

# Lord Howe Island Board

## MINUTES OF THE OUT OF SESSION MEETING OF THE LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD

**LOCATION** By Teleconference. Lord Howe Island Board Members and Staff at Lord Howe Island Community Hall, corner Lagoon Road and Neds Beach Road.

**DATE** Wednesday 24 June 2020

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

- Ms A Levy (Chair – AL)
- Mr C Wilson (Deputy Chair - CW)
- Mr G Crombie (Member – GC)
- Mr D Kirk (Member - DK)
- Mr R Pallin (Member – RP)
- Mr M Retmock (Member – MR)
- Ms T Turner (Member - TT)

### APOLOGIES

Nil

### BOARD STAFF PRESENT

- Peter Adams (Chief Executive Officer - PA)
- John van Gaalen (Manager Business and Corporate Services - JV)
- Justin Sauvage (Manager Environment & Community Services - JS)
- David Waterhouse (Manager Infrastructure & Engineering Services - DW)

The meeting commenced at 4:00 pm (3:30 pm EST) at the Community Hall on Wednesday 24 June 2020 and closed at 4:55 pm. Three members of the public attended the meeting.

A COVID-19 safety plan was prepared for use of the Community Hall according to NSW Public Health Orders. The number of attendees was limited to 8 meeting officials and 20 members of the public.

Unless otherwise specified, all Board decisions were unanimous.

### 1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Nil.

## 2 2021 CORPORATE PLAN

**PA presented the report.**

Mr Rodney Thompson asked a question in relation to the plan being submitted for public consultation. CW replied that as it was only an interim plan, it would not be circulated in this instance, and that the original plan was subject to community consultation at the time. Future plans however, would follow the normal process of public consultation.

**It was moved by RP and seconded by CW that the Board:**

**Approve the attached Corporate Plan 2020/21 as an interim extension to the 2016/19 Corporate Plan.**

**The Board adopted the motion.**

## 3 2020/21 BUDGET REPORT

**It was moved GC and seconded DK that the Board approve the recommendation inclusive of:**

- 1. 2020/21 Staffing changes (in body of report)**
- 2. 2020/21 Operating Budget and Capital Budget.(Attachments A, B, C, D,E)**
- 3. 2020/21 Fees & Charges (Attachment F)**

**The Board adopted the motion.**

## 4 GENERAL BUSINESS

One Question on Notice was received from Mr Stuart King regarding financial management relating to Perpetual Lease fee increases. PA replied to the question including that: Mr King refers to rates but these are lease fees. The closest equivalent however to mainland rates are LHI lease fees. The unsustainable revenues have been tabled in various reviews for many years especially given very low economies of scale and the cost of providing services in a remote location. Lease fees are not the main revenue funding services and visitor levies are the much larger component. It was stated that lease fee decisions can only be made each three years and the fees for 20/21 and the following years were decided and adopted in 2019. Comparisons with some examples on the mainland rates were given.

Discussion included comparisons, the hard work being undertaken to provide efficiencies and manage well fiscally, the 50% discount for pensioners, the services that mainland rates include and exclude compared to LHI, and that most local government areas in NSW have had very significant increases in recent years to seek long term financial sustainability. It was pointed out that there was little choice in the lease increase decision and the lease fees were determined pre any shortfall in the REP and were not set to fund any part of the REP.

The meeting closed at 4:55pm on Wednesday 24 June 2020.

## NEXT MEETING

7 September 2020 – Closed Session

8 September 2020 – Open Session

Further Board meetings for the 2020 Calendar year have been confirmed as:

7-8 December 2020