr Gene Hodgins, Charles Sturt University, whom may be contacted by phone 02 6933 2746, or email ghodgins@csu.edu.au.

Thank you for considering this project for consultation. Please do not hesitate to contact either myself, or Gene if you have any questions, or concerns.

*Yvette Eriksen
0419 343 006 yeriksen@csu.edu.au*

The Manager Community Services and Chief Executive Officer have discussed this proposal and see no major issues with the project.

CONSULTATION

Not applicable

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 2009

STRATEGIC ASSOCIATION / ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLAN

Not applicable

RISK ASSESSMENT

Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Not applicable

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Not applicable

POLICY ASSOCIATION

Not applicable

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the application from Ms Yvette Eriksen, PhD Candidate (Psychology) to undertake the research project on Trauma Counselling support in Doomadgee.

Moved Cr V Ned Seconded Cr T Douglas that Council approve the application from Ms Yvette Eriksen, PhD Candidate (Psychology) to undertake the research project on Trauma Counselling support in Doomadgee.
CARRIED (3/0)

12.3 17th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Not applicable
APPLICANT:	Not applicable
FILE NUMBER:	
AUTHOR:	Gail Richardson, Community Services Manager
CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Not applicable
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Not applicable
DATE OF REPORT:	14 September 2015

SUMMARY

Approval for the dissemination of a video production prepared by the Doomadgee Wellbeing centre and presented to Council in June 2015

BACKGROUND

Council was afforded the opportunity to preview a production prepared by the Wellbeing centre, and there is now an opportunity to have this production considered at the 17th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival in Lajamanu NT from the 27th September to 2nd October 2015.

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DOOMADGEE ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES – ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 22nd SEPTEMBER 2015

COMMENT

Below is an extract email forwarded to the Manager Community Services:

From: Kelly Barclay [<mailto:Kelly.Barclay@nwrh.com.au>]
Sent: Monday, 14 September 2015 9:40 AM
To: Gail Richardson <gail.richardson@doomadgee.qld.gov.au>
Subject: 17th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival

Hello Gail,

As I briefly mentioned this morning.

The animation and short films that were created earlier this year through the Breaking The Cycle program, which has now ceased, have been nominated in the 2015, 17th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival. Location, Lajamanu N.T. from the 27th September to the 2nd October 2015:

- Strong Cycle not Wrong Cycles (animation)
- Domestic Violence (short film)
- Drink Driving, knowing how to say no to peer pressure (short film).

The Wellbeing Centre presented the animation to members of our Shire Council including the CEO in June this year with very positive feedback, then we went on to have a community launch of all the materials at PCYC with great feedback from community later that month. We've most recently had a showing at the Child Protection Open Day last week with strong positive reviews once again. We have ordered a number of copies which will then be shared with other service providers including Council for their own use.

As a result of the wonderful feedback our partners in the media program Tropic Productions have gone onto nominate us for the festival awards.

The WBC will have staff travelling to the event and we would like to ask Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council if they could sponsor the travel of a number of community people to attend? Ideally it would be great to have people who were involved with the actual project (whatever number would be up to council).

If successful, we have staff who would be able to assist with coordinating travel arrangements so we have our group of Doomadgee people travelling together, at this stage it will mean a flight to Cairns, onto Darwin then bus out to Lajamanu. Everything else including food, bedding and workshop resources are all provided for by the festival itself.

Another proud note is that we could possibly be the only entry from a community group and not an actual media group.

Please consider our enquiry and I look forward to your response.

Regards

Kelly

Council's Radio Broadcaster is already going to be attending (via Black Start Media), and consideration of further attendees has not been provided for within the 2015/2016 Budget.

CONSULTATION

Not applicable

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 2009

STRATEGIC ASSOCIATION / ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLAN

Not applicable

RISK ASSESSMENT

Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT

An allocation of

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Not applicable

POLICY ASSOCIATION

Not applicable

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

That Council congratulate the Doomadgee Wellbeing Centre on achieving nomination to the 17th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival and advise it is unable to provide further financial assistance to this project.

Moved Cr F O'Keefe Seconded Cr T Douglas that Council congratulate the Doomadgee Wellbeing Centre on achieving nomination to the 17th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival and advise it is unable to provide further financial assistance to this project.

CARRIED (3/0)

12.4 AVA PetPEP Programme

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Not applicable
APPLICANT:	Not applicable
FILE NUMBER:	
AUTHOR:	Gail Richardson, Community Services Manager
CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Not applicable
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Not applicable
DATE OF REPORT:	18 September 2015

SUMMARY

Adoption of the AVA PetPEP programme by Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council

BACKGROUND

Council's Manager Community Services has been approached by its contract Veterinary Clinician to consider the endorsement and deployment of the AVA PetPEP project.

COMMENT

The Doomadgee State School have provided an indication of strong support to participate in the deployment of this project and it is recommend Council provide the same commitment.

CONSULTATION

Not applicable

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 2009

STRATEGIC ASSOCIATION / ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLAN

Not applicable

RISK ASSESSMENT

Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Not applicable

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Not applicable

POLICY ASSOCIATION

Not applicable

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

That Council support the deployment of the AVA PetPEP programme in Doomadgee.

Moved Cr F O'Keefe Seconded Cr V Ned that Council support the deployment of the AVA PetPEP programme in Doomadgee.

CARRIED (3/0)

CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 13:01.

I, Frederick Charles O'Keefe confirm the afore Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd September 2015 are confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting on Friday 9th October 2015.

Cr Frederick O'Keefe
MAYOR