

**15.0 ELECTED MEMBERS' MONTHLY REPORT/INFORMATION BULLETIN**

15.1 Elected Members' Report/Information Bulletin

DRAFT MOTION

THAT the Elected Member's Report/Information Bulletin, as circulated, be received and the contents noted.

**MOVED COUNCILLOR JAMIESON  
SECONDED COUNCILLOR WOLFE**

**THAT the Elected Member's Report/Information Bulletin, as circulated, be received  
and the contents noted.**

**CARRIED 14-0**

**16.0 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

Nil

**17.0 MAYORS REPORT**

MAYOR'S REPORT

FOR ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007

I am delighted to report this month that Albany has once again been chosen as a finalist in the GWN Top Tourism Town Awards. Judges will visit Albany next week to assess our City on its merits as a "quality visitor experience" against other nominated Towns. I congratulate our Tourism team for the success they have achieved with marketing and developing various tourism initiatives to raise the profile of our City as a popular tourist destination.

Thank you to Cr John Jamieson who officiated at two significant events this month whilst I was in Perth for the birth of my new grandson.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August the City of Albany was very proud to host a forum attended by The Hon Ljiljana Ravlich MLC, Minister for Local Government, and representatives of the Great Southern Shires, to discuss regional issues. The forum was Chaired by Cr Jamieson. The key issues raised for the Great Southern region were; skills shortages; roads and road funding; electricity to regional centres to support industry development; water shortages, water conservation and water levies; Wilson Inlet – Denmark; in-fill sewage; and lack of available housing lots. The Minister was well briefed on all topics and took on board that many of the issues faced by regional centres are unique and different to the same issues faced by metropolitan Councils. For example, the same capital infrastructure required for metropolitan housing developments, may not be required in small

Item 17.0 continued

regional centres. It may, therefore, be necessary to allow Local Government Authorities more flexibility to approve housing lots without the high quality City infrastructure, but still with sufficient infrastructure to meet regional needs.

Representatives thanked the Minister for her understanding and concern of our regional issues and agreed that to have the continuity of Minister Ravlich remaining as the Minister for Local Government until the end of this government's term, would enable consistency for Local Government Authorities.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August, Cr Jamieson also attended a special presentation for the Make-a-wish foundation to local boy Taran Hatfield. The event captured the hearts and support of the entire community with many local businesses donating gifts, services, fuel and support to Taran and his family, in addition to the Make-a-wish presentation. This event demonstrated the incredible community spirit and generosity that exists in Albany, which is truly overwhelming and something we should all be very proud of. I understand that there are plans underway to establish a local presence for the Make-a-Wish foundation in Albany. Several local business people and Rotary Club members have expressed a keen interest to progress such a cause, which I congratulate them for. With the overwhelming support that was received for Taran's wish granting, I'm sure it will be an initiative the whole community will embrace, to make the dreams of local terminally ill children come true.

Also this month I attended the Battle for Australia RSL Memorial Service, several musical and theatrical performances, and a few meetings, but generally it was a quiet month with no Civic Receptions. Thank you.

**MOVED COUNCILLOR WALKER  
SECONDED COUNCILLOR LIONETTI**

**THAT the Mayor's report be received.**

**CARRIED 14-0**

## **18.0 URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY MAYOR OR BY DECISION OF THE MEETING**

Councillors Waker declared an interest as power lines could go through his property and left the Chamber at 8.50pm.

Councillor Bojcun sought leave of Council to participate in the meeting according to the Local Government Act 1995 – Sect 5.68:

Councils and committees may allow members disclosing interests to participate etc. in meetings

(1) If a member has disclosed, under section 5.65, an interest in a matter, the members present at the meeting who are entitled to vote on the matter —

(a) may allow the disclosing member to be present during any discussion or decision making procedure relating to the matter; and

(b) may allow, to the extent decided by those members, the disclosing member to preside at the meeting (if otherwise qualified to preside) or to participate in discussions and the decision making procedures relating to the matter if —

(i) the disclosing member also discloses the extent of the interest; and

(ii) those members decide that the interest —

(I) is so trivial or insignificant as to be unlikely to influence the disclosing member's conduct in relation to the matter; or

(II) is common to a significant number of electors or ratepayers.

(2) A decision under this section is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting relating to the matter together with the extent of any participation allowed by the council or committee.

(3) This section does not prevent the disclosing member from discussing, or participating in the decision making process on, the question of whether an application should be made to the Minister under section 5.69.

