

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

To be held at 5.00pm on

Tuesday 16 July 2024

Council Chambers
11 Manning Street, KIAMA NSW 2533

Members

Mayor

Councillor N Reilly

Deputy Mayor

Councillor I Draisma

Councillor M Brown

Councillor M Croxford

Councillor J Keast

Councillor S Larkins

Councillor K Renkema-Lang

Councillor K Rice

Councillor W Steel

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18 LATE ITEMS

18.1 Question with notice: Financial mismanagement, project management failures, and payout transparency

Clr Mark Croxford has submitted the following question with notice for Council's consideration:

Question

1. Origins of financial mismanagement and project management failures:

The current body of council has inherited significant issues related to financial mismanagement and project management failures. Can the Chief Executive Officer confirm whether these issues originated in the 2016 - 2021 term of council, or do they have roots in earlier terms of council?

2. Project management and Blue Haven Bonaira costs:

Why did the council fail to adequately project manage or seek reports on key projects, including but not limited to the Blue Haven Bonaira project, across multiple terms? Specifically, why were the following aspects not adequately addressed:

- Operational costs of the facilities
- Variances to budget
- Defects reporting
- Completion reports

The Blue Haven Bonaira project, in particular, incurred substantial costs not fully covered by available funding, leading to significant budget overruns. What steps were missed in the project management process that contributed to these issues?

Can the Chief Executive Officer provide an account of the Blue Haven Bonaira construction project costs and explain why the council did not adequately manage and report on these costs?

3. Transparency, justification and overturning confidentiality agreements for payouts:

Why have the significant payouts to executive directors and the then General Manager, which occurred during the period 2018 to 2021, not been made public?

Can the Chief Executive Officer provide details for these substantial payouts, including the rationale behind these payments and the approval process followed?

Considering the substantial financial impact of these payouts on the Council's cash flow, can the Council review and potentially overturn any confidentiality agreements related to these payouts to enhance transparency and accountability? How does the Council plan to address the community's concerns about the lack of transparency regarding these payouts and ensure that similar situations are handled more openly in Page 3 the future?

Supplementary Reports

18.1 Question with notice: Financial mismanagement, project management failures, and payout transparency (cont)

4. Informed decision-making:

Were the elected members of the council, whether from the 2016-2021 term or earlier, adequately advised by the General Manager and Executive Leadership Team of Council of the specifics of 'Project Management and Blue Haven Bonaira Costs' and 'Transparency, Justification, and Overturning Confidentiality Agreements for Payouts' details in either public or confidential sessions of ordinary and extraordinary meetings of council to allow them to make informed decisions? If not, why was this critical information withheld?

5. Accountability for financial mismanagement and maladministration of operational issues:

What actions have been or can be taken against those identified as responsible for the financial mismanagement and maladministration of operational issues inherited at the beginning of this council term?

Specifically, what measures, including disciplinary actions, sanctions, terminations, or legal proceedings, have been implemented or considered? If no actions have been taken, please explain why not.

6. Release of Forsyths Report:

What would need to be done to publicly release the full details of the Forsyths Report? Can the Chief Executive Officer provide an outline of the necessary steps and any potential legal or procedural obstacles to making the full report available to the public?

Chief Executive Officer response

These questions will be taken on notice and a reply provided at a subsequent ordinary meeting of Council.

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

18.2 CEO note in respect to Item 14.1 Monthly Financial Report - May 2024

CSP Objective: Outcome 13: Governance is transparent and builds trust

CSP Strategy: 13.4 Create systems of governance and oversight that are current

and compliant, and offer transparency and accountable

Delivery Program: 13.4.1 Our Elected Officials are supported through good systems

and records

Attachments

1 Financial Statements - May 2024 - Monthly Report - replacement

Enclosures

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council replace the attachment to Item 14.1 *Monthly Financial Report – May 2024* of the business paper with the document attached to this CEO note, being the correct version of the *Financial Statements – May 2024 – Monthly Report.*

Background

The document attached to 14.1 *Monthly Financial Report – May 2024* of the supplementary business paper was not the correct version of the monthly Financial Statements for May 2024. The correct document is attached to this report.

