

COUNCILLOR BRIEFING AND WORKSHOP SESSION MEETING NO. 2024(07)**9 JULY 2024**

REPORT

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Teresa Harding; Councillors Pye Augustine (via audio-link), Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic (via audio-link), Paul Tully (via audio-link), Marnie Doyle, Andrew Antonioli, David Cullen (via audio-link), Jim Madden and Jacob Madsen (via audio-link)

COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES:

Nil

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:

Acting Chief Executive Officer (Ben Pole), General Manager Corporate Services (Matt Smith), General Manager Environment and Sustainability (Kaye Cavanagh), Acting General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services (Alisha Connaughton), Chief Information Officer (Angela Jackson), ERP Program Manager (Gerard Nelson), ICT Business Manager (Fiona Bristow), Chief of Staff – Office of the Mayor (Melissa Fitzgerald), Manager Natural Environment (Phil A Smith), Planning Officer, Environmental Management (Merrin Allen), Team Leader, Strategic Catchment and Conservation Planning (Belinda Whelband), Community Services Manager (Melissa Dower), Chief Financial Officer (Jeff Keech), Principal Officer, Strategy Performance (Candice Johns), Acting Manager Strategy and Performance (Haiden Taylor), Solicitor (Nicola Harris), Program Support Officer (Rebecca Teece), Finance Partner – Operational (Sharee Mallie), Grants Management and Finance Officer (Bec Davis), Community Engagement Officer (Jaime Kelleher) and Senior Community Funding Officer (Sarah Sheehy) and Manager Community and Cultural Services (Don Stewart)

EXTERNAL ATTENDANCE:

Martin Albrecht AC (Chair, National Trunk Rail), Wayne Moulday (Executive General Manager, St Baker Capital Partners), Angela Owen (Corporate Governance – NTR), Guy Johnson (Engineering Lead – NTR), Bob Bidwell (Project Manager – NTR), Annette Brandley (Area Manager, Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works), Darren Moor (Department of Resources - Executive Director, Georesources Delivery), Rebecca Younberry (Department of Resources - Principal Mining Registrar) and Peter Toole (via audio-link) (Wanless)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Nil

OFFICERS' REPORTS

1. **UPDATE ON THE IVOOLVE BUSINESS CASE**

The iVolve Business Case has been updated to improve Council's capacity to manage risk while maintaining continuity and ensuring financial prudence.

MATTERS ARISING:

The Councillors in attendance noted and discussed the updated information presented on the iVolve Business Case.

2. **NTR PORTCONNEX PROJECT UPDATE**

The NTR PortConnex team provided Council with a briefing in November 2021 on its proposal for a tunnel linking the proposed Ebenezer Regional Industrial Area to the Port of Brisbane via driverless freight shuttles. This briefing session, led by Mr Martin Albrecht AC (Chair, National Trunk Rail) aims to provide an update to Council on the progress of the proposal to-date.

MATTERS ARISING:

Councillors in attendance noted and discussed the updated information presented on the NTR Portconnex Project.

NTR Portconnex made a request for the Ipswich City Council to endorse the project. Councillors present noted the request, and that consideration would be given to the request.

3. **DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES - PENDING DECISIONS ON MINING LEASE RENEWALS**

Representatives from Department of Resources will be attending to brief the council on pending decisions on mining lease renewals.

MATTERS ARISING:

The Councillors present noted and discussed the information presented from the Department of Resources on the Pending Decisions on Mining Lease Renewals.

4. PROPOSED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY

The draft Environmental Protection Policy (the Policy) intends to fill an identified gap which will clarify Council' expectations, obligations and organisational position on environmental protection regarding the day-to-day business of developing and delivering projects, programs and services. The Policy will also support an understanding of the Council's environmental risks and compliance with the Council's legislative obligations and give a head of power to subsequent procedures and directives in this space.

In January 2024, the Policy was circulated for consideration and comment to the elected representatives. Responses back included a request to workshop the Policy with the Mayor and Councillors to hear comments, questions and concerns.

The attached draft committee report and the Policy (Attachment 1 and 2 respectively) contain further details about the content and intent.

MATTERS ARISING:

Councillors in attendance noted and discussed the proposed draft Environmental Protection Policy.

5. NAIDOC WEEK

The following members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employee Working Group (ATSIEWG) delivered information and a token to the Mayor and Councillors in relation to NAIDOC week.

- Bec Teece
- Sharee Mallie
- Bec Davis
- Jaime Kelleher
- Sarah Sheehy

MATTERS ARISING:

Councillors in attendance acknowledged the information presented from the ATSIEWG in relation to NAIDOC week.

6. HOMELESSNESS SERVICE RESPONSE

Homelessness is a critical and complex issue that impacts communities nationwide. Addressing it effectively requires a multifaceted approach involving various stakeholders.

While the Queensland Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (DHLGPPW) takes primary responsibility for housing and homelessness initiatives, council officers work closely in supporting and enhancing these broader initiatives.

This briefing will provide an overview of the status of homelessness in Ipswich and the collaborative efforts and initiatives between the council, DHLGPPW and Specialist Homelessness Services highlighting their impact on addressing homelessness in Ipswich.

MATTERS ARISING:

Councillors in attendance noted the information presented in relation to homelessness.

7. 2026-2031 CORPORATE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The current Corporate Plan contained within iFuture expires 30 June 2026. Currently iFuture also contains the 20-year Community Vision which expires in 2041. To assist with the planning associated with the development of the next Corporate Plan, this report provides options for the output of the project for consideration.

MATTERS ARISING:

Councillors in attendance noted and discussed the information presented on the 2026-2031 Corporate Plan Development.

8. DRAFT STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC INTENT (SOSI) AND UPDATE ON UU PARTICIPATION RETURNS POLICY (PRP) AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT (PA)

This is a confidential report in relation to briefing the Mayor and Councillors on (2) two matters in relation to Urban Utilities (UU):

1. Proposed amendments to the Participation Return Policy (i.e. the policy that outlines the basis on which returns (“dividends”) that UU pays to Council, are determined.
2. Approval by Participants of UU’s Statement of Strategic Intent (“SOSI”).

Each matter will require a resolution from Council to approve the draft Participation Returns Policy and Participation Agreement and to approve the SOSI.

Officers from Council and UU have shared information and held discussions to understand the matters further and key issues. Whilst there are some attachments from UU on the proposed changes to the Participation Returns Policy, Council officers will discuss these with Mayor and Councillors with UU not attending this session.

“The attachment/s to this report are confidential in accordance with section 254J(3)(i) of the Local Government Regulation 2012.”

MATTERS ARISING:

Councillors in attendance noted and discussed the information presented on the Draft Statement of Strategic Intent and the update on the Urban Utilities Participation Returns Policy and Participation Agreement.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 9.05 am.

Mayor Harding arrived at the meeting at 9.06 am.

Councillor Doyle left the meeting at 9.15 am.

Councillor Antonioli left the meeting at 9.42 am.

Councillor Madsen joined the meeting via audio-link at 9.44 am.

Mayor Harding left the meeting at 10.36 am.

The meeting adjourned at 10.39 am.

The meeting reconvened at 11.47 am with all councillors in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 12.20 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1.17 pm with all councillors in attendance except Councillors Doyle and Madsen.

Councillor Doyle returned to the meeting at 1.52 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 2.56 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 3.18 pm with all councillors in attendance except Councillors Madsen and Cullen.

Councillor Madden left the meeting at 3.45 pm.

Councillor Madden returned to the meeting at 3.47 pm.

The meeting closed at 3.58 pm.