Councillor Bojcun declared that she is a minor shareholder in Grange Resources; as a result of compensation by Western Power for acquiring an easement from her property for the laying of a pipeline across her property.

Cr Bojcun left the Chamber at 8.53pm.

**MOVED COUNCILLOR LIONETTI  
SECONDED COUNCILLOR WISEMAN**

**THAT Councillor Bojcun be permitted to participate in the meeting in regards to  
Item 18.1 – Upgrading of Power Transmission Lines to Albany and Wellstead.**

**CARRIED 7-5**

Record of Vote:

For: Councillors: Wellington, Lionetti, Wolfe, Emery, Waterman, Wiseman, and West.

Against: Councillors: Mayor Goode, Councillors: Jamieson, Evans, Paver, and Marshall.

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Cr Bojcn returned to the Chamber at 8.55pm.

**18.1 Upgrading of Power Transmission Lines to Albany and Wellstead – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2007**

<b>File/Ward</b>	:	(Kalgan, West and Hassell Wards)
<b>Proposal/Issue</b>	:	Community Impacts From Alignment of Proposed Power Transmission Lines to Albany
<b>Subject Land/Locality</b>	:	Various
<b>Proponent</b>	:	Western Power
<b>Owner</b>	:	Various
<b>Reporting Officer(s)</b>	:	Executive Director Development Services (R Fenn)
<b>Disclosure of Interest</b>	:	Nil
<b>Previous Reference</b>	:	Nil
<b>Summary Recommendation</b>	:	Council Advocate for Additional Power Capacity for Albany and the Great Southern Region
<b>Bulletin Attachment</b>	:	Nil
<b>Locality Plan</b>	:	

**BACKGROUND**

1. Councillor Bocjun has requested the preparation of an urgent agenda item to allow debate by Councillors on the role of Council in the current rounds of community consultation on the transmission of power to Albany and to the Southdown mine site at Wellstead.
2. The demand for power in Albany and the Great Southern has risen dramatically over the past decade. Councillors were recently briefed by a representative of Western Power on the extent of that increase. Where the Sandpatch Wind Farm originally supplied the equivalent of 70% of the City's power needs, that facility only now supplies approximately 45%. The Federal Street sub-station also was responsible for distributing power to Walpole in the west, to Cranbrook in the north and to Bremer Bay in the east, once the power was reticulated into the region.

Item 18.1 continued

3. Western Power has completed conceptual planning for distributing power to Albany into the future and representatives of that authority have undertaken a series of meeting and open forums with community groups to explore corridor options for new transmission lines.
4. The City has been contacted by community representatives in the Redmond and Napier area, raising concerns over the preliminary routes identified for the transmission lines.

#### **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

5. Western Power is required under independent legislation to secure access rights for its transmission line, where it traverses private property, and the authority is subjected to the same environmental processes as private developers.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6. There are no Policy Implications relating to this item.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. There are no Financial Implications relating to this item.

#### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

8. This item directly relates to the following elements from the City of Albany 3D Corporate Plan:

*“Community Vision:*

***A Thriving City: Albany’s community will enjoy economic growth and outstanding opportunities for our youth through ...***

- *Excellent community infrastructure and services; and*
- *Innovative development complementing Albany’s unique character, natural environment and heritage.*

Mission Statement:

*The City of Albany is committed to ...*

- *Providing sound governance; and*
- *Promoting our Community’s vision for the future.*

Priority Projects:

*Nil.”*

Item 18.1 continued

**COMMENT/DISCUSSION**

9. The work currently being undertaken by Western Power can be viewed in terms of a number of specific objectives, refer to the attached plans for a visual representation of the officer's comments.

Objective 1:- ensure adequate power can be supplied for Albany's future growth

10. Officers working for Western Power have identified the need to provide additional power into Albany, to meet the City's energy needs for the future. That power is currently supplied by two high voltage lines from the Muja Power Station, near Collie, and reticulated to Albany via the Kojonup Sub-station. The two lines from Kojonup to Albany have limited capacity to support an additional power load.

11. A third line into Albany is required, and Western Power has identified a potential route for that line which runs parallel to the existing Kojonup to Albany infrastructure. Discussions have commenced with communities along the potential route and local opposition is being expressed to Western Power. Opposition is focussed on the impact of that line on existing land uses and the visual amenity of the locality.

