Town of
Port Hedland

Confirmed

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting

Wednesday, 11 October 2024

Date: Wednesday 11 October 2024
Time: 5:30pm
Location: 13 McGregor Street, PORT HEDLAND WA 6721
Distribution Date: 31/10/2024

Mayor

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1 Opening of Meeting

The Presiding Member is to declare the meeting open at 7:00pm.

2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Dignitaries

The Presiding Member acknowledges the Kariyarra people as the Traditional Custodians of the land that we are meeting on and recognises their strength and resilience and pays respect to elders past, present and emerging.

3 Recording of Attendance

Important note:
This meeting is being live-streamed and audio recorded to facilitate community participation and for minute-taking purposes, which may be released upon request to third parties. In accordance with Section 6.16 of the Town of Port Hedland Local Law on Standing Orders members of the public are not permitted to use any visual or vocal electronic device or instrument to record the proceedings of any meeting unless that person has been given permission by the Presiding Member to do so. Members of the public are also reminded that in accordance with section 6.17(4) of the Town of Port Hedland Standing Orders Local Law mobile telephones must be switched off and not used during the meeting.

3.1 Attendance

Scheduled Present:	Mayor Peter Carter Deputy Mayor Ash Christensen Cr Sven Arentz Cr Camilo Blanco Cr Lorraine Butson Cr Adrian McRae Cr Ambika Rebello
Scheduled for Attendance:	Carl Askew (Chief Executive Officer) Louise Gee (I/Director Community Services) Lee Furness (Director Infrastructure Services) Tom Kettle (Manager Governance) Sophie Marlow (A/Governance Support Officer)

3.2 Attendance by Telephone / Instantaneous Communications

Nil

3.3 Apologies

Cr Tim Turner
Cr Flo Bennett

3.4 Approved Leave of Absence

Nil

3.5 Disclosures Of Interest

Nil

4 Public Time

4.1 Public Question Time

4.1.1	Jillian Fisher

I'd just like to ask a quick question to the councillors. I just want to make sure that everyone has read all the attachments that were issued to everybody and have a very solid understanding for tonight's debate.

The Mayor provided the following response:

That will come up in item 7.

4.1.2	Roger Higgins

My question is to the CEO. There was a significant meeting that we had down on the lawns, which drew almost, I would say in excess of 100 people. I think it was around April of 2021. Whatever happened to the motion that was put by the people unanimously at that meeting with respect to COVID? And what role did you play in what happened to it?

The Chief Executive Officer provided the following response:

The role was an Elector's motion. It was brought to council and considered by council.

I gather from what you're saying, it was considered by Council and rejected by Council. Is that correct?

The Chief Executive Officer provided the following response:

Yes, that's my recollection. I'd need to go back and check the records, but that's my understanding.

4.2 Public Statement Time

4.2.1	John Ashenden

Mr Ashenden spoke to:

- *Motions that were revoked at the Council meeting 2 years ago concerning COVID.*
- *The Russell Broadbent MP letter concerning COVID-19 vaccines.*
- *The Council having the opportunity to make a difference by their decision.*

4.2.2	Sharon Todd

Ms Todd spoke to:

- *Her role as Funeral Director within the Town of Port Hedland.*
- *Her concern over untimely deaths of Aboriginal people and the alarming increase since the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines.*
- *Strange and aggressive cancers being on the rise over the past three years.*
- *The loss of community elders and leaders profoundly affecting the cultural and social fabric of the Aboriginal communities.*

4.2.3	Roger Higgins

Mr Higgins spoke to:

- *His thoughts on the Public Health Act 2016 and the amendments made during 2020 to this Act by government.*
- *His desire for the Council to support the motion for this evening.*

4.2.4	Merryn Browning

Ms Browning read a letter from Dr Judy Wilyman, Director of People for Safe Vaccines.

