

CITY OF JOONDALUP

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER,
JOONDALUP CIVIC CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE, JOONDALUP, ON TUESDAY, 11
JANUARY 2005.**

OPEN AND WELCOME

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 1830 hrs.

ATTENDANCES

In Attendance:

CMR J PATERSON - Chairman
CMR M ANDERSON
CMR S SMITH

Officers:

Acting Chief Executive Officer:	C HIGHAM
Director, Corporate Services and Resource Management:	P SCHNEIDER
Director, Infrastructure & Operations:	D DJULBIC
Acting Director, Planning and Community Development:	G HALL
Manager, Marketing Communications & Council Support:	M SMITH
Manager, Approvals Planning and Environmental Services:	C TERELINCK
Coordinator Urban Design and Policy:	G CATCHPOLE
Media Advisor:	L BRENNAN
Committee Clerk:	J HARRISON
Minute Clerk:	L TAYLOR

There were 14 members of the Public and 1 member of the Press in attendance.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(Please Note: Section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 states that a Council at a special meeting is not required to answer a question that does not relate to the purpose of the meeting. It is requested that only questions that relate to items on the agenda be asked).

Mr Steve Magyar, Heathridge:

Q1 As the media has said that it will be a long term proposition for rebuilding the communities that have suffered damage and loss of life, could the Commissioners give consideration to having an extended programme to assist, in addition to the \$10,000 donation that is recommended, or could a report be submitted on the viability of giving longer term assistance?

A1 Response by Cmr Paterson: That is a reasonable request and the Commissioners will give consideration to this.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies: Cmr A Fox
Cmr P Clough

DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST/INTEREST THAT MAY AFFECT IMPARTIALITY

Nil

ITEM OF BUSINESS

C1-01/05 CONTRIBUTION TO THE ASIAN TSUNAMI DISASTER – [08032]

WARD - All

PURPOSE

To give consideration to donating an amount of \$10,000 to an appropriate organisation and other in-kind support for the victims of the Asian Tsunami disaster.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 26 December 2004, a powerful tsunami swamped a number of countries bordering the Indian Ocean which has seen hundreds of thousands of people lose their lives. The disaster has affected many people across the globe.

As of 9 January 2005, the death toll of Australians involved in the disaster stood at twenty-two with many still missing or unaccounted for.

There are a number of worldwide organisations collecting funds to assist with the victims of the disaster. It is important that the funds are donated to an accredited agency to ensure they reach the victims of the disaster.

The City has also arranged for collections to be undertaken at its community-arranged events such as the Little Feet Festival and the Joondalup Festival. Staff will also undertake a collection amongst themselves.

It is further suggested that the City agree, in a form of donation, to waive those hire fees for the use of its facilities by groups, individuals or organisations fundraising for the victims of the tsunami disaster.

BACKGROUND

On Sunday, 26 December 2004, a massive earthquake near Indonesia triggered a powerful tsunami, which swamped at least nine (9) countries around the Indian Ocean.

The World Health Organisation has estimated that the death toll could rise above 300,000 people, however an official death toll may never be able to be revealed. The death toll of Australians caught up in the disaster stood at twenty-two (as of 9 January 2005) with 39 still missing and over 300 unaccounted for.

In October 2002 the Council contributed \$5,000 to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund for the victims and families of the Bali bombing tragedy.

DETAILS

There are numerous organisations collecting funds worldwide to assist the victims of the disaster with countries around the world contributing into the billions of dollars. These organisations include:

Care Australia

CARE Australia is the largest non-political non-religious overseas aid organisation in the country, providing humanitarian assistance across the globe. Former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser formed it in 1987.

As a member of the CARE International family, CARE Australia works wherever there is a need and wherever it can assist. It abhors discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, age and political or religious beliefs.

CARE Australia is unique because it is directly responsible for the design and implementation of its own programmes. CARE Australia retains management and contractual control on all projects. This means it has a high degree of accountability and transparency.

CARE gives an Australian face to overseas aid and provides ordinary Australians with a means of directly helping those most in need in the developing world.

CARE Australia has built its international reputation on its ability to quickly respond to emergency situations in countries as diverse as Sudan and Iraq. CARE is also famed for the creativeness and effectiveness of its long-term development projects.

CARE Australia is a highly effective organisation. Its administrative overheads are low and over 90 per cent of our total expenditure is spent on overseas programmes.

Australian Red Cross

Since 1914 Australian Red Cross has been responding to the needs of Australians in suburbs and towns right across the country.

Through war, drought, flood and fire its volunteers have responded willingly and risen to the task with a passion and commitment that has become renowned. It has a reputation that is richly deserved, embodying the universal spirit of the Red Cross.