Objective 2:- Reinforce the local power transmission network at the local level

12. Several years ago an electrical sub-station was built at Mt Barker to reinforce power supplies into Mt Barker and to Frankland. Prior to that action, the distribution of the power arriving at the southern end of the transmission network was carried out at the Federal Street sub-station (i.e. power was transmitted to Albany and then distributed to outlying areas along smaller distribution mains). Power supply into the region is not secure as any failure of that sub-station would remove the power delivery to businesses and houses.

13. As part of the infrastructure package for the Down Road Timber Processing Precinct, a new sub-station is to be built near Down Road, in close proximity to the high voltage line, and power for that industrial area will be fed off that sub-station rather than from Federal Street. An additional sub-station is then required in the Albany urban area to reinforce the power grid and provide an alternate source of power should a catastrophic event occur at Federal Street.

Objective 3:- Supply power to the proposed magnetite mine at Wellstead

14. Grange Resources is currently working on the finalisation of the environmental management plan to support the mining of the Southdown mineral deposit, as well as gaining the finances needed to build the required infrastructure at the mine site. It is feasible that the mine could be operational between the middle of 2009 and early 2010, provided power can be supplied to the mine site.

Item 18.1 continued

15. Construction of a third power line from Kojonup to Albany cannot be achieved before 2012. Preliminary planning has also been undertaken to construct a power line directly from Kojonup to Wellstead, via Borden, and that project would not be able to be constructed prior to 2014, based upon the personal comments of Western Power staff. Councillors have also been advised that it is feasible to supply “off peak” power to the mine site in 2009 from the Down Road sub-station provided a power line can be built between Albany and Wellstead.
16. Western Power has identified three potential routes for a line between Albany and Wellstead and they are currently meeting with landowners and community groups to determine the practicality of those options.

Power Supply Solutions

17. There has been not clear indication provided by environmental agencies on the success of any of the above route options being endorsed and Western Power staff are currently working on providing up to three separate transmission line routes.
18. The provision of power to Albany and to the Wellstead mine can be achieved in the following manner:
  - a) construction of a third line from Kojonup to Albany to service Albany and the greater region and a transmission line from Kojonup to Wellstead to independently service the mine (i.e. no line between Albany and Wellstead). This option would delay the construction of the Wellstead mine by a minimum of three (3) years; or
  - b) construction of the Albany to Wellstead line to provide short term power to the mine site and then construct the Kojonup to Albany third line to reinforce supplies to both Albany and Wellstead. (i.e. no line between Kojonup and Wellstead, via Borden); or
  - c) construction of the Albany to Wellstead line to provide short term power to the mine site and then construct the Kojonup to Wellstead line to reinforce supplies to both Albany and Wellstead. (i.e. no third line required between Kojonup and Albany).

Item 18.1 continued

19. Regional power generation has also been mentioned as a potential option, to avoid the construction of new power transmission lines. Whilst City staff are not power supply and transmission experts, the verbal advice received from Verve Energy and Western Power is that the impacts of local power generation can be problematic. From the advice received:
- A base load power station (i.e. coal, gas or biomass fired with a constant energy production output) can potentially be fed into the existing power grid, through one of the sub-stations, and power can be fed through the distribution lines to local consumers or via the reticulation main to other consumers on the South West Grid. The construction and firing of a local base load power station could be several years away and it could help to reduce the requirement for larger transmission lines into the region, if guarantees were provided that such a facility would be built; and
  - intermittent power sources (eg wind, solar, etc) are unlikely to diminish the need for an upgrade of the transmission lines into the region. These power sources distribute power only when their primary source of energy generation is available and the base load supplies will still need to be capable of being supplied into the region at all times (i.e. the transmission lines will still need to be capable of supporting the maximum load requirements).

Council's Role

20. The generation, transmission and distribution of power throughout the Great Southern is the responsibility of Verve Energy (plus other private generating companies) and Western Power. Council does not have a role in designing, securing or developing power generation and distribution infrastructure and it is the responsibility of Western Power to undertake the appropriate consultation and approval processes to construct their infrastructure; Western Power and private power generators are ultimately required to gain approvals from the Office of Energy for any works they undertake.
21. Council can assume the role of an advocate on behalf of the community where the community is being disadvantaged by any planned action. Herein lies a dilemma for Councillors. All residents in Albany require access to a constant supply of power and the construction of infrastructure (transmission and distribution lines, sub-stations and power generation) is essential to achieving that primary objective. When sectors of the community are opposed to a route selection option, does Council wish to become advocates on behalf of that community sector? If Council's lobbying is successful and an alternate route offered and that disadvantages another community sector, does Council then advocate again on behalf of that group?
22. It is the view of City staff that Council should remain strategically focussed (i.e. lobbying for stable power supplies) and advise local communities that all concerns should be directed to the relevant agency and regulator to resolve route selection issues and local community opposition.