4.2.5	Jody Clune

Ms Clune spoke to:

- *being the founder of a grassroots group made up of everyday Australians who were coerced into being vaccinated, threatened with their livelihoods and are now unfit to work.*
- *Her request that Council look at the enormity of the evidence in front of them and vote accordingly.*

4.2 5	Margaret Ramirez

Mrs Ramirez spoke to:

- *Her partner being diagnosed on 5 May with stage 4 cancer and by 24 July, he had died.*
- *Her thoughts that vaccination contributed to his cancer.*

4.2 7	Jillian Fisher

Ms Fisher shared her thoughts on the motion before Council and her hopes that they will support it.

4.2.8	Brenton Johansen

Mr Johansen spoke to being a member of Karratha Council and his admiration that so many come out to support this evening's motion.

4.2.9	Lee Gibson

Ms Gibson shared her thoughts on this evening's motion being considered and her statement to Council that not supporting this motion due to potential funding loss from the WA State Government is putting money ahead of health.

4.2.10	Philip Wright

Mr Wright shared his belief that vaccinations were coerced and speaking for the public who are left outside.

4.2.11	Donna Willawill

Ms Willawill spoke to:

- *Her husband having had dialysis, a transplant and radiation for a tumour.*
- *Her belief that that if he had the vaccination, he would be gone.*

4.2.12	Steve Lindley

Mr Lindley spoke to:

- *Council voting for this motion to move forward.*
  Read from statements and various documents.

4.3 Petitions/Deputations/Presentations/Submissions

CM202425/111 COUNCIL DECISION

Moved: Cr Ambika Rebello **Seconded: Cr Lorraine Butson**

Procedural motion 12.1(1) and 18.2 that the meeting be closed to the public and the standing orders be suspended.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY (7/0)

For: Mayor Carter, Deputy Mayor Christensen, Cr Arentz, Cr Blanco, Cr Butson, Cr McRae, Cr Rebello

The Presiding Member adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm.

CM202425/112 COUNCIL DECISION

Moved: Cr Lorraine Butson **Seconded: Cr Sven Arentz**

Procedural motion 18.2 and 12.1(1) that the standing orders be reinstated, and the meeting be reopened to the public.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY (7/0)

For: Mayor Carter, Deputy Mayor Christensen, Cr Arentz, Cr Blanco, Cr Butson, Cr McRae, Cr Rebello

The Presiding Member reconvened the meeting at 8:19pm.

5 Questions from Members without Notice

5.1	Cr Camilo Blanco

I would like to know if we can table the video from the professor and put it into the minutes and if we can't, then find out why?

The Mayor provided the following response:

I think we would need permission from the person who made the video.

Can I ask if we have that permission to make it public?

Cr McRae responded:

I have that permission, yes.

The Mayor provided the following response:

I have nothing in writing stating this.

I've read the agenda, and can I get an explanation on the risk rating, why we've taken it to catastrophic and why we are talking about funding losses by the government when all we are doing here is asking questions?

The Chief Executive Officer provided the following response:

Simply assessed Councillor, there is a risk in terms of relationship with State and Federal government.

Based on the catastrophic risk rating, has the Town received advice by any government agency to try and stop this or not go ahead with the motion? And is that a reason why we've had this risk rating put on this?

The Chief Executive Officer provided the following response:

No.

6 Announcements by Presiding Member without Discussion

Nil

7 Declarations of All Members to have given due consideration to all matters contained in the Business Paper before the Meeting

The following Elected Members declared that they had given due consideration to all matters contained in the agenda:

Mayor Peter Carter

Deputy Mayor Ash Christensen

Cr Sven Arentz

Cr Camilo Blanco

Cr Lorraine Butson

Cr Adrian McRae

Cr Ambika Rebello

8 Notice of Motion

8.1.1	Cr Adrian McRae Notice of Motion

Authorising Officer: **Chief Executive Officer**

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council:

1. Acknowledges Exhibits and Findings, as per Attachments:

(a) Exhibit 1: The Report by Dr. David Speicher

(b) Exhibit 2: The letter by The Honorable Russell Broadbent MP, Federal Member for Monash, dated 20 September 2024

(c) Exhibit 3: The follow-up letter by The Honorable Russell Broadbent MP, Federal Member for Monash, dated 25 September 2024

2. In light of the information contained in Exhibits 1, 2, and 3, ToPH Council undertakes the following actions:

(A) That Council forthwith deliver the letter seen at Annexure 1 to the Prime Minister, or a version substantially resembling Annexure 1, endorsing the letters of The Honorable Russell Broadbent MP dated 20 and 25 September 2024, in which Council repeats the call for an immediate suspension of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 products under the same terms as expressed by Mr. Broadbent.

