



general
purpose
committee

3
section

organisation
and
resources

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - ORGANISATION & RESOURCES

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ITEM: 15 University Research Funding**FILE NUMBER:** GM001/034 Pt1/GMA/OGI28NAX.G02**REPORT:**

The Commonwealth Government has produced a Green Paper on research “New Knowledge, New Opportunities”. The Paper sets out a plan through which the Education Minister hopes to increase links between university research and the needs of industry and provide the best possible training for the next generation of Australian researchers.

The University of Western Sydney considers that the good intention shown in the paper could have exactly the reverse effect. It considers it will cripple the University’s research training program. The impact of the plan will reduce the number of highly qualified post-graduate students, supported directly by the Commonwealth from 1,000 to 280. This significant cut will affect many students already undertaking their research at the University.

Adopting the Paper will make it close to impossible for talented researchers from Western Sydney and beyond to study for a research degree within the region. It would therefore deny a quality of access to post-graduate study to thousands of qualified students as well as men and women with established careers, seeking to increase the research base of their profession. The Paper’s proposals could also do considerable damage to economics in the Greater Western Sydney Region. In ten years since its foundation, the University of Western Sydney has built a \$10 million per annum research program. The University wins this income by successfully competing against universities with far greater resources, built up over generations. It is a significant achievement that places the University in the top rank of young universities around Australia and generates real economic and employment gains for the people of the region. For example, the BHP Materials Testing Laboratories are planning to relocate from Melbourne to the University, which will make Greater Western Sydney a world leader in new building technologies. Despite this and other achievements, the Paper’s proposals punish the University by cutting its operating grant and research student funding. On current information, the University will suffer an ongoing loss of \$2.3 million per annum. This is a 1% cut on existing funding and by 2005 could reduce the University’s Government income by \$11million.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council support the University of Western Sydney in its submission to the Minister for Education in Government of the possible disastrous effects that the proposals in the Green Research Paper “New Knowledge, New Opportunities” could have on the University and the Greater Western Sydney Region. The Council seek the support of its Federal Member, Kerry Bartlett in this matter and make a submission to the Minister.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 15 Oooo

ITEM: 16 National General Assembly of Local Government**FILE NUMBER:** GL040/001 Pt5/GMA/OGI28NAX.G01

REPORT:

The Australian Local Government Association organises the General Assembly in Canberra in November/December each year.

The Association has now called for motions to be placed before the 1999 General Assembly that provides an opportunity for Councils to further refine and add to Australian Local Government's National Policy platform.

Motions need to address national issues for Local Government and may seek to modify the "1999 National Agenda for Australian Local Government", address priorities to be pursued by the Australian Local Government Association or raise new items.

Motions reaffirming existing policy or calling for actions to be taken within existing policy will be included in the Business Paper and may be individually brought forward to be debated with the agreement of the Assembly. The Associations National Executive will also be presenting items for discussion.

Motions need to be with the Association by no later than the 1st October, 1999.

Areas covered by current resolutions are finance and taxation, environment and planning, telecommunications, community development, bio diversity, coastal management, transport infrastructure, waste management, on-line service delivery, food safety regulations and timber plantations.

A copy of resolutions from the 1998 General Assembly is available and Members may wish to view that prior to the meeting to determine if they wish to place any motions for the Council's consideration to place before the Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this report be received for Information

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 16 Oooo

ITEM: 17 **Australian Broadcasting Authority - Draft Licence Area Plans****FILE NUMBER:** GT001/007 Pt01/GMA/OGI28NAX.G03**REPORT:**

The Australian Broadcasting Authority has released its Draft Licence Area Plans for Sydney, Gosford and Katoomba and a proposed variation to the Licenced area plan for Lithgow.

The plans detail all national, commercial, community or open narrow casting radio broadcasting services that are proposed to be available using the “broadcasting services bands” of the radio frequency spectrum. These are the parts of the spectrum used by AM and FM radio services.

National broadcasting services refers to free-to-air ABC or SBS services or to Parliamentary broadcasts. Commercial broadcasting services are privately owned, free-to-air services operate for a profit. Community broadcasting services are free-to-air services provided for community purposes by non profit groups. Open narrow casting services are free-to-air services that are limited by targeting programs to a specific audience or by signal coverage area. The Australian Government primarily funds extensions of, or improvements to, national services. The respective operators fund extensions of, or improvements to, commercial and community services within their licence areas. The Australian Broadcasting Authority cannot fund or compel others to fund additional broadcasting services or improved reception of existing broadcasting services in an area.