Item 18.1 continued

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council resolve to advise the Redmond and the Napier communities that their concerns regarding the route selection for the high voltage Western Power transmission lines from Kojonup to Albany and from Albany to Wellstead should be directed to Western Power or the Office of Energy;

AND

THAT Council advise Western Power and Verve Energy that the City of Albany requires access to a stable supply of power into the future and the authority's planning for transmission lines and power generation respectively should be undertaken with maximum community input and minimal disruption to residents affected by power supply and distribution infrastructure.

*Voting Requirement Simple Majority*

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ADDENDUM TO OFFICER'S REPORT

Napier Public Meeting:

23. At a public meeting held in the Napier Hall on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 community concern was voiced over several aspects of the consultation process undertaken by Western Power on the selection of the corridors for the various transmission lines. Those concerns centred around:
- Inconsistent information being supplied to the communities affected by the respective corridors.
  - Perceptions that the respective communities were being targeted against each other.
  - The poor process methodology for initially selecting corridor alignments and the consultation processes that then followed with the communities affected by those decisions.
  - The compensation methodology to be applied unfairly deals with broad-acre farmers or small landowners.
24. Community representatives from Narrikup, Redmond, Green Range and Napier passed a motion at the meeting that rejected Western Power's proposal for a 220KV power line through the Napier district due to the lack of consultation undertaken and the lack of input from communities into the original route selection process. It was highlighted that many Napier residents were simply not aware of the potential that the transmission line (with 55.0m high steel towers) would be directed through their district.

Item 18.1 continued

25. There was general acknowledgement that additional power needed to be transmitted into Albany to meet current and future demands. The uncertainty over the preferred transmission route preference (three options on the table) was affecting property values and the designation of a 50.0 metre wide easement on any affected title has severe consequences for any affected landowners. Initial discussions indicate that tree companies will be compensated for any commercial losses that they would incur from the loss of production on the transmission corridor, whereas broad-acre farmers would only be given a nominal compensation for the footprint of the towers.

AMENDED OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council resolve to advise the Redmond and the Napier communities that their concerns regarding the route selection for the high voltage Western Power transmission lines from Kojonup to Albany and from Albany to Wellstead should be directed to Western Power or the Office of Energy;
2. THAT Council advocate on behalf of residents in the Great Southern for more transparent information flows from Western Power to affected communities on the route selection criteria for future high voltage power lines to be constructed between Kojonup and Albany and that Western Power be encouraged to undertake additional consultation with those communities affected by any transmission corridor options.

AND

3. THAT Council advise Western Power and Verve Energy that the City of Albany requires access to a stable supply of power into the future, that the planning for transmission lines and power generation respectively should be undertaken with maximum community input, that any transmission route or generation site that is selected must minimise disruption to adjoining residents and businesses and that fair and equitable compensation should be paid to any landowner where their property is affected.

*Voting Requirement Simple Majority*

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Councillor Lionetti left the Chamber at 9pm and returned at 9.05pm.

Item 18.1 continued

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BOJCUN  
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR EMERY**

- 1. THAT Council resolve to advise the Redmond and the Napier communities that their concerns regarding the route selection for the high voltage Western Power transmission lines from Kojonup to Albany and from Albany to Wellstead should be directed to Western Power or the Office of Energy;**
- 2. THAT Council advocate on behalf of residents in the Great Southern for more transparent information flows from Western Power to affected communities on the route selection criteria for future high voltage power lines to be constructed between Kojonup and Albany and that Western Power be encouraged to undertake additional consultation with those communities affected by any transmission corridor options.**

