

I hereby certify that the Minutes of the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee Meeting are a true and accurate record of the proceedings contained therein.

Chairperson

Date



SHIRE OF WYNDHAM | EAST KIMBERLEY

MINUTES AUDIT (FINANCE AND RISK) COMMITTEE

13 May 2019

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**SHIRE OF WYNDHAM EAST KIMBERLEY
MINUTES OF THE AUDIT (FINANCE AND RISK)
COMMITTEE
KUNUNURRA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
HELD ON MONDAY, 13 MAY 2019 AT 5:00 PM**

1. DECLARATIONS OF OPENING

Cr Chafer declared the meeting open at 5.01pm and read out the following disclaimer:

Members of the Public are advised that recommendations to Council contained within this Agenda and decisions arising from the Council meeting can be subject to alteration.

Applicants and other interested parties should refrain from taking any action until such time as written advice is received confirming Council's decision with respect to any particular issue.

An audio and/or video record will be made of these proceedings to assist in the taking of minutes.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

ATTENDANCE

Cr T Chafer	Deputy Shire President	Chair of Committee
Cr G Lodge	Councillor	Deputy Chair of Committee
Cr J Farquhar	Councillor	

C Askew	Chief Executive Officer
F Hamilton	Minute Taker
F Heading	Acting Director Corporate Services
A Mulenga	Financial Accountant

M Northover	Resident
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APOLOGIES

Cr M McKittrick	Councillor
V Lawrence	Director Corporate Services

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME/PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- Financial Interest

Nil

- Impartiality Interest

Nil

- Proximity Interest

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

That the Minutes of the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee meeting of 25 February 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Note: The Minutes of the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee are provided under separate cover via www.swek.wa.gov.au

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Minute Number: 13/05/2019 AC425

Moved: Cr J Farquhar

Seconded: Cr G Lodge

That the Minutes of the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee meeting of 25 February 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried 3/0

6. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS/NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil

7. REPORTS

7.1. AUDIT STRATEGY MEMORANDUM FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

DATE:	13 May 2019
AUTHOR:	Director Corporate Services
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Vernon Lawrence, Director Corporate Services
FILE NO:	FM.02.15
DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:	Nil.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee recommend to Council that it:

- 1. Notes the contents of this report and the confidential attachment Audit Strategy Memorandum 30 June 2019; and**
- 2. Endorses the changes to *CP/FIN-3201 Significant Accounting Policies*.**

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Minute Number: 13/05/2019 AC426

Moved: Cr G Lodge

Seconded: Cr J Farquhar

That the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee recommend to Council that it:

- 1. Notes the contents of this report and the confidential attachment Audit Strategy Memorandum 30 June 2019; and**
- 2. Endorses the changes to *CP/FIN-3201 Significant Accounting Policies*.**

Carried 3/0

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is firstly for the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee to consider the contents of the document Audit Strategy Memorandum, in particular the audit scope, approach and key deliverables. The second purpose is for the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee to recommend to Council that it notes the contents of this report and that of the Audit Strategy Memorandum. Finally, to recommend to Council to endorse the changes to

CP/FIN-3201 Significant Accounting Policies arising out of the Regulatory and Technical Developments detailed in the Audit Strategy Memorandum.

NATURE OF COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE MATTER

Leader - plan and provide direction through policy and practices

BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS CONSIDERATIONS BY COUNCIL/COMMITTEE

The Terms of Reference of the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee (the Committee) require the Committee as part of its duties and responsibilities to review the scope of the audit plan and program and its effectiveness. The Shire's auditors, Moore Stephens, have compiled the Audit Strategy Memorandum which considers and documents this aspect of the Committee's duties. This is an independent assessment of what is required and has been compiled with current knowledge of the Shire's internal control systems.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Minute No. 13/08/2018 AC396

Moved: Cr G Lodge

Seconded: Cr T Chafer

That the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee recommend to Council that it:

- 1. Notes the contents of this report and the confidential attachment Audit Strategy Memorandum 30 June 2018; and**
- 2. Endorses the changes to *CP FIN 3201 Significant Accounting Policies*.**

Carried 3/0

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

There is a significant amount of legislation relevant to the audit process and scope that it is not practical to list all in detail in this report. However the main legal requirements are contained in:

