

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
29 JANUARY 2008**

**ORDER OF THE DAY**

<b>ORDER 4</b>	<b>FRIENDS OF SUAI COMMUNITY TASKFORCE 2007 ANNUAL REPORT</b>
<b>LOCATION/ADDRESS:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>SALLY CALDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ORGANISATION SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>PAT JESSEN, COORDINATOR, FRIENDS OF SUAI</b>
<b>FILE NO.:</b>	
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>FRIENDS OF SUAI COMMUNITY TASKFORCE 2007 ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This council report provides information on the progress and outcomes of the City of Port Phillip, Friends of Suai Taskforce. The 2007 Friends of Suai Annual Report including its Terms of Reference is tabled as Attachment 1.
- 1.2. This report highlights the key issues, activities and achievements undertaken by the Friends of Suai Community Taskforce in 2007 with background and context
- 1.3. The committee was established in 2000 following the signing of a *Statement of Friendship* between Xanana Gusmao formally the leader of the National Congress for the Reconstruction of East Timor (CNRT) and current Prime Minister of East Timor and City of Port Phillip. The purpose of the committee is to work with and assist the Council to develop sustainable and productive relationships between Port Phillip and Suai communities.
- 1.4. The current Terms of Reference have been reviewed by the Committee and are still relevant and should be retained. A growing and continued interest by community members in Port Phillip enhances the output of the committee. A full committee membership list can be accessed in Attachment 1. Cr Karen Sait is the designated councillor on the Friends of Suai Community Taskforce.
- 1.5. The annually elected Suai Community Centre (SCC) Commission, a parallel committee in Suai, is established and representative of the Suai community, providing leadership and strengthening community relations. The development of the SCC commission provides potential leadership for assisting to build Suai local-level government into the future.
- 1.6. A taskforce review of Friends of Suai is underway for 2007-2008 to further develop ways to approach the next two years of the ten year Friendship. The

focus of the review will be to look at ways to strengthen our community development approach; involve people from the municipality with appropriate skills, enhance the framework being developed to further build local capacity for sustainable and economic development in Suai, Covalima District. The review report will be complete in early 2008.

**2. RECOMMENDED OPTION**

2.1. Endorsement of the Friends of Suai Community Taskforce Annual Report 2007 as attached.

2.2. **Criterion for recommendation**

**Sustainability assessment**

Economic Pillar	Friends of Suai has worked together with the committee in Suai to build local capacity and enhance the friendship through community development. The committee and community centre is functioning at an extremely high level despite the civil unrest in E Timor. FoS is exploring a number of opportunities for ongoing economic development projects to sustain activities into the future.
Environmental Pillar	The Friends of Suai and Suai Commission maintain a strong environmental focus, a further 3 solar power installations provided health clinic power in remote areas in 2007. The reforestation project of 10,000 seedlings over 3 hectares of denuded land was successfully implemented in 2007 with similar projects planned for 2008
Cultural Pillar	The Friends of Suai Friends of Suai Community Taskforce promotes a high level of cultural awareness and activity through our international relationship both in E Timor and Australia. Schools in Port Phillip benefited from the 2007 visit by the Suai coordinator to Australia providing direct exposure to cultural and social issues affecting E Timor.
Social Pillar	Through support to the community centre in Suai, Council is ensuring that opportunities for social equity and development are implemented through local initiatives. The activities of Friends of Suai are targeted at developing the skills of grassroots people, women and youth.

**Policy and legislative implications**

Council has a 10 year commitment to the Friendship Statement established in 2000 between Xanana Gusmao formally the leader of the CNRT (current Prime Minister of the E Timor) and City of Port Phillip Councillors in 2000. An MOU signed between the District Administrator and CEO, City of Port Phillip affirmed the relationship in 2005.

**Risk implications**

East Timor as a nation has faced ongoing challenges with civil unrest in 2007, however both presidential and parliamentary elections were peaceful and deemed free and fair by the UN and electoral observers with a huge voter turnout in 2007. A new optimism prevails.

Issues of poverty alleviation and ongoing resolution of security, justice and resettlement issues are a paramount challenge to this young nation. Yet, members of the Suai community centre commission, district administration and NGO partners work together with meager resources to improve the situation using community development principals. The structure of community centre commission continues to improve building local leadership.

The relationship with City of Port Phillip is highly valued in the district and continues to offer key opportunities in building and supporting community by the Suai commission and district administration.

**Resource implications**

All costs for the Friends of Suai are covered under the allocated Council budget. There are no additional resource implications, All activities have been done within allocated budget and FOS continues to develop and support initiatives that have significant social and economic impacts in Suai such as skill training, targeting youth and women. The Friends of Suai Community Taskforce members are primarily volunteers and officer support is provided by Pat Jessen, Friends of Suai Coordinator for the City of Port Phillip.

The programs continues to utilise the financial support of the Council and the Port Phillip community to collaborate with other community groups, agencies, organizations ensuring that the program's impact assists in empowering communities with skills to generate employment and enhancing community well being. Community fundraising by volunteers in Port Phillip and resident donations generates more community activities and awareness both in Suai and Port Phillip.

**3. PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

**Internal**

The following people have had input into the preparation of this report:, Pat Jessen, Friends of Suai Coordinator and Murray Chick, Acting Manager, Governance

**External**

The members of the Friends of Suai Community Taskforce have been consulted in relation to this annual report and fully endorse the recommendations contained therein.

**4. RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council:

1. Endorse the Friends of Suai Community Taskforce Annual Report 2007.
2. Thanks the committee members for their work and achievements during 2007.