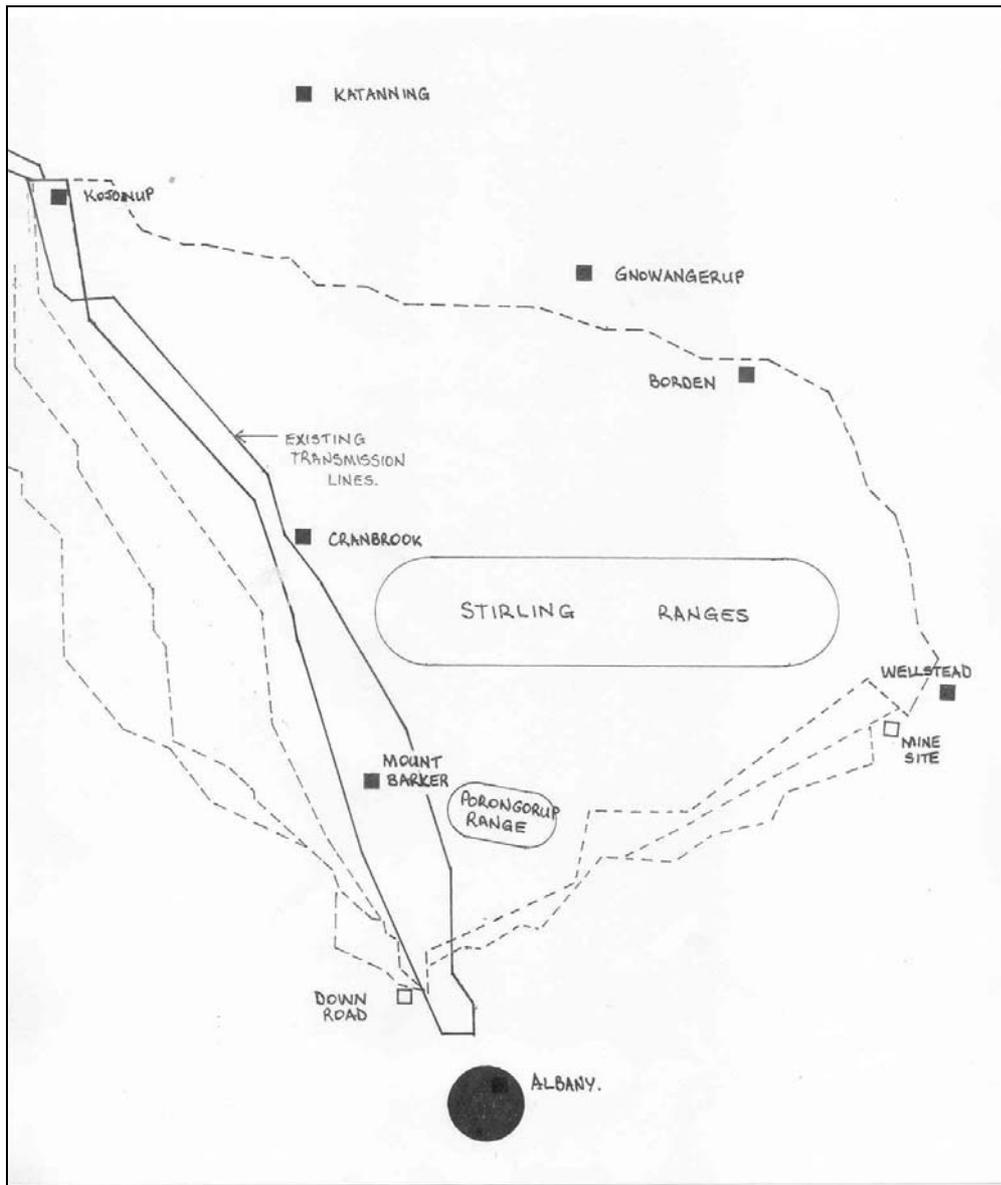
**AND**

- 3. THAT Council advise Western Power and Verve Energy that the City of Albany requires access to a stable supply of power into the future, that the planning for transmission lines and power generation respectively should be undertaken with maximum community input, that any transmission route or generation site that is selected must minimise disruption to adjoining residents and businesses and that fair and equitable compensation should be paid to any landowner where their property is affected.**

**CARRIED 13-0**

Councillor Walker returned to the Chamber at 9.10pm.

Item 18.1 continued



## 19.0 CLOSED DOORS

**MOVED COUNCILLOR EVANS  
SECONDED COUNCILLOR BOJCUN**

**THAT the Council meet behind closed doors to consider 19.1 – Finance Strategy Advisory Committee meeting minutes – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2007, in accordance with Section 5.23(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1995 – A Legal Matter, and 19.2 – Internal Review Committee meeting minutes – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007, in accordance with Section 5.23(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1995 – A Matter effecting an employee.**

**CARRIED 14-0**

Members of the public and media vacated the Council Chambers at 9.20pm.

Councillors asked EDCCS how the CONFIDENTIAL Item 19.1 was distributed in the bulletin. EDCCS requested the minute's secretary to respond.

Minutes secretary responded that it was removed from the Agenda and made a CONFIDENTIAL item, in accordance with Section 5.23(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1995 – A Legal Matter could be pending. However, it was not identified as being documented in the Bulletin.