(B) That Council forthwith circulates to all registered health practitioners and medical clinics operating within the Port Hedland Local Government Area a copy of the letter appearing at Annexure 2, or a version substantially resembling Annexure 2.

This letter will inform all local health practitioners of the report by Dr. Speicher and the findings of the Science Summary attached to Mr. Broadbent's letter of 25 September 2024. The Council strongly urges practitioners to share this information with patients contemplating receiving any Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. The goal is to ensure patients can provide legally valid informed consent. Copies of the letters from Mr. Broadbent MP and Town of Port Hedland to the Prime Minister will be attached.

(C) That Council forthwith circulate to all other Australian Local Government Councils and Shires a copy of the letter appearing at Annexure 3, or a version substantially resembling Annexure 3.

This letter will inform all Councils and Shires about the findings of Dr. Speicher's report and the Science Summary, urging them to share the information with health practitioners and clinics in their areas to facilitate informed consent for their residents.

The letter will attach the letters from Mr. Broadbent MP and the Council's letter to the Prime Minister, urging all other Australian Local Government Councils and Shires to consider sending similar correspondence to the Prime Minister.

(D) That the CEO of Town of Port Hedland and their delegates be required to contact the Department of Health, Western Australia, and formally present Dr. Speicher's report, the letters from Mr. Broadbent MP, and the Council's letter to the Prime Minister, using copy of the letter appearing at Annexure 4, or a version substantially resembling Annexure 4.

The Council requests a public response and advice on steps the Department recommends for patients contemplating the receipt of any further Covid-19 vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna, and advice on steps for public health and advice for medical practitioners.

(E) That the CEO and their delegates be required to contact the Minister for Health of Western Australia, Amber-Jade Sanderson, to formally present Dr. Speicher's report, the letters from Mr. Broadbent MP, Council's letter to the Prime Minister, and Council's letter to all Australian Local Government Councils and Shires, using copy of the letter appearing at Annexure 5, or a version substantially resembling Annexure 5.

The Council seek the Minister's public response and recommended actions for patients contemplating the receipt of any further Covid-19 vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna, and advice on steps for public health and advice for medical practitioners.

(F) The CEO and their delegates contact the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, specifically Deputy Health Secretary Professor Lawler and Health Secretary Blair Comley, presenting Dr. Speicher's report, the letters from Mr. Broadbent MP, Council's letter to the Prime Minister, and Council's letter to all Australian Local Government Councils and Shires, using copy of the letter appearing at Annexure 6, or a version substantially resembling Annexure 6.

The Council request a formal and public response from both officials, and recommended actions for patients contemplating the receipt of any further Covid-19 vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna, and advice on steps for public health and advice for medical practitioners.

(G) The CEO and their delegates contact the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, presenting Dr. Speicher's report, the letters from Mr. Broadbent MP, Council's letter to the Prime Minister, and Council's letter to all Australian Local Government Councils and Shires, using copy of the letter appearing at Annexure 7, or a version substantially resembling Annexure 7.

The Council request a formal and public response from Minister Butler, and recommended actions for patients contemplating the receipt of any further Covid-19 vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna, and advice on steps for public health and advice for medical practitioners.

SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED

AMENDMENT MOTION 1

MOVED: Cr Adrian McRae **SECONDED: Cr Camilo Blanco**

That Council:

1. **Include in annexures 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 the following paragraphs below paragraph three;**

It has become increasingly clear that the testing methods employed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) have failed to adequately address the risks posed by synthetic DNA contamination in Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. The TGA's reliance on outdated guidelines such as ICH Q2(R2), which do not account for the unique nature of modRNA platforms, has resulted in significant shortcomings. These guidelines were arbitrarily cited by the TGA to dismiss findings by scientists like Dr. Speicher, rather than embracing the necessary new scientific approaches to detect synthetic DNA in these products.

