



SHIRE OF EAST PILBARA

LATE ITEMS

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that an ORDINARY Meeting of the Council will be held in Newman Council Chambers 10.30am, Friday 23 February 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Harding", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Harding
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OUR VISION

A cohesive community providing an economic hub for the region linked by vibrant local centres and shared spaces – a place to live and call home

Our towns have survived fluctuations of fortune for more than a century. Resourcefulness and resilience, along with planning, will hold them in good stead throughout the 21st century. The energy of our people will ensure that the heart of the Pilbara will beat on, and will beat strong.

The Shire of East Pilbara is not just about resources - it's also about resourcefulness.

From our Indigenous people to early pastoralists and miners, and through to the present day, people have shown their capacity to not only survive but thrive in the heart of the Pilbara.

DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of East Pilbara for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee Meetings. The Shire of East Pilbara disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee Meetings.

Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or Committee Meeting does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating any planning application or application of a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or Officer of the Shire of East Pilbara during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of East Pilbara.

The Shire of East Pilbara advises that anyone who has any application lodged with the Shire must obtain and should only rely upon: **WRITTEN CONFIRMATION** of the outcome of the application and any conditions pertaining to the decision made by the Shire of East Pilbara in respect of the application.

Please be advised this Agenda may include the names of people who are deceased.



Steven Harding
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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16 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY A DECISION OF COUNCIL

16.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

16.1.1 NORTH WEST DEFENCE ALLIANCE

Responsible Officer:	Steven Harding Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Joshua Brown Manager Governance, Risk and Procurement
Proposed Meeting Date:	23 February 2024

REPORT PURPOSE

For Council to consider a proposal to cease its membership of the North West Defence Alliance, and continue its individual advocacy for defence investment in the District of East Pilbara.

BACKGROUND

The North West Defence Alliance (NWDA) is an organisation of local governments based in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia with the stated aim of attracting a greater defence and military presence for the north-west, in order to enhance the security of the high value national export industries and to attract further and more diversified investment in the regions.

Council resolved at its ordinary meeting on 22 July 2022:

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the Shire of East Pilbara's continued membership of the North West Defence Alliance;*
- 2. Supports the North West Defence Alliance establishment as an incorporated association under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015;*
- 3. Supports an amendment to the Terms of Reference of the North West Defence Alliance to provide that member Local Government representatives will comprise the Mayor/President or an elected Councillor, and the Chief Executive Officer or their representative, of each member Local Government.*
- 4. Endorses a contribution of \$5,000 towards the North West Defence Alliance advocacy program.*

COMMENTS/OPTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

The NWDA has been in place for several years as an informal grouping of eight local governments across the Pilbara and Kimberley and includes:

- Wyndham/East Kimberley;
 - Derby/West Kimberley;
-

- Broome;
- East Pilbara;
- Port Hedland;
- Karratha;
- Ashburton; and
- Exmouth.

The NWDA has operated as an unincorporated body since its inception and is currently chaired by Mr Peter Long, the former Mayor of the City of Karratha.

The key purpose of the NWDA has been to advocate for an enhanced military presence and defence capability for the region, which would attract very significant defence industry investment for the region. Shire officers continue to see a need for the Shire to take a leading role in attracting defence investment and that it is not isolated to coastal communities and recognises the national strategic significance of the vast inland resource intensive part of the region.

In April 2023, the Australian Government announced an investment of \$3.8 billion over the subsequent four years, in response to priorities identified in the Defence Strategic Review. The investment has been identified to deliver upgrades to and the development of the northern bases network, including the following:

- \$2 billion for critical air bases stretching from RAAF Base Learmonth through Cocos (Keeling) Islands, as well as air bases in the Northern Territory and northern Queensland;
- \$1 billion for upgrades to land and joint estate capabilities;
- \$600 million in maritime estate investments including HMAS Coonawarra, HMAS Cairns and the Harold E Holt Naval Communications Station, and;
- An additional \$200 million towards the acceleration of additional projects.

A review of the ongoing operation of the NWDA and its continued relevance to the work of the Shire in this matter has been undertaken.

The Shire has contributed \$5,000 towards the NWDA's advocacy program, and it is unclear what the Alliance will be able to deliver for the interests of the District of East Pilbara, that could not be undertaken effectively by the Shire as required.

It is also apparent that the Department of Defence ("the Department") is guided by the Defence Strategic Review, which has not identified any projects for the District of East Pilbara, and that the efforts of the NWDA have thus far not yielded the results anticipated by the Alliance when Council last determined to maintain its membership. It is noted that a visit in 2023 to the region organised by the NWDA for Australian Defence Force (ADF) senior military leaders was cancelled by the Department, as it considered the visit unnecessary.

For these reasons, it is recommended that Council considers discontinuing its membership of the NWDA, and authorises the Shire to undertake individual advocacy as opportunities may arise.

OPTIONS

1. Council endorses the recommendation and ceases its membership of the North West Defence Alliance; or
2. Council recommits to membership of the North West Defence Alliance.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Acceptance of the Officer's Recommendation will change the policy position of the Council in relation to its membership of the North West Defence Alliance.

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

5: Governance

- 5 Vibrant local democracy, forward-thinking civic leadership, and transparent stewardship of the community's assets and resources.
- 5.2 Facilitate collaboration and partnerships with industry and government in key issues for the Shire (such as transport, housing, economic development and tourism, social wellbeing, public spaces etc.).
- 5.4 Ensure a high standard of organisational management and effectiveness.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Reputational and Financial - Minor

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No known financial implications

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Discontinues its membership of the North West Defence Alliance; and**
2. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to provide advice of Council's decision to the North West Defence Alliance.**

16.1.2 NEWMAN VISITOR SERVICES

Responsible Officer: Steven Harding
Chief Executive Officer

Author: Joshua Brown
Manager Governance, Risk and Procurement

Proposed Meeting Date: 23 February 2024

Author Disclosure of Interest: Nil

REASONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

That in accordance with section 5.23 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the meeting is closed to members of the public with the following aspect(s) of the Act being applicable to this matter:

- (c) A contract entered into or which may be entered into by the Local Government and relates to matters to be discussed at the meeting.

16.1.3 PROPOSED ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Responsible Officer: Steven Harding
Chief Executive Officer

Author: Joshua Brown
Manager Governance, Risk and Procurement

Proposed Meeting Date: 23 February 2024

Author Disclosure of Interest: Nil

REASONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

That in accordance with section 5.23 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the meeting is closed to members of the public with the following subsection of the Act being applicable to this matter:

- (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

16.1.4 OUTSTANDING RATES

Responsible Officer: Steven Harding
Chief Executive Officer

Author: Joshua Brown
Manager Governance, Risk and Procurement

Proposed Meeting Date: 23 February 2024

Author Disclosure of Interest: Nil

REASONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

That in accordance with section 5.23 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the meeting is closed to members of the public with the following subsection of the Act being applicable to this matter:

- (b) The personal affairs of any person.