



**30 OCTOBER 2000**

**Meeting No 1317**

**MINUTES** of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the City of Sydney held in the Finance Committee Room at the Sydney Town Hall, commencing at 5.25pm on 30 October 2000 pursuant to Notice 14/1317 dated 26 October 2000.

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**PRESENT**

The Right Hon The Lord Mayor Councillor Frank Sartor  
(Chairman)

Councillors - Dixie Coulton, Nick Farr-Jones, Kathryn Greiner, Fabian Marsden and Lucy Turnbull.

At the commencement of business at 5.25 pm those present were:-

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Coulton, Farr-Jones, Greiner, Marsden and Turnbull.

The Acting General Manager, Director City Projects, and Acting Director Legal and Secretariat were also present.

**Apology**

Councillor Robert Ho extended his apologies for his inability to attend the Extraordinary Meeting of Council as he was overseas on business.

Moved by the Chairman (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Turnbull -

That the apology from Councillor Ho be accepted and leave of absence from the meeting be granted.

Carried.

**Closed meeting**

At 5.26 pm, the Extraordinary Meeting of Council resolved -

That, due notice of the intention to close the meeting having been given, the meeting be closed in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A (2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993 to discuss Item 1 on the agenda as this matter comprised discussion of commercial information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;

and it was further resolved that the meeting be closed for this item on the basis that discussion of this matter in open session would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest, specifically, there was a need to preserve confidentiality having regard to the subject matters and the circumstances of communications.

Item 1 was then dealt with by Council while the meeting was closed to the public.

**ITEM 1. INQUIRY INTO THE STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT -  
ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS (S013831)**

Moved by Councillor Turnbull, seconded by Councillor Coulton -

That arising from a consideration of a report by the Executive Manager, Office of the General Manager to the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 30 October 2000, on the tender for the provision of Consulting Services for the City of Sydney in preparing its submission to the Inquiry into the structure of local government in eight council areas in the inner city and eastern suburbs of Sydney, it be resolved that -

- (A) Council accept the tender of Hawker Britten described in paragraph 7 (e) of the subject report;
- (B) authority be delegated to the General Manager to enter into a Consultancy Services Deed with the successful consultant.

The motion was carried on the following show of hands -

Ayes (5) - The Chairman (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Coulton, Farr-Jones, Marsden and Turnbull

Noes (1) - Councillor Greiner.

Motion carried.

At 5.51pm, the Extraordinary Meeting of Council adjourned to enable a meeting of the Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee to commence.

At 5.54pm, the Extraordinary Meeting of Council resumed.

Those present at the resumption of the meeting were -

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Coulton, Farr-Jones, Greiner, Marsden and Turnbull.

Note - A Minute by the Lord Mayor on Inquiry into the Structure of Local Government was circulated to all Councillors.

Note - Item 2 was dealt with at the Extraordinary Meeting of Council while the meeting was open to the public.

## **ITEM 2. INQUIRY INTO THE STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

FILE NO: S013831

DATE: 30/10/00

### **MINUTE BY THE LORD MAYOR**

#### To Council:

The Government has announced an inquiry into the structure of eight inner city councils, including the City of Sydney. The terms of reference for the inquiry are attached.

The inquiry is welcome, as it provides an opportunity, by way of a transparent public process, to address issues relating to anomalies to do with the structure and boundaries of local government. The scope of the inquiry is quite broad in that it can address issues relating to organisational structure, governance, as well as boundaries and other structural issues relating to efficiency and effectiveness of local government services.

It is important that the City undertake appropriate analysis and research, and prepare a submission. Submissions are due on 18 December 2000 and hearings are intended to be held in February 2001.

Separately, on the agenda for this Extraordinary Meeting of Council there is a recommendation for the acceptance of a tender for a consultancy to assist the City with the process.

I understand that the General Manager has established a team within Council to work on all relevant issues.

It is important that a report come forward before 18 December. Briefings will be scheduled before that time, so that Councillors can discuss the issues before going forward. In broad terms, the structure of the report that I would envisage (but may be subject to change in due course) is as follows:

- History / background / context of review
- The principles for good local government and the evaluation criteria
- Options for reform
- Options recommended by the City of Sydney to the inquiry.

It is important for Council to wholeheartedly support the inquiry and commit whatever resources are necessary to put forward a constructive and innovative submission to the inquiry.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Council

1. Endorse the approach outlined in this Mayoral Minute.
2. Authorise the General Manager to bring together appropriate resources (in addition to any consultants that may be hired) to prepare the submission and to prosecute Council's interest beyond that point, including preparing any material necessary for hearings, public forums, discussions etc.

Moved by the Chairman (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Turnbull -

That arising from consideration of a Minute by the Lord Mayor to the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 30 October 2000 on Inquiry into the Structure of Local Government, it be resolved that Council -

- (A) endorse the approach outlined in the subject Mayoral Minute;
- (B) authorise the General Manager to bring together appropriate resources (in addition to any consultants that may be hired) to prepare the submission and to prosecute Council's interest beyond that point, including preparing any material necessary for hearings, public forums, discussions etc.

Carried unanimously.

At 5.55pm the meeting concluded.

Chairman of a meeting of the Council of the City  
of Sydney held on 6 November 2000 at which  
meeting the signature herein was subscribed.