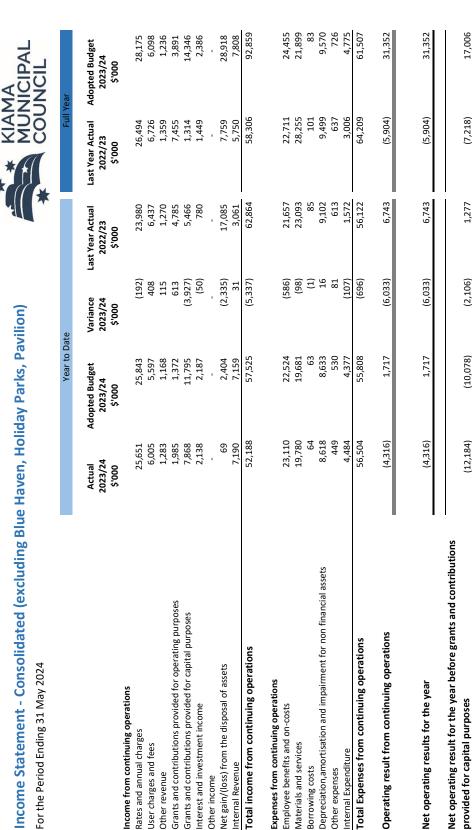
The change to the attached document is an update of the actuals 2022-23 column. All other information in the document remains unchanged.

KIAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

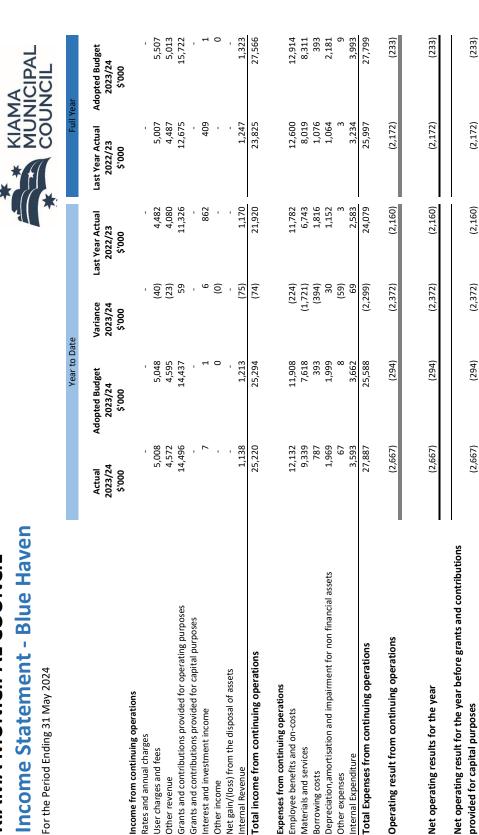
Income Statement - Consolidated

		Year to Date	ate		Full Year	Year
	Actual 2023/24 \$'000	Adopted Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Variance 2023/24 \$'000	Last Year Actual 2022/23 S'000	Last Year Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Adopted Budget 2023/24 \$'000
Income from continuing operations	}		}			
Rates and annual charges	25,651	25,843	(192)	23,980	26,494	28,175
User charges and fees	21,838	21,741	16	21,767	23,530	23,476
Other revenue	5,864	5,764	100	5,352	5,848	6,251
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	16,564	15,809	755	16,111	20,130	19,613
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	7,868	11,795	(3,927)	5,466	1,314	14,346
Interest and investment income	2,145	2,188	(43)	1,642	1,859	2,387
Other income		0	(0)		•	0
Net gain/(loss) from the disposal of assets	72	2,407	(2,335)	17,085	7,759	28,921
Internal Revenue	8,413	8,384	29	4,321	7,088	9,144
Total income from continuing operations	88,415	93,931	(5,516)	95,725	94,021	132,313
Expenses from continuing operations						
Employee benefits and on-costs	35,760	32)036	(725)	33,966	35,891	38,027
Materials and services	34,568	33,023	(1,545)	36,717	43,783	36,579
Borrowing costs	918	523	(382)	1,988	1,263	549
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non financial assets	11,293	11,339	46	10,254	11,253	12,370
Other expenses	698	861	(8)	910	1,045	1,165
Internal Expenditure	8,405	8,385	(20)	4,321	7,088	9,144
Total Expenses from continuing operations	91,813	89,166	(2,647)	88,156	100,323	97,835
Operating result from continuing operations	(3,398)	4,765	(8,163)	7,568	(6,302)	34,478
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ivet operating results for the year	(365,5)	4,/65	(8,163)	895'/	(6,302)	34,478
Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(11.266)	(7.030)	(4.236)	2.102	(7.617)	20.132
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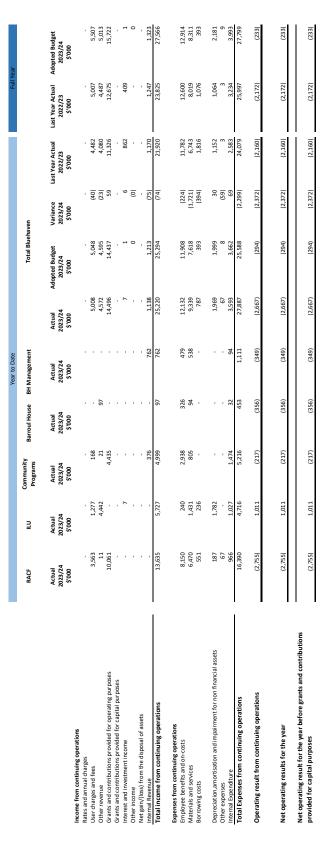
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Income Statement - Blue Haven Per Area



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Income Statement - Holiday Parks

		Year to Date	Jate		Full	Full Year
	Actual 2023/24 \$'000	Adopted Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Variance 2023/24 \$'000	Last Year Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Last Year Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Adopted Budget 2023/24 \$'000
Income from continuing operations	-				-	
Rates and annual charges	•	•	•	•	•	
User charges and fees	10,125	10,357	(231)	10,207	11,131	11,063
Other revenue	6	2		3 2	2	2
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	83	•	83	0	0	•
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	•	•	•	•	•	
Interest and investment income	•	•	•	•	•	•
Other income			•		•	
Net gain/(loss) from the disposal of assets	•	•	•	•	•	
Internal Revenue	39	•	39) 72	72	
Total income from continuing operations	10,257	10,358	(102)	10,281	11,205	11,065
Expenses from continuing operations						
Employee benefits and on-costs	302	362	09	337	375	397
Materials and services	5,078	5,316	238	3 6,474	7,088	5,925
Borrowing costs	29	29	0)	87	85	73
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non financial assets	268				689	620
Other expenses	353		(30)) 294	406	430
Internal Expenditure	307	311	4	1 162	827	339
Total Expenses from continuing operations	6,675	6,947	272	2 7,354	9,469	7,784
Operating result from continuing operations	3,582	3,411	171	1 2,927	1,736	3,281
Net operating results for the year	3,582	3,411	171	1,927	1,736	3,281
Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	3,582	3,411	171	2,927	1,736	3.281
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Income Statement - The Pavilion

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		rear to Date	Jale			במו נבמו
	Actual 2023/24 \$'000	Adopted Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Variance 2023/24 \$'000	Last Year Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Last Year Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Adopted Budget 2023/24 \$'000
Income from continuing operations	-	-	•	-	-	-
Rates and annual charges	•	•	•	•	•	•
User charges and fees	700	740	(68)) 642	999	807
Other revenue	•		•		•	•
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	•		•		•	•
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	•	•	•	•	•	•
Interest and investment income	•	•	•	•	•	•
Other income	•	•	•	•	•	•
Net gain/(loss) from the disposal of assets	3			. 0	•	3
Internal Revenue	47	12	35	5 18	19	13
Total income from continuing operations	750	754	(4)	099 (685	823
Expenses from continuing operations						
Employee benefits and on-costs	216	242	26	5 190	205	262
Materials and services	371	407	37	7 407	420	445
Borrowing costs	•	•	•	•	•	•
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non financial assets	139	139		- 0	•	•
Other expenses	•		•	•	•	•
Internal Expenditure	21	35	13	3 5	23	38
Total Expenses from continuing operations	747	823	9/	5 601	648	744
Operating result from continuing operations	С	(69)	72	5 29	37	78
Net operating results for the year	m	(69)	72	59	37	78
Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions		100	, t			
provided for capital purposes	χ.	(69)		5	3/	8/

KIAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Consolidated

Statement of Financial Position For the Period Ended 31 May 2024



	Notes	Actual 11 Months 2024 \$'000	Actual 11 Months 2023 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalants	C1-1	14,818	16,111
Investments	C1-2	22,750	22,837
Receivables	C1-4	3,028	2,545
Inventories	C1-5	327	314
Contract assets and contract cost assets	C1-6	-	822
Current assets classified as 'held for sale'	C1-7	4,342	-
Other		552	552
Total current assets	_	45,817	43,181
Non current assets			
Investments	C1-2	9,000	9,000
Receivables	C1-4	204	204
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	584,594	587,741
Investment property	C1-9	124,950	124,950
Intangable assets	C1-10	-	-
Right of use assets	C2-1	122	122
Total non current assets		718,870	722,017
Total assets	_	764,686	765,198
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	141,011	139,419
Contract liabilities	C3-2	81	6,950
Lease liabilities	C2-1	36	36
Borrowings	C3-3	506	674
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	6,452	6,410
Total current liabilities	_	148,086	153,490
Non current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	18	18
Lease liabilities	C2-1	6	6
Borrowings	C3-3	20,197	20,072
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	601	601
Total non current liabilities		20,822	20,697
Total Liabilities	_	168,908	174,187
Net Assets	_	595,778	591,011
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		180,976	176,201
Revaluation reserves		415,319	418,281
Current Year Net Earnings		-517	-3,470
Total equity	_	595,778	591,011

18.3 Notice of Motion: Review of Item 10.11 and 3.11 of Code of Meeting Practice

Clr Kathy Rice has submitted the following Notice of Motion for Council's consideration:

MOTION

That Council in the forthcoming scheduled review of the Code of Meeting Practice, considers a revision of clause 10.11 amendments and clause 3.11 notice of business as provided in this report.

Signed Councillor Kathy Rice

Purpose:

Council's Code of Meeting Practice is due for review in September 2024. It currently contains clauses that:

- Are difficult to administer consistently
- Obstruct the ability of the CEO to give timely information and advice for the mayor and councillors to effectively discharge their functions.

I suggest that the restriction on the timing of amendments is reviewed and that an additional point is added to Code of Meeting Practice clause 3.11.

Background:

Amendments

Council has adopted clause 10.11, the requirement to provide 24 hours prior notification of amendments where possible. This is an uncommon requirement of Councils.

10.11 Where possible, a Councillor is to circulate their proposed amendment(s) for consideration at the briefing preceding the Council Meeting or otherwise, at least 24 hours prior to the Council Meeting.

Although this provides time for councillors to consider changes being proposed to recommendations, it also creates an inflexibility that limits consensus building through disallowing any spontaneous lateral thinking. Under this clause nothing should be crafted on the floor of Council yet in practice that is not the case. Administering the notification requirement of this clause is proving to be difficult, and inconsistent application of the clause is being demonstrated.

Notice of Motion

18.3 Notice of Motion: Review of Item 10.11 and 3.11 of Code of Meeting Practice (cont)

Interpreting the 'where possible' preface to the clause requires discretion and is susceptible to other influences. At both the May and June meetings there was evident variation in how this clause was interpreted.