- *Part 6 of the Local Government Act, 1995*
- *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations, 1996*
- *Local Government (Audit) Regulations, 1996*
- *Australian Accounting Standards*

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

CP/FIN-3201 Significant Accounting Policies will need to be amended as shown in attachment 2.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no cost implications arising from the preparation of this report. The Shire has budgeted for the payment of audit fees during the budget process based on the estimates provided by Moore Stephens.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027

Focus Area 4: Civic Leadership

Goal 4.4: Sustainably maintain the Shire's financial viability

Strategy 4.4.4: Apply best practice financial management to ensure long term sustainability

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Failure to comply with legislative requirements leading to damage of reputation and/or financial loss.

Control: Annual Financial Audit and review policies and procedures in accordance with review schedule.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley's CP/GOV-3100 Community Engagement Policy has been considered in relation to this item.

No community engagement is required.

COMMENTS

Moore Stephens in their introduction to the Audit Strategy Memorandum state that the document is strictly confidential and should not be disclosed to third parties without their consent. To be consistent with the prior year the document is to be kept as confidential and is therefore listed in the confidential attachments to the agenda.

The confidential attachment is a comprehensive document that sets out the following:

- The scope of the audit
- The audit methodology and approach
- The key deliverables timetable
- Audit risks and areas of focus
- Audit resources to be used
- Auditor's responsibility to consider fraud
- Management responsibility and representations
- Materiality
- Regulatory and technical developments

Shire Officers have considered the contents of the document and are of the opinion that it is consistent with prior years. Of particular interest for staff is the Key Audit Risks and Focus Areas. Detailed requirements in these areas are generally given to staff by the auditors so that documentation is ready for inspection when the auditors visit the administration offices. The detailed information required for the upcoming interim audit has been made available on the Moore Stephens portal and staff are currently addressing the requirements.

The Audit Strategy Memorandum notes a number of Accounting Standards and Local Government Regulations that have mandatory application for current or future reporting periods. For the current financial year end *AASB 9 Financial Instruments* comes into effect but has limited implications for the Shire. *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A(5)* require the Shire to exclude from fixed assets those acquired for less than \$5,000. *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A(4)(a)(b)* requires the Shire to revalue assets only when the carrying value is materially different from its fair value however revaluing them at least every three years but not more than five years after the date last valued.

There are three Accounting standards that have mandatory application for the 2019/20 financial year. These are *AASB:1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*, *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and *AASB 16 Leases*. The implications of the application of these accounting statements can be seen in the amended *CP/FIN-3201 Significant Accounting Policies* attached.

Appendix 3 to the Memorandum contains the Management Representation Letter the Shire is required to sign. The Shire Officers have considered the content and note that it is consistent with the content of prior years. The Director Corporate Services is happy to sign the letter on behalf of the Shire at the appropriate time.

The engagement partner from Moore Stephens, Greg Godwin, addressed the Audit Committee on 30 April 2019 via a telephone conference call. During his briefing he discussed the main aspects of the Audit Strategy Memorandum in detail and answered all questions put to him by the Committee and Shire Officers. Shire Officers have made note of particular areas of interest to the Auditors and will address them as part of the preparation for the annual audit.

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 - 2019 Audit Strategy Memorandum

Attachment 1 - CP/FIN-3201 Significant Accounting Policies - May 2019 Track Changes

Attachment 2 - CP/FIN-3201 Significant Accounting Policies - May 2019

7.2. STANDING ITEM - INSURANCE CLAIMS

DATE:	13 May 2019
AUTHOR:	Director Corporate Services
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Vernon Lawrence, Director Corporate Services
FILE NO:	RM.01.2
DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:	Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee recommends to Council that it notes the Insurance Claims Report and associated attachments.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Minute Number: 13/05/2019 AC427

**Moved: Cr J Farquhar
Seconded: Cr G Lodge**

That the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee recommends to Council that it notes the Insurance Claims Report and associated attachments.

Carried 3/0

PURPOSE

To report to the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee (the Committee) the insurance claims that have been lodged for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years, the associated costs and the status of the claims.