The main planning issue disclosed to date by the Authority’s consultation process is the limited availability of spectrum to accommodate the interest expressed by existing and potential radio broadcasters in establishing new services. Following is a summary of the Authority’s proposals for Sydney:

- < the possible reservation of further technical capacity for national services in Windsor/Richmond. for improved reception for national services via new services.
- < making two additional wide service commercial radio services available:
- < allowing community radio stations at Manly and Chatswood to change frequency to provide additional coverage
- < making three additional wide coverage community FM radio services available
- < making one local coverage Campbelltown commercial FM radio service available
- < making local coverage community FM services to serve Blacktown, Hornsby, Campbelltown and Penrith regions available
- < changing the technical operating conditions of the existing national commercial and community radio services including frequency changes to 2VTR-FM.

< making two wide coverage Sydney AM open narrow casting radio services available.

The Council has made representations on a number of occasions to the Authority seeking to have the licence for 2VTR-FM extended so that it covers the whole of the Local Government area for community purposes and specifically, for assistance in the provision of information during natural disasters of fire and flood provided by telephone services to the Police, State Emergency Service, Rural Fire Service and the Council. The extent of the telephone calls are such that the telephone capacity of all the organisations is often beyond its limit.

The Authority proposes to allow 2VTR-FM to move from its current frequency of 89.7 MHz to 89.9 MHz and to increase power from 40 watts to 750 watts. This will be a significant improvement to the station's area of coverage. Sydney AM commercial radio stations (2UE, 2SM, 2GB, 2CH and 2KY) during the day, technical specifications for these services are proposed to be changed to permit day/night switching. The Authority does not propose to increase the night time transmission power of the above services. This change will only be permitted after the Sydney Olympics.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council advise the Australian Broadcasting Authority that it supports the change in frequency for 2VTR-FM and the increase in power to permit it to broadcast to a wider area supporting information to the Hawkesbury Local Government Community. That it also supports the reservation of further technical capacity for national services in Richmond and Windsor area and making available technical specifications to improve the reception of the existing Sydney AM stations.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 17 Oooo

ITEM: 18 Waste Board Director Appointments**FILE NUMBER:** GW010/022 Pt 11/GMA/OGI28NAX.G04

REPORT:

The Minister for Environment has written advising that the terms for appointment of all existing Waste Board Directors expires on 31 January, 2000. To ensure continuity of Waste Board operations, constituent councils of waste boards are now required to submit nominations for the appointment of directors to the Waste Boards. Those nominations must be forwarded by 1 November, 1999 to enable statutory requirements for director appointments to be met.

The requirements for the appointment of directors to waste boards, and their deputies, are set out in the Waste Minimisation and Management Act. Each constituent council can nominate any of its councillors or employees. Each constituent council must also nominate at least 1 (but not more than 2) persons having relevant expertise who are not councillors or employees of the council, eg: from commerce, industry or the community. If the council wishes to advertise publicly for these nominees, then the Minister draws particular attention to the statutory requirements and closing date for nominations.

If councils do not provide nominations in accordance with the Minister's request he may appoint such persons as he thinks fit.

The NSW Cabinet must approve Waste Board Director appointments. It is therefore essential that all nominations be submitted by the due date and be accompanied by recent resumes that detail the experience and skills of the nominees particularly in the areas of:

- collaborative decision making
- business planning and management
- waste planning and management
- regional/strategic planning and management
- environmental planning and management.

The Western Sydney Waste Board comprises the councils of Hawkesbury, Baulkham Hills, Penrith, Blacktown, Holroyd, Parramatta, Liverpool, Fairfield and Bankstown.

The Waste Boards are NSW Government Statutory Authorities formed under the Waste Minimisation and Management Act 1995 to facilitate waste minimisation in their region. The Boards develop and implement regional waste plans which outline regional and cross regional programs targeting the three waste sectors:

- municipal
- commercial and industrial
- construction and demolition.

The regional approach to co-ordination of activities and resources, where possible and consistency of message and supporting information is important if the broader community is to fully understand waste reduction. The opportunity to work co-operatively at a regional level allows for the development of integrated strategies, the sharing of resources and expertise and the effective implementation of waste management services.

The Council's current nominated Director is Councillor Christine Paine (who has indicated her interest in re-appointment) with the Deputy Director Garry Baldry, the Manager of Environment & Waste. The Deputy Director can only vote at Board Meetings if the Director is absent. The Board meets monthly on Thursdays at 6pm at rotating member's venues.

There are currently three community representatives appointed from the region, those being, Ms Maggie Deahm, Ms Sharon Cullis and Mr George Humphries.