Notice of business

Council recently identified a shortcoming in meeting practice regarding how Questions on Notice were being notified. In the code Clause 3.11 is taken as mandating the required process and timing for giving notice, and Councillors have now been instructed to observe it for both notices of motion and questions on notice. Whilst the notice required under 3.11 is appropriate for notices of motion that will be debated at the meeting 8 days later, it does not provide sufficient time for reports to be written to that meeting.

When using clause 3.11 to guide the submission of questions on notice, it has the effect of substantially delaying the provision of the requested information.

At the time this change was being recommended to Councillors it was thought that depending on the nature of the question and the detail of the response required, it could be addressed in one of the following ways:

- A verbal response provided on the floor
- A response provided by way of a report to the Meeting; or
- Taken on notice for a report to be provided at a future Meeting

The first dot point is possible for a question that is not particularly detailed. In practice though, simple questions that do not require a background report are regularly asked of staff via email, with all councillors cc'd.

The second dot point is virtually impossible to achieve because the deadline for submission is only a few days before the business paper is finalised. Staff could not be expected to produce a report in such a short time and so, in the majority of cases the report would become available the next month at the earliest.

The final dot point will be the norm. In many cases this will satisfactorily allow a question asked to be answered the next month. An issue arises however, when seeking answers to contemporary material that has only come to the attention of Councillors in the current business paper, during public access or during debate.

The previous practice of Council would have allowed such questions to be asked in person and submitted in writing to the Council meeting that they had arisen in. This practice provided notice that was not properly documented. There was a month's notice because answers were not expected at the meeting in which the questions were lodged.

What has happened now is that contemporary questions that require a background report must wait a month after the meeting in which they have arisen to be submitted and then another month before a report can be received in response to them. Such a delay is likely to impede the resolution of topical matters and depending on the subject, the provision of timely information and advice may be compromised.

In the review of the Code of Meeting Practice I would suggest consideration of an additional point to Clause 3.11 such as (ii) in italics below:

Notice of Motion

- 18.3 Notice of Motion: Review of Item 10.11 and 3.11 of Code of Meeting Practice (cont)
 - 3.11 A councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion.
 - (i) To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted to the CEO not later than 12 noon on Monday in the week preceding the meeting (ie one (1) week and one (1) day prior to the meeting).
 - (ii) Questions about the performance or operations of the Council may be submitted in writing at any ordinary Council meeting and will be answered at a subsequent meeting.

Link to Council Plans:

Does the motion link to:	In practice could in	npact any of
Operational Plan		
Community Strategic	Plan	
Capital Works Progra	ım	
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Note: As per the Code of Meeting Practice – clause 3.14.

A notice of motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the notice of motion.

Costing/budget:

Covered by existing budget for policy review

Chief Executive Officer response

The Code of Meeting Practice is required to be reviewed within 12 months of the election (s 360(3) of the LG Act). The draft Code will be placed on public exhibition prior to adoption by Council giving councillors and the public opportunity to make submissions. Councillors and members of the public will get the opportunity to comment when it is discussed, and on public exhibition.

21 CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY

CONFIDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 July 2024

PROCEDURE

- Recommendation to go into Closed Committee.
- Mayoral call for Public Representations.
- Consideration of Representations and issues to be removed from Closed Committee.
- Recommendation to exclude Press and Public if required.
- Closed Committee discussions if required.

21.1 Exclusion Of Press And Public:

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with Sections 10 and 10A of the Local Government Act, 1993 as amended, Council close the meeting of the Confidential Committee of the Whole to the Press and Public on the grounds detailed under the report headings as detailed below.

22.4 BLUE HAVEN BONAIRA SALE CONTRACT

Reason for Confidentiality: This matter deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business as per Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act.

22 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

22.4 Blue Haven Bonaira sale contract

CSP Objective: Outcome 5.1: Public funds and assets are managed strategically,

transparently, and efficiently

CSP Strategy: 5.1.4 Commercial investments are managed to maximise their

value; and in accordance with legislative obligations.

Delivery Program: 5.1.4.2 Continue to implement Council Resolution 22/1040C for

Blue Haven and Resolution 23/053OC

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.