NATURE OF COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE MATTER

Leader - plan and provide direction through policy and practices

BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS CONSIDERATIONS BY COUNCIL/COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee has as one of its functions to facilitate the effective management of financial and other risks and the protection of Council assets. The Shire administration is

currently allocating time and resources to risk management and it is appropriate that the Shire's risk performance is reported to the Committee as a standard report on a quarterly basis.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The following Shire documents are relevant to this report:

- Corporate Insurance Strategy
- Risk Management Policy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Insurance premiums have been considered in the 2018/19 budget process. The Shire has in terms of its insurance policy insurance excesses that it has to absorb as a "first loss" in the event of a claim. These excesses are set out in the detailed insurance schedules accompanying the insurance policies.

There are no other financial implications arising out of the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027

Focus Area 4: Civic Leadership

Goal 4.4: Sustainably maintain the Shire's financial viability

Goal: 4.3: Ensure a strong and progressive organisation delivering customer focused services

Strategy 4.3.2: Create a culture that encourages innovation, collaboration, best practice and organisational discipline to improve efficiency, effectiveness and productivity

Strategy 4.4.4: Apply best practice financial management to ensure long term sustainability

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Inadequate insurance cover leading to damage of reputation and/or financial loss.

Control: Annual review of insurance cover.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley's *CP/GOV-3100 Community Engagement Policy* has been considered in relation to this item. No community engagement is required.

COMMENTS

The Terms of Reference for the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee set out as one of the objectives to “facilitate the effective management of financial and other risks and the protection of Council assets”. Part of the *Local Government Operational Guidelines Number 09 - Audit in Local Government* identifies that “good audit committee practices in monitoring internal control and risk management programs typically include: assessing the adequacy of local government processes to manage insurable risks and ensure the adequacy of insurance cover, and if applicable, the level of self-insurance.”

The attachments detail for the financial year 2017/18 and the 2018/19 financial year to date the cost of claims across four categories where claims were made. These can be summarised as follows:

	2017/18 (Q1 - Q4)		2018/19 (Q1, Q2 and Q3)	
	Estimated Costs	Number of Claims	Estimated Costs	Number of Claims
Motor Vehicle	\$0	0	\$719	1
WorkCare	\$26,291	9	\$8,998	4
Property	\$57,048	4	\$8,877	5
Liability	\$363	2	\$0	1
Total	\$83,702	15	\$18,594	11

The table above shows no Motor Vehicle claims were made during the 2017/18 year and in 2018/19 year to date.

Four WorkCare claims totalling \$8,998 have been lodged year to date in 2018/19 all of which have been finalised. This is an improvement over last financial year.

The Shire has recruited a Safety and Wellbeing Officer to assist in the development, implementation and management of the Shire’s Workplace OSH processes, procedures, as well as coordinating health and wellbeing programs and initiatives. This may result in future periods of more instances of reporting but not change the number of claims made. The incident reporting will provide valuable data to enable the Shire to better manage its risk. This has positive implications for the cost of insurance.

There have been five claims for property damage for the year to date, one of which is expected to have no financial impact. One claim is related to vandalism at the Kununurra Airport, two are for lightning damage to Shire IT equipment and the final one was for a minor lost property claim.

There has been one Liability claim made for the 2018/19 half year. This was a claim in respect of water damage to hire vehicles parked at the airport. The Shire has made a without prejudice payment to settle this claim. All claims relating to prior years have been finalised. There is the possibility of two claims being reopened if responses are received from the claimants.

ATTACHMENTS

(Confidential attachments provided under separate cover).

Attachment 1 - Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley - LGIS WorkCare

Attachment 2 - Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley - LGIS Property Claims

Attachment 3 - Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley - LGIS Liability Claims

Attachment 4 - Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley - Motor Vehicle 3 Year Summary

7.3. STANDING ITEM - SUNDRY DEBTORS

DATE:	13 May 2019
AUTHOR:	Senior Finance Officer
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Vernon Lawrence, Director Corporate Services
FILE NO:	FM.07.02
DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:	NIL

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee reports to the Council that the actions being undertaken by the administration in regard to sundry debtors including sundry debts in legal process are sufficient and appropriate.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Minute Number: 13/05/2019 AC428

Moved: Cr G Lodge

Seconded: Cr J Farquhar

That the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee reports to the Council that the actions being undertaken by the administration in regard to sundry debtors including sundry debts in legal process are sufficient and appropriate.

