



Hawkesbury City Council

supplementary ordinary meeting business paper

date of meeting: 08 February 2005

location: council chambers

time: 5:00 p.m.

ORDINARY MEETING - Supplementary

Table of Contents

Meeting Date: 8 February 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE
	SECTION 2 - Mayoral Minutes	5
	MM - Regional response to the Asian Tsunami Disaster - (79351, 75355, 74251)	5
	SECTION 4 - Reports for Determination	11
	GENERAL MANAGER	11
ITEM 31:	GM A - Consultation pursuant to Local Government Act - Section: 332, 333, 337, 342 and 348 of the Local Government Act (1993) - (79351)	11

ordinary

section 2

mayoral minutes

SECTION 2 - Mayoral Minutes

MM - Regional response to the Asian Tsunami Disaster - (79351, 75355, 74251)

REPORT:

The Mayor raised the issue of a regional response to the Asian Tsunami Disaster with the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils Ltd (WSROC). A meeting was convened by WSROC and held on Monday, 31 January 2005.

The meeting discussed the initial response that councils had already made in partnership with their local communities. Whilst WSROC councils had been very proactive in this area, there was broad agreement that Local Government's most significant ongoing contribution could be supplying practical expertise during the reconstruction phase at the local or regional level, something which councils are uniquely placed to do. This would also involve a much longer-term engagement, possibly over a 5 (five) year period.

A number of options were put forward at this meeting and these options are detailed in the attached letter from WSROC dated 2 February 2005. WSROC now seek Council's support to the proposed options, including;

- establishment contacts with local and regional communities in tsunami-affected areas;
- Identify the most appropriate communities, groups and projects in these areas to work with;
- Send council staff with the appropriate expertise to these areas;
- Bring relevant people from these communities to Australia for training;
- Integrate the strategy within the ALGA and LGSA responses
- Identify funding options particularly if the project is to be sustained over a five-year (5 year) period;
- Investigate a Sister City relationship at a Regional level.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council support the development of a plan for a long-term regional response to the Asian tsunami disaster as outlined in the letter from WSROC dated 2 February 2005.

ATTACHMENTS:

- AT - 1** Letter from WSROC dated 2 February 2005, outlining proposal in relation to a Regional response to the Asian tsunami disaster.

ORDINARY MEETING - Supplementary

Meeting Date: 8 February 2005



Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils Ltd
Level 1, WSROC House, 49 Campbell Street
PO Box 63, Blacktown, NSW 2148
Tel (02) 9671 4333 Fax (02) 9621 7741
Email admin@wsroc.com.au www.wsroc.com.au

Ref: 33999.28

2 February, 2005

4560 4411
Clr Bart Bassett
Mayor
Hawkesbury City Council
DX 8601 WINDSOR

Dear Clr Bassett,

Re: Regional response to the Asian tsunami disaster

I am writing to all WSROC Mayors to follow up yesterday's meeting held at Bankstown City Council which discussed the potential for a regional response to the Asian Tsunami disaster.

First I would like to thank those of you who attended yesterday's meeting in person as well as those who were unable to attend but who arranged for your Council to be represented. Your interest in this issue and the constructive way in which councils in Western Sydney have approached it demonstrates local government at its best.

The minutes of today's discussions will be circulated shortly but as a number of you have deadlines for meetings at which your council's response to the tsunami will be discussed, I am writing to you all now to outline the main outcomes.

The meeting discussed the initial responses that councils had already made in partnership with their local communities. Whilst WSROC councils had been very proactive in this area, there was broad agreement that local government's most significant ongoing contribution could be supplying practical expertise during the reconstruction phase at the local or regional level, something which councils are uniquely placed to do. This would also involve a much longer-term engagement, possibly over a five-year period.

As a number of councils are already looking at responses along these lines, the meeting recommended that a working party be established to develop a regional proposal for consideration. This would involve investigating and integrating proposals from member councils to:

- establish contacts with local and regional communities in tsunami-affected areas;
- identify the most appropriate communities, groups and projects in these areas to work with;
- send council staff with the appropriate expertise to these areas;
- bring relevant people from these communities to Australia for training;
- integrate the strategy within the ALGA and LGSA responses;
- identify funding options particularly if the project is to be sustained over a five-year period.

I am writing to seek your Council's in-principle support for the development of a regional response to the tsunami as outlined above. The working party proposed to undertake this task would of course welcome involvement from any WSROC Council which wished to participate. Proposed strategies developed by the working party would then be circulated to member Councils for final approval.

The proposal to develop a regional response to the tsunami will be considered by the WSROC Board at its meeting on Thursday 24th February. I would therefore greatly appreciate responses

Auburn Bankstown Baulkham Hills Blacktown Blue Mountains Fairfield Hawkesbury Holroyd Liverpool Parramatta Penrith

ABN 16 063 309 983

ORDINARY MEETING - Supplementary

Meeting Date: 8 February 2005



from member Councils prior to that date. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact either WSROC's Executive Director Mr Alex Gooding on 9671 4333, email alex@wsroc.com.au, or me on 0411 607 581.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Westwood'.

Clr Helen Westwood
President

**CC: WSROC General Managers
Tsunami disaster meeting attendees**

Alex Gooding\E:\WINDOCS\LETTERS\Mayors re Tsunami 310105.doc

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ordinary

section

4

reports
for determination

ORDINARY MEETING - Supplementary
Reports for Determination

SECTION 4 - Reports for Determination

GENERAL MANAGER

ITEM 31: **GM A - Consultation pursuant to Local Government Act - Section: 332, 333, 337, 342 and 348 of the Local Government Act (1993) - (79351))**

Previous Item: 21, Ordinary (25 January 2005)

Reason for Confidentiality

*This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 10A(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following: -*

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)*



ordinary
meeting

end of
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