Notably, the TGA has been using testing methodologies—as documented in TGA FOI 5286—that only target a small segment of the plasmid DNA, failing to detect the bulk of the contamination, particularly those fragments under 200 base pairs where the highest risk lies. Alarmingly, Moderna, through its own patent filings, had specifically warned about the inadequacy of such testing methods for detecting residual DNA, especially DNA encapsulated in lipid nanoparticles (LNPs). Despite this warning, the TGA has relied on these insufficient methods, which grossly under-detect the true extent of contamination. Moderna's patents also highlighted the risks of insertional mutagenesis and carcinogenesis, yet these serious risks remain inadequately addressed by the TGA's current testing practices.

Further, despite prior warnings and international scrutiny, the TGA has not conducted proper tests to detect LNP-encapsulated DNA nor performed thorough investigations into the risks of DNA integration into human cells. This raises serious concerns about the TGA's capacity to protect the public from the known dangers of synthetic DNA contamination.

The only way to begin remedying this situation is for the TGA to acknowledge these failures and to urgently conduct comprehensive testing, in line with new scientific methods, to either confirm or disprove the findings of Dr. Speicher and other eminent scientists. Immediate action in the lab is necessary to prevent further harm.

2. Include in annexures 2 and 3 the following paragraph below paragraph 5;

In the attached letter to the Prime Minister, we have raised serious concerns regarding potential failings in the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) testing protocols, which may not have adequately detected synthetic DNA contamination in the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. We encourage you to review this information closely, as it may have implications for the safety of your patients considering these vaccines.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY(5/2)

For: Deputy Mayor Ash Christensen, Cr Sven Arentz, Cr Camilo Blanco, Cr Lorraine Butson, Cr Adrian McRae.
Against: Mayor Peter Carter, Cr Ambika Rebello

AMENDMENT MOTION 2

MOVED: Deputy Mayor Christensen SECONDED: Cr Camilo Blanco

That Council seek permission from the author, Professor Dalgliesh, of the video presented to the Council on 11 October and subject to that permission provide a copy with the Minutes of the Meeting.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY(7/0)

For: Mayor Peter Carter, Deputy Mayor Ash Christensen, Cr Sven Arentz, Cr Camilo Blanco, Cr Lorraine Butson, Cr Adrian McRae and Cr Ambika Rebello.

AMENDED SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

MOVED: Cr Adrian McRae SECONDED: Cr Camilo Blanco

That Council:

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(G) The CEO and their delegates contact the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, presenting Dr. Speicher's report, the letters from Mr. Broadbent MP, Council's letter to the Prime Minister, and Council's letter to all Australian Local Government Councils and Shires, using copy of the letter appearing at Annexure 7, or a version substantially resembling Annexure 7.

The Council request a formal and public response from Minister Butler, and recommended actions for patients contemplating the receipt of any further Covid-19 vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna, and advice on steps for public health and advice for medical practitioners.

3. Include in annexures 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 the following paragraphs below paragraph three;

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4. Include in annexures 2 and 3 the following paragraph below paragraph 5;

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5. That Council seek permission from the author, Professor Dalgliesh, of the video presented to the Council on 11 October 2024 and subject to that permission provide a copy with the Minutes of the Meeting.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY (5/2)

For: Deputy Mayor Ash Christensen, Cr Sven Arentz, Cr Camilo Blanco, Cr Lorraine Butson, Cr Adrian McRae.
Against: Mayor Peter Carter, Cr Ambika Rebello

DETAIL

A notice requesting a Special Council Meeting of the Council dated 7 October 2024 was received from Councillors McRae, Blanco and Butson on Tuesday 8 October 2024 (attachment 1). The purpose of the meeting is to consider Councillor McRae's notice of motion and supporting attachments (attachment 2).

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

In accordance with Policy 4/009 'Significant Decision Making', this matter is considered to be of low, because: N/A.

CONSULTATION

Internal

- Circulated to the Council via email.

External Agencies

- Nil

Community

- Nil

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- Nil

FINANCE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- There is a financial implication in the cost of staffing a Special Council Meeting and resourcing of the administration of the motion if it becomes a decision of the Council.

STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The following sections of the Town's *Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032* are applicable in the consideration of this item:

Nil

There are no significant identifiable environmental, social or economic impacts relating to this item

Access and Inclusion

The following outcomes of the Town's *Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2026* apply in relation to this item:

Nil

Corporate Business Plan

The following action of the Town's *Corporate Business Plan 2023-2027* apply in relation to this item:
Council Support - Provide high standards of professional support and expert advice to the Council.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Risk Type	Strategic
Risk Category	Reputational
Cause	Impacted State and Federal Government relationships.
Effect (Consequence)	Widespread loss of key stakeholder trust, high widespread multiple media profile, third party actions.
Risk Treatment	Council resolving not to take the actions outlined in this report. OR Correspondence is authored by Town of Port Hedland Elected Members and/or Mayor.
There is a Strategic risk associated with this item caused by the likelihood of impacted State and Federal Government relationships, leading to a widespread loss of key stakeholder trust, high widespread media profile and actions by third parties. The risk rating is considered to be Extreme (25) which is determined by a likelihood of Almost Certain (5) and a consequence of Catastrophic (5). The risk will be avoided by the Council resolving not to take the actions outlined in this report. OR The risk will be mitigated by the correspondence being authored by Town of Port Hedland Elected Members and/or the Mayor.	

Risk Type	Strategic
Risk Category	Financial
Cause	Impacted State and Federal Government relationships
Effect (Consequence)	Loss of secured Government funding and low likelihood of future Government funding to the value of more than $10 million.

Risk Treatment	Council resolving not to take the actions outlined in this report.
There is a Strategic risk associated with this item caused by impacted State and Federal Government relationships, leading to the loss of secured Government funding and low likelihood of future Government funding to the value of more than $10 million. The risk rating is considered to be Extreme (20) which is determined by a likelihood of Likely (4) and a consequence of Catastrophic (5). The risk will be avoided by the Council resolving not to take the actions outlined in this report.	

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Adopt Councillor's motion
Option 2 – Amend Councillor's motion
Option 3 – Do not adopt Councillor's motion

CONCLUSION

Councillor McRae's motion and a consideration of financial implications and risks is presented to the Council for consideration.

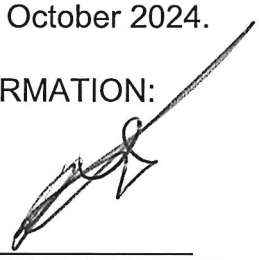
ATTACHMENTS

1. REQUEST FOR To PH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING [**8.1.1.1** - 1 page]
2. Town of Port Hedland - Special Council Meeting - SUBSTANTIVE MOTION on DNA Contamination - 3 pages [**8.1.1.2** - 3 pages]
3. Exhibit 1 - DNA Contamination Report by Dr. David Speicher Ph D [**8.1.1.3** - 11 pages]
4. Exhibit 2 - The Hon Russell Broadbent MP - Letter to Prime Minister - Dated 20.09.24 [**8.1.1.4** - 2 pages]
5. Exhibit 3 - The Hon Russell Broadbent MP - Follow- Up Letter to Prime Minister & Science Summary - D [**8.1.1.5** - 10 pages]
6. Annexure 1 - Letter to the Australian Prime Minister [**8.1.1.6** - 2 pages]
7. Annexure 2 - Letter to Port Hedland Health Practitioners [**8.1.1.7** - 2 pages]
8. Annexure 3 - Letter to Australian Local Governments & Local Shires [**8.1.1.8** - 2 pages]
9. Annexure 4 - Letter to the WA Department of Health [**8.1.1.9** - 2 pages]
10. Annexure 5 - Letter to the WA Minister of Health [**8.1.1.10** - 1 page]
11. Annexure 6 - Letter to Commonwealth Health Secretary [**8.1.1.11** - 2 pages]
12. Annexure 7 - Letter to Commonwealth Minister for Health and Aged Care [**8.1.1.12** - 2 pages]

DECLARATION OF CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

I certify that these Minutes were confirmed by the Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 30th October 2024.

CONFIRMATION:



PRESIDING MEMBER

30/10/2024

DATED