



MISSION AND VALUES OF COUNCIL

"A Sustainable Community that is inclusive, attractive, healthy and pleasant to live in, that uses our land so as to preserve our history and environment, respects the rights and equality of our citizens and manages our future growth wisely."

MINUTES

FOR THE

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 1.00PM

22 AUGUST 2009

OUR MISSION

"To provide a quality range of affordable and sustainable services to our community with a strong commitment to customer focus so that our citizens and visitors enjoy a quality lifestyle."

CORE VALUES OF THE SHIRE

The core values that underpin the achievement of the mission will be based on a strong customer service focus and a positive attitude:

Communication

Respect

Integrity

Transparency

Courtesy

DISCLAIMER

The purpose of Council Meetings is to discuss, and where possible, make resolutions about items appearing on the agenda. Whilst Council has the power to resolve such items and may in fact, appear to have done so at the meeting, no person should rely on or act on the basis of such decision or on any advice or information provided by a Member or Officer, or on the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the meeting.

Persons should be aware that the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 (Section 5.25 (e)) establish procedures for revocation or rescission of a Council decision. No person should rely on the decisions made by Council until formal advice of the Council decision is received by that person. The Shire of Broome expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of relying on or acting on the basis of any resolution of Council, or any advice or information provided by a Member or Officer, or the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the Council meeting.

These minutes are unconfirmed.

SHIRE OF BROOME
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
22 AUGUST 2009

INDEX - MINUTES

1.	OFFICIAL OPENING.....	5
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	5
3.	DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST	6
4.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.....	6
5.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	7
6.	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENT WITHOUT DISCUSSION	7
7.	PETITIONS.....	8
8.	MATTERS FOR WHICH MEETING MAY BE CLOSED	8
9.	REPORTS OF OFFICERS	9
9.1	LEADERSHIP / GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION.....	10
	9.1.1 SISTER TOWN RELATIONSHIP WITH TAJI.....	11
10.	MEETING CLOSURE	14

NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Council Member,

The next Special Meeting of the Shire of Broome will be held on Saturday 22 August 2009 in the Council Chambers, Corner Weld and Haas Streets, Broome, commencing at 1.00pm for the purpose of:

- Considering the Broome - Taiji Sister Town relationship

Regards



KR Donohoe
Chief Executive Officer

21 August 2009

1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The Chairperson welcomed members and the public and declared the meeting open at 1.05pm.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance	Cr G T Campbell Cr C R Mitchell Cr C M Maher Cr R J Lander Cr M L B Albert Cr P D Matsumoto	Chairperson, Shire President Deputy Shire President
Leave of Absence	Cr E R M Foy	
Apologies	Cr V L Wevers	
Officers	Kenn Donohoe Ingrid Bishop	Chief Executive Officer Director Corporate Services
Public Gallery	Rod Hartvigsen Adrian Boyle Annabelle Sandes Richard Costin Cornelia Grohmann Roger Grohmann Drasko Jankovic Liz Hathely Yolande Hathely Brooklee Puls Robyn Maher Steve Pearse Dan Procter Tanya Ransom John Willis Sean Catlin Dave Dureau Trudi Thomas-Morton Teresa manning Courtenay Stickels Catherine Erin Parks Chelsie Wiltshire Wil Thomas Tim Aarts Alan Gray Elizabeth Vaughan Leone Wilkinson Shaun Sobey Ashleigh Raith Milinda Enwood Una Baker	Murranji Photography Kimberley Whale Watching Kimberley Whale Watching Golden West Network ABC News

3. DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

Councillor	Item No	Page No	Item	Nature of Interest

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following questions were presented at the meeting of 22 August 2009:

Question 1 – Roger Grohmann: *“Is the Shire of Broome willing to read out the reply letter from Taiji at this meeting and publish it in the Broome Advertiser?”*

Answer – Shire President: *“The letter will be made available and the Chief Executive officer will determine its distribution.”*

* * * * *

Question 1 – Richard Costin: *“Would the Broome Shire Council be prepared to send a delegation to Taiji to discuss the issue?”*

Answer 1 – Shire President: *“This will be dealt with through this agenda item today?”*

Question 2 – Richard Costin: *“Does the Shire of Broome support the barbaric slaughter of dolphins in Taiji?”*

Answer 2 – Shire President: *“No, the Shire of Broome does not support the harvesting of dolphins and the aim of this Special Meeting of Council is to address this issue.”*

Question 3 – Richard Costin: *“Would the Shire of Broome be prepared to send a letter to the Taiji Council condemning the barbaric slaughter?”*

Answer – Shire President: *“At a workshop held on Friday 21 August this course of action was discussed and Council will discuss immediate action to be taken at the meeting today.”*

Question 4 – Richard Costin: *“Would the Council be prepared to issue a press release condemning the barbaric slaughter?”*

Answer 4 – Shire President: *“Council will discuss this issue at today’s meeting following Friday’s Council workshop, a formal position of Council will be developed and Council will work closely with the media to ensure that the full intent of Council’s decision is relayed accurately.”*

* * * * *

Question 1 - Trudi Thomas-Morton: *“What steps is the Shire prepared to take to force Taiji to cease the annual slaughter of up to 23,000 dolphins starting 1 September 2009?”*

Answer 1 – Shire President: *“Thankyou for your question. This will be addressed at today’s Special Meeting of Council.”*

Question 2 – Trudi Thomas-Morton: *“How quickly is the Shire prepared to act upon any decisions made today?”*

Chairperson Date:

Answer 2 – Shire President: “Council will respond immediately.”

Question 3 - Trudi Thomas-Morton: “Do the public today have the right of verbal questions at the end of this meeting?”