For many volunteers, such as those who serve as emergency services teams, it is a 24-hour a day, seven day a week commitment to helping people whose lives have been touched by tragedy or disaster.

Today it has more than 27,000 trained volunteers and delivers over 60 local programs and services around Australia mostly funded by public donation and corporate partnerships.

It is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the largest humanitarian organisation in the world with more than 97 million volunteers worldwide. It is independent of government and is without any political, religious or cultural affiliation.

World Vision Australia

Bob Pierce founded World Vision in the USA during the 1950s. World Vision's work is to help improve the lives of those children, families and communities living in poverty.

World Vision is Australia's largest charitable group. More Australians entrust more money to World Vision than any other charity in the country. With the support of more than 350,000 Australians, World Vision helps over 10 million people every year.

World Vision accounts for every dollar received. External audits are conducted by Ernst & Young in addition to its own internal audits. It is accredited by the Australian government and works under the Australian Council for Overseas Aid's (ACFOA) Code of Conduct, as well as regulations set out by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The Code sets out standards on how organisations are managed, how they communicate with the public, and most importantly, how they spend the funds they raise.

UNICEF

UNICEF is the United Nation's Children's Fund, the world's leading advocate for children. UNICEF is non-political and works in 158 countries on behalf of children and women to make a lasting difference to their lives.

UNICEF is the only inter-governmental organization working specifically for children's rights. UNICEF Australia also receives funds from the Australian government through AusAID, which assists with development programs and emergency relief. UNICEF Australia is a charity and public company limited by guarantee.

UNICEF Australia's mandate is to:

- Raise funds in support of UNICEF's work for children in 158 countries and territories; and
- Raise Australian public and government awareness of, and support for, the welfare of children and women throughout the world.

The National Committees raise nearly one third of UNICEF's global income through fundraising campaigns and corporate partnerships, as well as the sale of cards and gifts.

Since 1964, UNICEF Australia staff and volunteers have supported the work of UNICEF by fundraising for its programs and increasing public awareness of the issues affecting the world's children.

OXFAM

Oxfam Community Aid Abroad's vision is of a fair world in which people control their own lives, their basic rights are achieved and the environment is sustained.

It aims to increase the number of people who have a sustainable livelihood, access to social services, an effective voice in decisions, safety from conflict and disaster, and equal rights and status.

Its work is a partnership through which Australians enable poor and marginalised people to control their own development, achieve equitable treatment, exercise their basic rights, and ensure the environment is healthy and sustainable.

Caritas Australia

Caritas works for the freedom of those who are oppressed by injustice, bringing 'sight' to both those who are powerless and powerful and proclaiming to the poor the good news of their human dignity.

This work will be undertaken principally through the life-giving activities of aid and development.

Caritas Australia will seek to work through right relationships or partnerships to bring freedom to the world's poorest communities today. Caritas Australia works within Australia by inviting people into a just and compassionate partnership with people who are poor.

Save the Children

Founded on 19 May 1919 by Eglantyne Jebb, Save the Children is the world's largest independent movement for children, working in over 100 countries and comprising 27 national organisations of which Save the Children Australia is one.

Save the Children works for a world: -

- which respects and values each child
- which listens to children and learns
- where all children have hope and opportunity

It should be noted that Aid agencies have requested that money be sent rather than food.

Financial Implications:

The 2004/05 budget does not include funds for such a donation, therefore it will be necessary to approve the expenditure by an absolute majority. Whilst the half year budget review is still in progress, it is known that the full amount budgeted for bank charges will not be required and it is therefore suggested that this be used as the source for funding the donation.

Account No:	1-0520-4402-0001-9999
Budget Item:	Governance Costs – Elected Members - Donations
Budget Amount:	\$0
YTD Amount:	\$0
Actual Cost:	\$10,000

Contact was made with other local governments who have indicated the following amounts will be donated: -

City of Wanneroo

- \$8,000 being split on a 50/50 contribution to Unicef and World Vision

City of Perth

- Undecided at this stage with a report being presented to the February round of meetings

City of Melville

- Undecided at this stage but a report will be presented to the February round of meetings recommending \$5,000 to \$10,000 be donated

City of Stirling

- \$20,000 being split on a 50/50 contribution to the Red Cross and Care Australia

City of Swan

- Undecided at this stage

Other initiatives by the City of Joondalup

- **Collections at Community events**

Staff of the City have contacted World Vision and advised that they can set up a stall at key events including the Little Feet Festival (23 January 2005) and the Joondalup Festival (19-20 March 2005) to collect money for the Tsunami disaster. This initiative involves volunteers from World Vision setting up a stall at these events and collecting

money for the Tsunami disaster. This is a great opportunity for the City and World Vision to work together to collect money for this valuable cause, particularly as the media focus dies down over the event.

A number of activities are planned to be held at the leisure centres where proceeds will also be donated to appropriate organisations.

