

ITEM NO:	18.1 Confidential
MEETING TYPE	Ordinary Council
MEETING DATE:	16 July 2020
SUBJECT:	Streaky Bay Dentist – Request for Assistance
FILE NUMBER	F20/36 - Manager, Business Administration Services
RECORD NUMBER:	R20/10695
AUTHOR:	Karina Ewer
ATTACHMENT (S):	Nil

LINKS TO STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016-2026

KEY RESULT AREA:	4. Community, Culture and Recreation
STRATEGY:	N/A
ACTION:	N/A

BACKGROUND:

On 25 June 2020 the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) received a request from Ms Cindy Dennis and Ms Carol Koch for Council to provide assistance with the employment of a locum dentist for the period to end December 2020.

If should be noted the CEO has had some preliminary discussions with Ms Dennis and Ms Koch regarding the future of the dental practice in Streaky Bay and the options for ensuring its continuation. Those discussions are continuing and the CEO will bring further information to Council when that becomes available.

For now, it is important to note that Ms Koch will not be returning to practice due to her underlying health concerns and the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19 poses a real and definable threat to Ms Koch's continued health.

To ensure Streaky Bay maintains a dental presence for the short term, whilst other negotiations are under way, Ms Dennis has requested Council provide the following for the locum dentist:

- Fully paid access to a vehicle; and
- Fully paid access to accommodation.

The CEO initially discussed the matter with the Mayor and was able to come to the same conclusion, that this request was above the conditions offered to General Practitioners. To that end the following response has been provided to Ms Dennis and Ms Koch:

Whilst I have no doubt you are correct that accommodation and a vehicle are expected, this is far beyond Council's capabilities and certainly more than was ever offered to the GPs. As an aside, the hospital board will commence repaying their loans to Council as of next month.

Before I ask Council if they are OK with this, I would think they should be able to offer the following until 30 December 2020:

- *Private use of Council's RAV 4 (limited to driving in Streaky district, to Wudinna and to and from the airport – I understand this may be Port Lincoln or Ceduna but we would expect it is the closest available);*
- *The servicing of the vehicle;*
- *Insurance for the vehicle; and*
- *Registration of the vehicle.*

The locum will be required to provide a copy of their current driver's licence so Council may list them as a driver on the insurance documents.

Council will not pay for the fuel used in the vehicle nor for the accommodation (though Travis is willing to arrange a short term lease on a suitable property). The locum will be responsible for the state of the house and will need to sign a normal lease arrangement and be subject to normal lease conditions such as inspections and exit cleaning etc.

The above is as per previous arrangements with the hospital board and will keep consistency with precedent already set.

Council does not have the funds to provide more assistance than this. To put it in perspective \$15,000 is the equivalent of a 0.5% rate rise and Council is expecting to deliver a 0% rate rise this year in response to Covid-19 hardships.

I would suggest an approach to your governing body for assistance. We are happy to help with advocating for that assistance as we have done with the GP service.

I understand this response may be disappointing but I cannot offer more than Council can afford, nor more than has been done previously at this time.

The reason for this report is to request Council's approval for the use of the RAV 4 as outlined above and to allow the CEO to continue to explore options with Ms Dennis and Ms Koch regarding continuation of dental services in Streaky Bay.

Risk Management – Framework and Policy Provisions

- (a) *Risk Consequences must be considered as per Appendix B of the Risk Framework;*
- (b) *The likelihood of the recognised risk occurring must be considered as per Appendix C of the Risk Framework;*
- (c) *Where risks are identified as Extreme or High (Appendix D), Council must ensure its decision reduces the recognised risk to Medium or Low (residual risk) depending on the agreed tolerance level (Appendix E).*

Risk Matrix

Likelihood/Consequence	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Almost Certain	High	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Medium	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Possible	Low	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	High	Extreme
Rare	Low	Low	Medium	High	High

Comment: Without some form of Council support it is likely the Dental Clinic will remain closed for the foreseeable future. Closure of the clinic means a reduction in the value of the practice and a decline in the ability of the current owner of the practice to sell the practice as a going concern.

OPTIONS:

Recommendation

That Council resolve:

- (a) Pursuant to Section 90(2)(3)(b)(i)(ii) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, orders that all persons with the exception of the Karina Ewer (Chief Executive Office), Sandra Brice (Manager, Business & Administration Services), PJ Williams (Manager, Community and Economic Development), Darren Walker (Manager, Infrastructure and Civil Works) and Judy Childs (Executive Assistant & Governance Officer/Minute Taker), be excluded from attendance at the meeting for agenda item 18.1, relating to “Streaky Bay Dentist – Request for Assistance”
- (b) The Council is satisfied pursuant to Section 90(3)(i) of the Act, the information the disclosure of which (i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest”.
- (c) The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances as information concerning the personal affairs of a person would be disclosed.

Recommendation

That Council, having considered Report No 18.1 Title: Streaky Bay Dentist – Request for Assistance, dated: 16 July 2020 and its role under Section 6, 7 and 8 of the Local Government Act 1999 approve the following:

1. The dental locum's private use of Council's RAV 4, limited to driving in Streaky district, to Wudinna and to and from the closest airport. Council will provide for the servicing of the vehicle and insurance to 30 December 2020; and
2. The CEO to continue to assist with the negotiation of options for continued dental practice and to provide a report to Council regarding those options as soon as possible.

Recommendation

That Council, having considered the agenda item 18.1 relating to “Streaky Bay Dentist – Request for Assistance” in confidence under Section 90(2) and (3)(b) of the Local Government Act, pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Act orders that the minutes, reports considered and discussed in relation to agenda item 18.1 be retained in confidence until xxx