Carried 3/0

PURPOSE

To review the status of sundry debtors, including airport debtors, and sundry debts in legal process.

NATURE OF COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE MATTER

Leader - plan and provide direction through policy and practices.

BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS CONSIDERATIONS BY COUNCIL/COMMITTEE

The listing of 90+ day sundry debtors was provided at the Ordinary Council Meeting on a monthly basis until March 2009 when Council resolved that the 90+ days debtor list be removed from the Council Agenda as a standing item and be presented to the then Audit Committee for consideration and to make recommended actions to Council as this falls within the scope of the committee's purpose.

In line with the more strategic focus of the new Committee the report in April 2012 only included debtor balances at 90+days and over \$500.

To further progress this strategic focus this item has been changed to provide summary information regarding all sundry debts including airport landing fees administered by Avdata on the Shire's behalf.

Further changes were recommended to the Committee at the February 2014 meeting to modify the report by removing the categories previously reported and to report sundry debtors as a whole, with airport debtors still being identified separately and that only debtors in excess of \$20,000 be provided with more detail. These changes were supported by the Committee and have been considered in the writing of this report.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

This item in a Council Meeting needs to be discussed behind closed doors under Section 5.23. (2) (e) (iii) of the *Local Government Act 1995* because the item may disclose information about the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of a person and because the item also contained legal advice to the Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council Policy *CP/FIN-3214 Sundry Debt Collection* is relevant to this item.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal fees may be incurred to recover debts or revenue written off if debt recovery is considered not economically viable.

It should be noted however, that as outlined in section 9.1 of the *CP/FIN-3214 Sundry Debt Collection Policy*, when possible 'legal fees associated with the recovery of outstanding debts will be recovered from the sundry debtor to the extent allowable under legislation and will be assessed on a case by case basis'.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027

Focus Area 4: Civic Leadership

Goal 4.4: Sustainably maintain the Shire's financial viability

Strategy 4.4.4: Apply best practice financial management to ensure long term sustainability

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Failure to comply with legislative requirements leading to damage of reputation and/or financial loss.

Control: Review policies and procedures in accordance with review schedule

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley's CP/GOV-3100 Community Engagement Policy has been considered in relation to this item.

No community engagement is required however there is regular contact with debtors generally.

COMMENTS

Sundry Debtors (General) Summary as at 29 April 2019

Categories	90 Days		60 Days	30 Days	Current	Total
	No	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sundry Debtors	10	126,672	833	77,767	93,616	298,888

Note: The information in the above table is from the Shire's Debtors System, the revenue is recognised when the debt is raised.

Sundry Debtors (Airport Landing Fees) Summary as at 29 April 2019

Categories	90 Days		60 Days	30 Days	Current	Total
	No	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Kununurra Airport	26	10,684	11,941	94,403	110,452	227,480
Wyndham Airport	1	59	975	1,533	2,144	4,711
Total	27	10,743	12,916	95,936	112,596	232,191

Note: The information in the above table is provided by Avdata.

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 - Sundry Debtors at 29 April 2019 (Confidential attachment provided under separate cover).

7.4. STANDING ITEM - LEASES

DATE:	13 May 2019
AUTHOR:	Senior Finance Officer
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Vernon Lawrence, Director Corporate Services
FILE NO:	CP.07 and CP.16
DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:	Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends to the Council that it notes the Confidential Lease Schedule and the New and Renewal Lease Schedule attached.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Minute Number: 13/05/2019 AC429

**Moved: Cr G Lodge
Seconded: Cr J Farquhar**

That the Committee recommends to the Council that it notes the Confidential Lease Schedule and the New and Renewal Lease Schedule attached.

Carried 3/0

PURPOSE

To consider the attached Confidential Lease Report as at 3 May 2019.

NATURE OF COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE MATTER

Provider - provide physical infrastructure and essential services.

BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS CONSIDERATIONS BY COUNCIL/COMMITTEE

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley administers over thirty five leases ranging from airport leases, community and commercial leases.