- **Staff Collections**

Staff within the City of Joondalup will also be collecting amongst themselves money donations during the week of 10-14 January 2005. All money raised will be donated to World Vision.

- **Use of Council Facilities**

There are a number of groups within the community that want to fundraise to assist the victims of the tsunami disaster. In an effort to assist to minimise the overheads for these groups in organising such events the City could agree to waive the hire fees for the use of its buildings, meeting rooms etc where the event has been organised to raise funds for the tsunami disaster. The ability to waive fees for the hire of Council facilities have been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and all Directors.

The organisers of the event would need to clearly indicate that the purpose of the use of the facility was to assist with tsunami disaster and be responsible for the payment of a bond and hold the necessary public liability insurance cover. Where the event is organised by individuals the City is able to cover them on its existing public liability insurance as a 'casual hirer' of the facility. For 'casual hirers' the policy has a limit of \$10 million and a \$1,000 deductible. The cover is basically a public liability policy but does not cover incorporated bodies, sporting clubs or associations of any kind, as these types of organisations would have to have their own public liability cover under normal circumstances.

- **Staff Deployment**

The Commonwealth Department of Health & Aging has asked all Environmental Health Directors in each state Government Health Department to coordinate a Environmental Health volunteer response for deployment to areas affected by the recent tsunami. As such the Department of Health (WA) Director of Environmental Health has recently sent an email to all Local Government Environmental Health Practitioners requesting expressions of interest to assist in recovery of Tsunami affected areas. The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging will then put together health recovery teams based on those who have expressed interest.

Five Environmental Health Officers from the City have expressed their desire to assist in the recovery efforts on a two-weekly deployment basis. It is not known at this stage how many will be chosen to assist. It is anticipated that only one Environmental Health Officer would be on deployment at any one time.

The Commonwealth Government has agreed to meet all costs for these Local Government personnel, however cannot cover salaries. It is requested that the Joint Commissioners consider providing in-kind support, through payment of these officers' salaries for the time period they are deployed, if the officers are chosen to participate as members of these recovery teams.

Approximate cost to the City if all officers are chosen for deployment: \$8500.

Relief for these officers will be covered through existing budget, if and when it is required.

COMMENT

The tragic event of 26 December 2004 has affected the lives of many people, not only those living in those countries but all people around the globe.

There are many organisations collecting on behalf of the victims but it is important that the funds donated reach the victims of the disaster and it is believed that any one of those organisations listed within this report will ensure that occurs.

It is requested that the Joint Commissioners give consideration to contributing \$10,000 to an appropriate organisation and agreeing to waive the hire fees for the use of any of its facilities where the use of those facilities is for the raising of funds to assist with the victims of the tsunami disaster. The amount of \$10,000 was arrived at given the world-wide significance of the disaster and the amount previously donated to the Bali bombing victims.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Commissioners:

- 1 BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY, DONATE an amount of \$10,000 from Account No. 1-0520-4402-0001-9999 to an appropriate organisation to be agreed to by the Joint Commissioners;
- 2 AGREE to waive the hire costs of any of the Council operated facilities where the facility is hired for the sole purposes of assisting the victims of the Asian Tsunami Disaster, subject to the hirer meeting the necessary bond payment;
- 3 SUPPORT the deployment of its Environmental Health Practitioners to assist in the recovery of the tsunami affected areas, if approved by the Department of Health (WA);

- 4 AGREE that the level of support in (3) above be in the form of maintaining those selected staff members' level of employment with the City of Joondalup.

MOVED Cmr Anderson, SECONDED Cmr Smith that the Joint Commissioners:

- 1 **DONATE an amount of \$10,000 from Account No. 1-0520-4402-0001-9999, being \$5,000 to Save the Children Australia and \$5,000 to CARE Australia;**
- 2 **AGREE to waive the hire costs of any of the Council operated facilities where the facility is hired for the sole purposes of assisting the victims of the Asian Tsunami Disaster, subject to the hirer meeting the necessary bond payment;**
- 3 (a) **SUPPORT the deployment of its Environmental Health Practitioners to assist in the recovery of the tsunami affected areas, if approved by the Department of Health (WA);**

(b) **AGREE to support a long term programme for the deployment of staff from the City of Joondalup who possess the necessary skills to assist in the recover of the tsunami affected areas, should the need arise;**
- 4 **AGREE that the level of support in (3) above be in the form of maintaining those selected staff members' level of employment with the City of Joondalup.**

Discussion ensued. Commissioners spoke in support of the motion.

The Motion was Put and

**CARRIED BY AN
ABSOLUTE MAJORITY (3/0)**

CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 1845 hrs; the following Commissioners being present at that time:

CMR J PATERSON
CMR M ANDERSON
CMR S SMITH