This is an important time in the relationship with the Waste Board, particularly with the proposal to establish a pre-treatment facility on the Council waste site in South Windsor.

RECOMMENDATION:

A Councillor be recommended to the Minister for appointment as Director of the Western Sydney Waste Board and Mr Garry Baldry, Manager of Environment & Waste be nominated as Deputy Director. Further, that the Council determine if it wishes to nominate a representative from the community or areas of commerce and industry.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 18 Oooo

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Item: **19****ITEM: 19 Monthly Financial Report - August 1999****FILE NUMBER:** GF011/005/FNC/OGI28NAX.F07**REPORT:****August 1999**

Summarised below, are particulars of both the income received and the expenditure incurred by Council for the month of August 1999. This information is reconciled between the cashbook and the bank statement balance as at the end of August 1999. All expenditure is fully supported by vouchers and invoices which have been duly certified.

A. Cash Book Reconciliation - August 1999

Cash Book Balance as at 1 August 1999		\$-130,707.89
Add: Receipts for month of August		<u>\$8,731,462.27</u>
		\$8,600,754.38
Less: Payments for month of August		
Cheque # 64004 - 64410	\$2,525,430.70	
EFT # 10500 - 10771	\$1,786,105.84	
Family Day Care Payments	\$28,198.25	
RTGS (Investment) Transactions	\$4,000,000.00	
Cancelled Cheques	\$-1,476.50	
Miscellaneous (Bank Charges, Dishonours etc)	<u>\$8,488.62</u>	<u>\$8,346,746.91</u>
Cash Book Balance as at end of August 1999		\$254,007.47

B. Statement of Bank Balances - August 1999

Bank Statement Balance as at end of August 1999		\$441,119.30
Less: Unpresented Cheques		<u>\$-742,542.15</u>
		\$-301,422.85
Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$727,959.72	
Statement Credits not Receipted	<u>\$-172,529.40</u>	<u>\$555,430.32</u>
		\$254,007.47

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Item: **19****C. Investments - August 1999**

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation requires that each month, details of all money that has been invested under section 625 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be reported to a meeting of Council.

The following table outlines the investment portfolio held by Council as at the end of August 1999. All investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Council's investment policies.

Investment Type	Balance 31-July-99	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest Paid	Balance 31-August-99
Managed Funds	\$22,311,742.58			\$90,578.40	\$22,402,320.98
On Call Funds	\$1,225,000.00	\$4,000,000.00	\$400,000.00		\$4,825,000.00
Term Investments	\$950,000.00				\$950,000.00
TOTAL	\$24,486,742.58	\$4,000,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$90,578.40	\$28,177,320.98

Geoff Banting
Responsible Accounting Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 19 Oooo

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Meeting Date: 28 September, 1999

Item: **20**

ITEM: 20 **Request for Donation - Cumberland Women's Health Centre Inc.**

FILE NUMBER: GF008/001 Pt20/CSV/OGI28NBX.C06

REPORT:

Correspondence has been received from Cumberland Women's Health Centre Inc requesting a donation of \$300.00 towards an Indigenous Women's Health Project - The Wirawa Bulbwul Health Camp.

The Wirawa Bulbwul Health Camp is the first gathering of its kind in Western Sydney. The aim of the camp is to provide a culturally appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Health Camp, which will encompass preventative and holistic health care. The camp will endeavour to reflect "Traditional Women's Business" through contemporary methods. It is anticipated that approximately 70 community women will be in attendance. The target area is the regions covered by Wentworth and Western Sydney Area Health Services, which also encompasses the Hawkesbury.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Hawkesbury City Council support the Cumberland Women's Health Centre Inc. Project by donating \$300.00 (three hundred dollars).

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 20 Oooo

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Item: **21**

ITEM: 21 **Request for Donation of Venue Hire - Hawkesbury Area Senior Day Care Centre Inc.**

FILE NUMBER: GF008/001 PT20/CSV/OGI28NBX.C05

REPORT:

A request has been received from Hawkesbury Area Senior Day Care Centre Inc for Council to assist the organisation in their plan to provide a combined Christmas lunch for all nine day care centres in the area, in celebration of the Year of the Older Person. It will be necessary to organise this event over two (2) days.

The day care centres provide respite care for frail, aged and disabled people living in Hawkesbury City.

Specifically, the request is for Council to contribute \$640.00 towards the cost of hiring the Bligh Room at Windsor Function Centre.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Hawkesbury City Council support Hawkesbury Area Senior Day Care Centre Inc. Year of the Older Person Celebration by donating \$640.00 (six hundred and forty dollars) towards the cost of venue hire.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 21 Oooo