In December 2007 the Audit (Risk and Finance) Committee resolved:

Minute No. A066

Moved: Cr Keith Wright

Seconded Cr Frederic Mills

- 1. That the Audit Committee note that the responsibility for the management of leases and periodical contracts is that of the Executive Manager Corporate Services.**
- 2. That the Audit Committee note that the Executive Manager Corporate Services monitors the leases and coordinates the lease database and reporting to Executive Managers, the Audit Committee and Council.**
- 3. That the Audit Committee request staff to present an updated Lease Spreadsheet certified by Executive Manager Corporate Services to each Audit Committee meeting as a standing item.**

Carried Unanimously 4/0

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1995

Part 5, Division 2

5.23. Meetings generally open to public

- (2) *If a meeting is being held by a council or by a committee referred to in subsection (1)(b), the council or committee may close to members of the public the meeting, or part of the meeting, if the meeting or the part of the meeting deals with any of the following —*
- (a) a matter affecting an employee or employees; and*
 - (b) the personal affairs of any person; and*
 - (c) a contract entered into, or which may be entered into, by the local government and which relates to a matter to be discussed at the meeting; and*
 - (d) legal advice obtained, or which may be obtained, by the local government and which relates to a matter to be discussed at the meeting; and*
 - (e) a matter that if disclosed, would reveal —*
 - (i) a trade secret; or*
 - (ii) information that has a commercial value to a person; or*
 - (iii) information about the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of a person, where the trade secret or information is held by, or is about, a person other than the local government; and*
 - (f) a matter that if disclosed, could be reasonably expected to —*
 - (i) impair the effectiveness of any lawful method or procedure for preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with any contravention or possible contravention of the law; or*
 - (ii) endanger the security of the local government's property; or*
 - (iii) prejudice the maintenance or enforcement of a lawful measure for protecting public safety; and*

- (g) *information which is the subject of a direction given under section 23(1a) of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971; and*
 - (h) *such other matters as may be prescribed.*
- (3) *A decision to close a meeting or part of a meeting and the reason for the decision are to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.*

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

CP/PMG-3780 Leasing of Council Managed Reserve Land – Community is relevant.
CP/PMG-3781 Leasing of Council Managed/Owned Land – Commercial is relevant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications from the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027

Focus Area 4: Civic Leadership

Goal 4.4: Sustainably maintain the Shire's financial viability

Goal: 4.3: Ensure a strong and progressive organisation delivering customer focused services

Strategy 4.3.2: Create a culture that encourages innovation, collaboration, best practice and organisational discipline to improve efficiency, effectiveness and productivity

Strategy 4.4.4: Apply best practice financial management to ensure long term sustainability

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Risk: Loss of corporate knowledge with staff turnover.

Control: Documentation of service procedures.

Strategic Risk: Failure to comply with legislative requirements leading to damage of reputation and/or financial loss.

Control: Review policies and procedures in accordance with review schedule.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley's CP/GOV-3100 Community Engagement Policy has been considered in relation to this item. No community engagement is required.

COMMENTS

The Shire has finalised numerous outstanding leasing issues over the past 24 months. Shire staff are following up on three remaining outstanding lease issues on a regular basis and also for renewal of two existing lease. While it would be good if the remaining leases can be

finalised before the end of the financial year, control over the timeline in progressing the leases is not vested in the Shire. Details on outstanding issues are contained in attachment 2.

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 - Lease Schedule

Confidential Attachment 2 - New and Renewal Lease Schedule

7.5. STANDING ITEM - RATES DEBTORS

DATE:	13 May 2019
AUTHOR:	Rates Officer
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Vernon Lawrence, Director Corporate Services
FILE NO:	FM.11.1
DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:	Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee reports to Council that the actions being undertaken by the administration in regard to rates debtors, including rates debts in legal process, are sufficient and appropriate.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Minute Number: 13/05/2019 AC430

**Moved: Cr J Farquhar
Seconded: Cr G Lodge**

That the Audit (Finance and Risk) Committee reports to Council that the actions being undertaken by the administration in regard to rates debtors, including rates debts in legal process, are sufficient and appropriate.

Carried 3/0

PURPOSE

To review the status of rates debtors and those rates debts that are in the legal process.

NATURE OF COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE MATTER

Leader - plan and provide direction through policy and practices

BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS CONSIDERATIONS BY COUNCIL/COMMITTEE

At the Ordinary Council Meeting, 16 October 2007, Council resolved the following:

Minute No. 7936

That Council direct the CEO to provide a written report to Council under confidential cover each month in regard to all debts currently in legal process.