### 19.1 Finance Strategy Advisory Committee meeting minutes – 13<sup>th</sup> August 07

Item 19.1 is a CONFIDENTIAL matter in accordance with Section 5.23(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1995 – A Legal Matter. The report and recommendations were issued under separate, confidential cover.

The decision of Council is recorded only.

**MOVED COUNCILLOR WOLFE  
SECONDED COUNCILLOR LIONETTI**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. That no immediate change be made to the City's investment policy, but that a review be carried out in six months.**
- 2. That pending the policy review, future investments of surplus City funds be restricted to bank fixed term deposits by Council Officers.**
- 3. That the existing reserve fund investments be sold by Grange Securities when mutually agreed.**
- 4. That the City obtain legal advice on the viability of taking legal action against Grange Securities.**

**CARRIED 14-0**

Finance Officer, Mr Goodman left meeting at 9.26pm, prior to the discussion of Item 19.2.

Councillor Paver left the meeting at 9.41pm before the consideration of item 19.2.

19.2 Internal Review Committee meeting minutes – 11<sup>th</sup> September 07

Item 19.2 is a CONFIDENTIAL matter in accordance with Section 5.23(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1995 – A matter effecting an employee. The report and recommendations were issued under separate, confidential cover.

The decision of Council is recorded only.

**MOVED COUNCILLOR LIONETTI  
SECONDED COUNCILLOR WALKER**

**THAT item 19.2 is laid on the table till further information is received.**

**CARRIED 13-0**

**MOVED COUNCILLOR EVANS  
SECONDED COUNCILLOR WATERMAN**

**THAT council open the meeting to the public.**

**CARRIED 13-0**

The meeting was re-opened to the public and media to return to the council chambers at 9.42pm.

Councillor Paver returned to the meeting at 9.42pm.

**20.0 NEXT ORDINARY MEETING DATE**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2007, 7.00pm

**21.0 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:44pm

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

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**A Goode, JP**  
**Mayor**

**APPENDIX A**

**WRITTEN NOTICE OF DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Cr R Paver	19.2	Impartiality - Impartiality of Interest.
Cr MJ Evans, JP	19.1	Impartiality – Councillor is Chairman of Albany (WA) Community Services Limited.
Cr J Walker	11.1.3	Impartiality - Councillor leases property to another company to grow trees.
	18.1	Impartiality - Power lines could go through property owned by Councillor.
Cr RH Emery	11.1.3	Impartiality - Councillor derives infrequent work from the timber industry.
Cr S Marshall	11.1.3	Financial - Councillor derives income from employment with TOLL, Albany Service Handling, and APEC loading wood chips at Albany Port onto ships for export.
	11.3.2	Impartiality - Councillor is a resident of Little Grove and owns property at 16 King George St that borders the proposed structure plan.
	13.8.1	Financial - Councillor is an employee of TOLL, Albany Bulk Handling and APEC; therefore, derives an income as an employee from handling wood and wood chips for export from the Albany Port.
Cr SM Bojcun	18.1	Financial – Councillor has financial interests in Grange Resources.

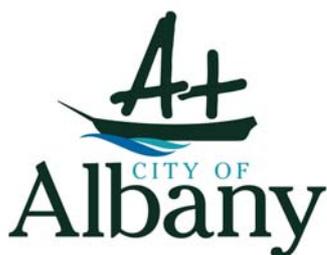
**APPENDIX B**

**INTERESTS DISCLOSED DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING**

Nil

**INTERESTS DISCLOSED BY OFFICERS**

Nil



[Agenda Item 12.1.1 refers]  
[COUNCIL – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007]

### SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Municipal Fund			
Cheques	Totalling		\$443,460.96
Electronic Fund transfer	Totalling		\$3,193,295.94
Credit Cards	Totalling		\$0.00
Payroll	totalling		\$673,180.00
<b>Total</b>			<b><u>\$4,309,936.90</u></b>

### CERTIFICATE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This schedule of accounts to be passed for payment totalling **\$4,309,936.90** which was submitted to each member of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007 has been checked and is fully supported by vouchers and invoices which are submitted to herewith and which have been fully certified as the receipt of goods and the rendition of services and as to prices, computations and costings and the amounts shown are due for payment.

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**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**(WP Madigan)**

### MAYOR

I hereby certify that this schedule of accounts covering municipal and trust fund payments totalling **\$4,309,936.90** which was submitted to the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and that the amounts are recommended to the Council for payment.

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**MAYOR**  
**(A Goode JP)**