



PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

LATE AGENDA

TUESDAY 18 JULY 2006

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Parkes Shire Council will be held at the Council Administration Centre, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes, commencing at 1:30 pm for the purpose of considering the items included on the Agenda.

GENERAL MANAGER: Alan McCormack

Ordinary Meeting Late Agenda

Order Of Business: Tuesday 18 July 2006

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE
5	MAYORAL MINUTES	1
5.4	Mayoral Minute - Juvenile Justice Funding	1
5.5	Mayoral Minute - Greyhound Services along Newell	3

5 MAYORAL MINUTES

5.4 Mayoral Minute - Juvenile Justice Funding

Executive Summary

The State Government has announced funding through the Member for Dubbo of \$5,000.00 to facilitate conduct of a youth forum in Peak Hill to address the town's pressing youth needs and to develop an appropriate strategy to provide specific direction and opportunity for these young people.

Minister Tony Kelly will make a cheque presentation and formal announcement at Dubbo City Council next Monday, 24 July 2006 at 11.00 am.

Background Information

For several months Council has been considering ways in which problems associated with a small minority of young people in Peak Hill could be addressed. As part of this process detailed discussions were held on 29 June 2006 involving the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, General Manager and Economic Development Manager with representatives of Dubbo City Council on the Dubbo Crime Prevention Strategy. During that meeting and at a meeting of the Police Accountability Community Teams (PACT) on 7 July 2006, problems in Peak Hill were openly discussed. This latest funding allocation will provide an effective way forward for community liaison in Peak Hill.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil.

Recommendation

1. That the Minister and Local Member be thanked for their assistance in securing the grant funding and that Council be represented at the cheque presentation on 24 July 2006 in Dubbo.

Attachments

1. Copy of Council's letter seeking funding.



PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

Progress, opportunities and a quality lifestyle for our residents

Office of the Mayor

MG:TP

Contact Person: Michael Greenwood

30 May 2006

Dawn Fardell MP
Member for Dubbo
PO Box 968
DUBBO NSW 2830

Dear Dawn

JUVENILE JUSTICE FUNDING

Further to my letter of 13 April 2006 on this subject, I am pleased to suggest a funding allocation of \$5,000.00 to facilitate conduct of a youth forum in Peak Hill to address the town's pressing youth needs and to develop an appropriate strategy to provide specific direction and opportunity for these young people.

The assistance of Attorney Generals would be sought in convening such a forum to address a very serious situation which has developed in Peak Hill. For the past few years standards of public behaviour, particularly from a small group of indigenous children, have been eroded and police resources have been stretched to effectively deal with the problem. The incidence of vandalism and property theft is on the increase and public tolerance is reaching a crisis point.

The funding would be utilised in the following manner:

Item	Cost
• Services of two facilitators to visit the town for community discussions and workshop	\$2,000.00
• Travel, accommodation and sustenance	\$1,000.00
• Provision of a report providing solutions and a practical way forward	\$1,500.00
• Advertising and promotion - convening of workshop	\$500.00

Council's Economic Development Manager, Michael Greenwood, would be pleased to provide additional information if required.

I look forward to your early confirmation of grant funding for this key community exercise for Peak Hill.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Robert I Wilson, OAM
MAYOR

2 Cecile Street | PO Box 337 | PARKES NSW 2870
PH (61) 02 6861 2333 | FAX (61) 02 6862 3946
EMAIL council@parkes.nsw.gov.au | WEBSITE www.parkes.nsw.gov.au

5.5 Mayoral Minute - Greyhound Services along Newell

Executive Summary

In response to a local resident inquiry directed to the Mayor, the Economic Development Manager approached Greyhound Australia to clarify the company's intention to terminate services along the Newell south of Dubbo effective 17 July 2006. The company has confirmed that intention by letter (refer to attached), raising several factors that Councils along the affected route have been asked to take on board.

Background Information

Greyhound Australia operated a Melbourne-Brisbane coach service along the Newell for some thirty years providing an invaluable transport service particularly for smaller isolated rural communities. The withdrawal of the service south of Dubbo would represent further decline in transport availability in rural NSW. Approaches to the State Government to consider appropriate assistance measures would appear warranted.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil.

Recommendation

1. That the decision of Greyhound Australia to terminate coach services along the Newell south of Dubbo be brought to the attention of the Newell Highway Promotions Committee and State Members along the route recommending dialogue between the NSW Government and the company on appropriate assistance measures to facilitate reintroduction of the service.

Attachments

1. Correspondence from Greyhound Australia



17 July 2006

Dear Sir

Greyhound Australia Newell Highway Services

It is with regret that I advise that Greyhound is ceasing to operate coach services on the Newell Highway south of Dubbo.

For many years patronage on this service has been steadily falling. In the 05/06 financial year Greyhound lost over \$600,000 operating between Dubbo and Melbourne. The recent sizable increases in the cost of fuel have made the losses more severe and immediate closure inevitable.

Greyhound realizes the importance of these services to the many centres between Dubbo and Melbourne and for this reason I have had a number of conversations with NSW Transport over several months. The continuation of the service could not be achieved without some form of assistance. NSW Transport did not convey any concern regarding the loss of this service.

A major problem affecting the economic running of this service is the Victorian government's enforcement of the V-Line monopoly throughout Victoria. This prohibits Greyhound or other operators picking up and setting down passengers within the state of Victoria. This results in a highly uneconomic service from Echuca down to Melbourne. Greyhound and other operators have made representations to the Victorian government over several years to no avail.

Greyhound Australia takes its responsibilities to the communities it serves very seriously and runs much of its regional network at breakeven levels. Greyhound is a privately owned and operated organization without access to government assistance and therefore does not have sufficient resources to sustain loss making services.

Should the situation change in respect of the NSW and Victorian governments' positions, Greyhound would be more than happy to consider the re-establishment of the service.

Yours sincerely

Tom Esplin
Chief Executive Officer