



STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2014 AT THE EUROA COMMUNITY CONFERENCE CENTRE COMMENCING AT 5.00 P.M.

Councillors: Debra Swan (Chair)
Colleen Furlanetto
Malcolm Little
Alister Purbrick
Patrick Storer

Officers: Steve Crawcour - Chief Executive Officer

BUSINESS

1. Welcome
2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners
'In keeping with the spirit of Reconciliation, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting today. We recognise indigenous people, their elders past and present'.
3. Apologies

Councillor Robin Weatherald
Councillor Graeme (Mick) Williams
Roy Hetherington - Director, Asset Services
David Woodhams – Director, Corporate and Community
Phil Howard – Director, Sustainable Development
4. Disclosure of Interests

EXCERPT FROM MEETING PROCEDURE LOCAL LAW NO. 1

CONDUCT OF PUBLIC

52. VISITORS

- (1) Visitors must not interject or take part in debate.
- (2) Silence shall be preserved in the gallery at all times.
- (3) If any visitor is called to order by the Chairperson and again acts in breach of this Local Law, the Chairperson may order that person to be removed from the gallery.

53. CALL TO ORDER

Any person who has been called to order, including any Councillor who fails to comply with the Chairperson's direction, will be guilty of an offence.
Penalty: \$500

54. *REMOVAL FOR DISRUPTION*

The Chairperson has discretion to cause the removal of any person, including a Councillor, who disrupts any meeting or fails to comply with a direction under the provisions of this Local Law.

- 5. Reports of Council Officers
 - 5.1 Climate Change
 - 5.2 Infrastructure
 - 5.3 Private Enterprise
 - 5.4 Public Institutions
 - 5.5 Housing and Recreation
 - 5.6 Tourism
 - 5.7 Organisation

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5. **REPORTS**

5.7 **ORGANISATION**

5.7.1 **Provision of Point to Point Microwave Managed Service**

Author & Department

Director, Corporate & Community / Corporate and Community Directorate

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest in relation to advice provided in this report

Officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a direct or indirect interest, as provided in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

Summary

Council has reached the point of over utilizing the Wide Area Network & Internet connectivity.

A resolution of Council is required in order to proceed with an alternative connection to and from the Council offices.

In order to meet recovery times for ICT Infrastructure recovery an alternative connection is required.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **That Council approve Quotation from Thomas Duryea Consulting Quote No: JZ38327 for the Provision of Point to Point Microwave Managed Service – 20Mbps Unlimited Internet Uncontended for a period of 5 years.**
2. **That the associated Confidential Attachments provided to Councillors for their consideration be noted.**

10/14 **CRS PURBRICK/LITTLE** : *That the Recommendation be adopted.*

CARRIED

Background

The Euroa office is using an internet connection which is currently not meeting requirements. Since going live with hosted Disaster Recovery as a Service we have had to increase the data allowance on the connection, thereby increasing our monthly costs. We have also discovered the poor quality of internet connectivity is causing issues with replication, causing the connection to drop out at times.

If a server needed to be recovered from our Hosted DR, currently this would take 2.5-3.5 days to perform over our existing connection. With the alternative solution proposed, this reduces the recovery time to as little as 1.5 hours.

5.7.1 Provision of Point to Point Microwave Managed Service (cont.)

Mobile device users are witnessing the speed issues with the current connection, including the connection drop-outs which cause the user to spend up to 15 minutes attempting to reconnect. This includes Mobile Customer Service, as they utilize our existing connection. Customer Service Officers have been commenting on the poor quality of the connection which has been causing issues with callers not being able to hear our staff clearly.

We have investigated several alternative connections, including NBN, and have discovered Vertical Telecoms and Telstra are the only Internet Service Providers that can offer a service that will meet our needs. The Telstra solution was not viable, due to the substantial operating costs in order to facilitate.

The proposed solution offers high speed unlimited internet for less operating cost compared to our current connection. The proposal utilises modern microwave technology in order to establish connectivity to the Fibre Optic supply at Mt Wombat. The proposed solution increases end user satisfaction when using systems remotely, due to the increase in speed & quality. Being a fully managed service, this solution requires minimal resourcing from council staff compared to the existing connection.

Council have identified Capital budget savings in this current financial year which are able to facilitate the initial setup costs. This proposed connection will enable council to subscribe to public wifi at a later date if council deems it viable.

This proposal can also facilitate regional collaboration with neighbouring councils.

Alternative Options

The Telstra option would not enable us to subscribe to public wifi. The Telstra option does not offer uncontended connectivity which means we are not guaranteed to get the equivalent speeds the Vertical Telecoms proposal can offer.

Risk Management

Non-implementation of this proposal will lead to ICT Infrastructure recovery times not meeting objectives. There is also a risk regarding excess data usage charges on the existing connection.

Strategic Links – policy implications and relevance to Council Plan

The author of this report considers that the report is consistent with Council Policies, key strategic documents and the Council Plan.

Best Value / National Competition Policy (NCP / Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA) implications

The author of this report considers that the report is consistent with Best Value, National Competition Policy and Competition and Consumer Act requirements.

Financial / Budgetary Implications

Capital funding for this proposal has been included in this current financial year budget, with no additional operating costs.

5.7.1 Provision of Point to Point Microwave Managed Service (cont.)

Economic Implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant economic implications for Council or the broader community.

Environmental / Amenity Implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant environmental or amenity implications for Council or the broader community.

Community Implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant community or social implications for Council or the broader community.

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

The author of this report considers that the recommendation does not limit any human rights under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

Legal / Statutory Implications

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no legal or statutory implications which require the consideration of Council.

Consultation

The author of this report considers that the matter under consideration did not warrant a community consultation process.

Attachments

Nil

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.04 P.M.

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting

.....
Chair

.....
Date