Carried Unanimously 5/0

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 18 March 2008, Council resolved the following:

Minute No: 8148

Moved: Cr J Parker Seconded: Cr F Mills

That Council:

- 1. note the confidential report provided to it in relation to debts owed to Council and under legal action.***
- 2. direct the Executive Manager Corporate Services to provide a written report to the Audit Committee under confidential cover at each Audit Committee meeting in regard to all debts currently in legal process.***
- 3. request the Audit Committee to make recommendations to Council as required and appropriate in relation to the report provided under confidential cover regarding debts currently in legal process.***
- 4. resolve that this requirement replaces the previous requirement on the CEO to report information to Council.***

Carried Unanimously 8/0

This requirement is now fulfilled by a combination of this report and item 5.1 Standing Item – Sundry Debtors.

The Outstanding Rates Debtors over three years report has also been incorporated into the confidential attachment to this item to give a complete picture of rates debtors.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

This item in a Council Meeting needs to be discussed behind closed doors in accordance with section 5.23. (2) (e) (iii) of the *Local Government Act 1995* because the item may disclose information about the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of a person.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council's Policy *CP/FIN-3212 Rates and Charges Debt Collection* is relevant

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal fees may be incurred to recover debts or revenue written off if debt recovery is considered not economically viable. Should debts become not recoverable it affects the cash position of the Shire. Provision is made for debts that are not recoverable at the end of each financial year.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027

Focus Area 4: Civic Leadership

Goal 4.4: Sustainably maintain the Shire's financial viability

Strategy 4.4.4: Apply best practice financial management to ensure long term sustainability

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Failure to comply with legislative requirements leading to damage of reputation and/or financial loss.

Controls: Annual Financial Audit.

Review policies and procedures in accordance with review schedule.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley's CP/GOV-3100 Community Engagement Policy has been considered in relation to this item.

No community engagement is required however regular communication is had with ratepayers.

COMMENTS

Rates and Services Debtors Summary

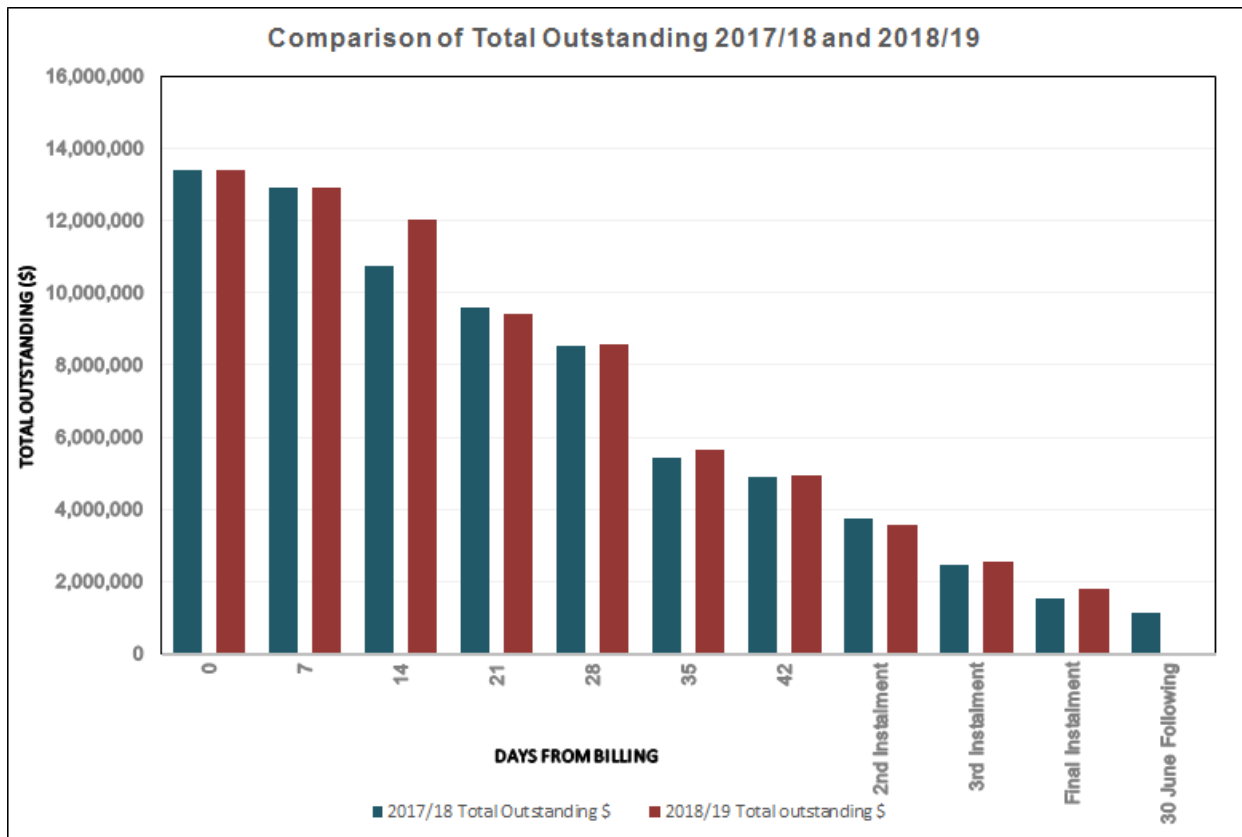
Rates & Services Levied 2018/19 (including arrears)	Overdue at 01 May 2019
\$ 13,661,170	\$1,491,137