Answer 3 – Shire President: “No, there are no provisions for public questions after the meeting.”

* * * * *

Question 1- Una Baker: “is the Shire going to suspend ties with our sister City or condone the slaughter of dolphins?”

Answer 1 – Shire President: “That issue will be dealt with through this agenda item today.”

Question 2 – Una Baker: “Are any members of Council planning to travel to Japan to sort this situation out?”

Answer – Shire President: “Again, this issue will be dealt with through this agenda item.”

* * * * *

Question – Richard Costin: “Is the Broome Shire Council aware that Broome has one of the highest concentrations of Humpback whales in the world?”

Answer – Shire President: “Yes we are well aware of that fact and the issue being addressed today is about the annual harvesting of dolphins and we will need to keep our focus on that issue.”

* * * * *

Question – David Dureau: “May I urge Council not to sever the relationship but explore all possible ways to stop the slaughter?”

Answer – Shire President: “The issue of the Sister City relationship will be dealt with today.”

* * * * *

Question - Alan Gray: “How many Councillors have seen the movie ‘The Cove’?”

Answer – Shire President: “I am assuming that most if not all Councillors have seen the movie however, this crosses over into the Councillor’s personal business and I am not prepared to answer that question nor seek a show of hands from Councillors. Councillors are required to undertake their research in whatever way suits them.”

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

N/A

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENT WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

7. PETITIONS

A Petition was presented by Una Baker on behalf of the Broome Community and received by Council. The Shire President acknowledged the intent of the Petition.

8. MATTERS FOR WHICH MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

Nil

9.

REPORTS

OF

OFFICERS

9.1

LEADERSHIP / GOVERNANCE

AND

ORGANISATION



OUTCOME

*To provide open, transparent and good governance
to the community.*

9.1.1 SISTER TOWN RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIJI	
LOCATION/ ADDRESS:	Broome
APPLICANT:	Chief Executive Officer
FILE:	ORL14
AUTHOR:	Chief Executive Officer
CONTRIBUTOR/S:	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Chief Executive Officer
DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST:	Nil
DATE OF REPORT:	22 August 2009
SUMMARY:	Consideration of the Sister Town relationship between Broome and Taiji, Japan.

BACKGROUND

Previous Considerations

Council signed a Sister Town relationship agreement in 1981.

COMMENT

Council workshopped this issue due to the urgency and impact on the community of Broome on 21 August 2009.

CONSULTATION

Elected members – Shire of Broome

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Unknown

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

People

Significant culture is associated with the Town of Taiji with historical links to the town still existing in Broome.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority

Chairperson Date:

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That Council respectfully advises the Council of Taiji that it will be unable to fulfil its pledge as a Sister Town with the Town of Taiji while the practice of harvesting dolphins exists;

The Council of the Shire of Broome acknowledges the following in relation to the Sister Town relationship with Taiji:

- *The Shire of Broome has always recognised the relationship with Taiji and Japan that extends beyond the Sister Town pledge of 1981 to the foundation of Broome in the 19th century. The assistance in the development of Broome through the many hundreds of persons who sacrificed so much in developing the pearling industry, and whose spirits remain in our care;*
- *Significant international and national pressure has been placed on the Shire and community of Broome through social and economic sanctions that may continue to cause significant harm to the community including the continued harrying of Broome persons with Japanese descent by advocates against Taiji;*
- *The Shire of Broome would like to honour its historical Sister Town commitment by offering to facilitate alternative economic opportunities similar to those that have seen Broome flourish through tourism and promotion of its natural marine resources and landscape beauty to the people of Taiji should the Shires endeavours be of assistance to the community of Taiji;*
- *That the Australian, Commonwealth (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade); State government departments (Department of Premier and Cabinet) and Clair, Japan Local Government Centre be requested to offer assistance to Taiji in developing other economic development opportunities in lieu of dolphin harvesting.*
- *The above recommendation is conveyed with utmost urgency to the Consul-General of Japan with a request that he advise Taiji town of Council's resolution.*
- *That this Council looks forward to fulfilling its pledge of Sister Town relationship with Taiji at the earliest possible time.*

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr C M Maher

Seconded: Cr C R Mitchell

That Council:

1. ***Respectfully advises the Council of Taiji that it will be unable to fulfil its pledge as a Sister Town with the Town of Taiji while the practice of harvesting dolphins exists.***
2. ***The Council of the Shire of Broome acknowledges the following in relation to the Sister Town relationship with Taiji:***
 - ***The Shire of Broome has always recognised the relationship with Taiji and Japan that extends beyond the Sister Town pledge of 1981 to the foundation of Broome in the 19th century and the assistance in the development of Broome through the many hundreds of persons who sacrificed so much in developing the pearling industry, and whose spirits remain in our care.***

- *Significant local, international and national pressure has been placed on the Shire and community of Broome through social and economic sanctions that may continue to cause significant harm to the community including the continued harrying of Broome persons with Japanese descent by advocates against Taiji.*
- *The Shire of Broome would like to support Taiji by offering to facilitate alternative economic opportunities similar to those that have seen Broome flourish through tourism and promotion of its natural marine resources and landscape beauty to the people of Taiji.*
- *That the Australian Commonwealth (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade); State government departments (Department of Premier and Cabinet) and Japan Local Government Centre (Clair), be requested to offer assistance to Taiji in developing other economic development opportunities in lieu of dolphin harvesting.*
- *The above recommendation is conveyed with utmost urgency to the Consul-General of Japan with a request that he advise the town of Taiji of Council's resolution.*
- *That this Council looks forward to fulfilling its pledge of Sister Town relationship with Taiji at the earliest possible time.*

CARRIED 6/0 BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

[Attachments: 2 pages](#)

10. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 1.40pm.