Rates for the financial year of 2018/19 were raised on 5 July 2018 and issued on the 13 July 2018. Interim rating occurs periodically throughout the year. The Overdue amount of \$1,491,137 is analysed in the confidential attachment 1.

Comparison of rates received 2017/18 and 2018/19

NB: It should be noted that the table below includes Rates, Waste Management Charges, Waste Receptacle Charges, Back Rates, ESL & Deferred Rates.

		2017/18			2018/19		
Days from Billing		Total Outstanding	Received	% of Billing	Total Outstanding	Received	% of Billing
		\$	\$	%	\$	\$	%
0	Notices Issued	13,393,566			13,418,076		
7		12,934,235	459,311	3.43%	12,910,025	508,051	3.79%
14		10,755,682	2,178,553	16.27%	12,042,246	867,779	6.47%
21		9,602,576	1,153,106	8.61%	9,409,788	2,632,457	19.62%
28		8,535,427	1,067,149	7.97%	8,558,338	851,450	6.35%
35		5,416,19	3,119,232	23.29%	5,654,622	2,903,716	21.64%
42		4,918,936	497,258	3.71%	4,957,835	696,786	5.19%
2nd Instalment		3,746,280	1,172,656	8.76%	3,564,154	1,393,681	10.39%
3rd Instalment		2,478,654	1,267,626	9.46%	2,570,784	993,370	7.40%
Final Instalment		1,551,611	927,043	6.92%	1,818,030	752,754	5.61%
30 June Following		1,136,540	415,071	3.10%	0	0	0.00%
Total			12,257,026	91.51%	0	11,600,046	86.45%



Instalment Status Report at 01 May 2019

Instalment Option	Number of Properties	% Total Properties*	Properties up to date	Properties Behind	Instalments Overdue \$	% of Properties Overdue
2 Instalments	189	6.83%	170	19	\$27,489	10.05%
4 Instalments	514	18.57%	380	134	\$81,529	26.07%
All instalment Payers	703	25.40%	550	153	\$109,018	21.76%

*2768 excluding non-rateable properties

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Rates Debtors at 01 May 2019 (Confidential attachment provided under separate cover).

8. MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Minute Number: 13/05/2019 AC431

Moved: Cr T Chafer

Seconded: Cr J Farquhar

That the Committee move in-camera to discuss confidential attachments at 5.11pm.
Officers to remain.

Carried 3/0

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Minute Number: 13/05/2019 AC432

Moved: Cr J Farquhar

Seconded: Cr G Lodge

That the Committee move out of camera at 5.29pm.

Carried 3/0

Members of the gallery were invited back to Council Chambers. The Chairperson advised the gallery that the Committee had sought clarification on and discussed a number of matters related to the confidential reports.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12 August 2019, 5pm, Kununurra Council Chambers

10. CLOSURE

Cr T Chafer declared the meeting closed at 5.30pm