



# Ordinary Council

## MAYORAL MINUTE

### Business Paper

**date of meeting:** Wednesday 15 March 2017

**location:** Wauchope Showground Hall  
High Street  
Wauchope

**time:** 5.30pm

**Note:** Council is distributing this agenda on the strict understanding that the publication and/or announcement of any material from the Paper before the meeting not be such as to presume the outcome of consideration of the matters thereon.

**Community Vision**

A sustainable high quality of life for all

**Community Mission**

Building the future together  
People Place Health Education Technology

**Council's Corporate Values**

- ★ Sustainability
- ★ Excellence in Service Delivery
- ★ Consultation and Communication
- ★ Openness and Accountability
- ★ Community Advocacy

**Council's Guiding Principles**

- ★ Ensuring good governance
- ★ Looking after our people
- ★ Helping our community prosper
- ★ Looking after our environment
- ★ Planning & providing our infrastructure



**PORT MACQUARIE  
HASTINGS**

## How Members of the Public Can Have Their Say at Council Meetings

Council has a commitment to providing members of the public with an input into Council's decision making. The Council's Code of Meeting Practice provides two (2) avenues for members of the public to address Council on issues of interest or concern at the Ordinary Council Meeting. These are:

### Addressing Council on an Agenda Item:

If the matter **is** listed in the Council Business Paper, you can request to address Council by:

- Completing the *Request to Speak on an Agenda Item at a Council Meeting*, which can be obtained from Council's Offices at Laurieton, Port Macquarie and Wauchope or by downloading it from Council's website.
- On-line at <http://www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/How-Council-Works/Council-Committee-Meetings/Request-to-speak-on-an-Agenda-Item>

**Your request to address Council must be received by Council no later than 4:30pm on the day prior to the Council Meeting.**

Council's Code of Meeting Practice sets out the following guidelines for addressing Council:

- Addresses will be limited to 5 minutes.
- If you wish any written information, drawings or photos to be distributed to the Council to support the address, two (2) copies should be provided to the Group Manager Governance & Executive Services prior to the commencement of the meeting.
- Where speakers wish to make an audio visual presentation, a copy is to be provided to the Group Manager Governance & Executive Services by 4.30pm on the day prior to the Council Meeting.
- Council will permit only two (2) speakers "Supporting" and two (2) speakers "Opposing" the *Recommendation* contained in the Business Paper. If there are more than two speakers supporting and opposing, the Mayor will request the speakers to determine who will address Council.

### Addressing Council in the Public Forum:

If the matter **is not** listed in the Council Business Paper, you can request to address Council by:

- Completing the *Request to Speak in the Public Forum at Ordinary Council Meeting*, which can be obtained from Council's Offices at Laurieton, Port Macquarie and Wauchope or by downloading it from Council's website.
- On-line at <http://www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/How-Council-Works/Council-Committee-Meetings/Request-to-speak-in-a-Public-Forum>

**Your request to address Council must be received by Council no later than 4:30pm on the day prior to the Council Meeting.**

A maximum of eight (8) speakers will be heard in the Public Forum. Each speaker will be limited to 5 minutes. Council may ask questions of speakers but speakers **cannot** ask questions of Council.

Council will not determine matters raised in the Public Forum session, however may resolve to call for a further report, when appropriate.

Speakers will be allowed to address Council in the Public Forum on the same issue no more than three (3) times in each calendar year. (Representatives of incorporated community groups may be exempted from this restriction).



**PORT MACQUARIE  
HASTINGS**

# Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday, 15 March 2017

## MAYORAL MINUTE

### Items of Business

Item	Subject	Page
06.02	Inquiry into the Operation, Effectiveness and Consequences of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities) Order 2016.....	<u>5</u>



**PORT MACQUARIE  
HASTINGS**

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**Item: 06.02**

**Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE - INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATION, EFFECTIVENESS AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE PUBLIC GOVERNANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (LOCATION OF CORPORATE COMMONWEALTH ENTITIES) ORDER 2016**

**Mayor, Peter Besseling**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council note the submission to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Reference Committee in relation to the Inquiry into the Operation, Effectiveness and Consequences of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities) Order 2016.**

## **Discussion**

On 8 February 2017 the Parliament of Australia referred the following matter to the Finance and Public Administration References Committee for inquiry and report by 9 May 2017: Senate Finance and Public Administration Reference Committee in relation to the Inquiry into the Operation, Effectiveness and Consequences of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities) Order 2016*.

The particular terms of reference for this review were as follows:

- a. The process leading to the making of the order;
- b. The policy of relocating corporate Commonwealth entities with agricultural policy or regulatory responsibilities, including:
  - i. the identity of corporate Commonwealth entities that could be affected,
  - ii. the policy's effect on the ability of affected entities to perform their functions, and
  - iii. economic, environmental and capability implications of the policy;
- c. The application of this policy to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, including:
  - i. the plan for relocation;
  - ii. the ability of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to perform its functions from its new location, and any consequent risks to:
    - A. human and animal health;
    - B. productivity and profitability to the agriculture and fisheries sectors;
    - C. chemical industries; and
    - D. Australia's trading reputation;
- d. Any other related matters.

This matter was considered by Council's Economic Development Steering Group (EDSG) on 1 March 2017 and it was agreed that a submission to this inquiry would be made by the EDSG. For information, the EDSG provides a forum in which Local Government, business and industry leaders discuss and debate, plan and progress local and regionally significant economic outcomes that continue the growth of our local economy, hence the interest in making a submission to this inquiry.

A submission was drafted between members of the EDSG and the submission was lodged by the closing date of Friday 10 March 2017. A copy of the submission is attached to this report for information.

### **Attachments**

- 1 [View](#). Submission - Inquiry into the Operation, Effectiveness and Consequences of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities) Order 2016

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ABN 11 236 901 601

10 March 2017

Committee Secretary  
Finance and Public Administration References Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House

Dear Sir/Madam

**Inquiry into the operation, effectiveness, and consequences of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities) Order 2016**

I write on behalf of the Port Macquarie Hastings Council Economic Development Steering Group to make a submission to the above inquiry.

The Steering Group provides a forum in which Local Government, business and industry leaders discuss and debate, plan and progress local and regionally significant economic outcomes that continue the growth of our local economy.

With Port Macquarie recognised as a high growth regional city, the Steering Group focuses on implementing an economic development strategy that will help ensure a vibrant, diversified and resilient economy. With an idyllic climate and lifestyle, migration and population growth come naturally for the Port-Macquarie Hastings region, however, we recognise that more needs to be done to attract and ensure there are jobs for working age residents.

Should you have any queries regarding matters raised in this submission, please don't hesitate to contact me, or Council's Acting Directory Community and Economic Growth, Liesa Davies on [liesa.davies@pmhc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:liesa.davies@pmhc.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Swift-McNair".

Craig Swift-McNair  
General Manager

[pmhc.nsw.gov.au](http://pmhc.nsw.gov.au)

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9 Laurie Street, Laurieton NSW 2443



Port Macquarie-Hastings Council  
submission to the  
Senate Finance and Public  
Administration References Committee

The operation, effectiveness, and consequences of the  
Public Governance, Performance and Accountability  
(Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities) Order  
2016

Friday 10 March 2017





1. The Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Economic Development Steering Group endorses the outcome of the Order, and encourages the Commonwealth to consider broadening the terms of the Order to include relocation of other non-agricultural Corporate Commonwealth Entities.
2. This submission focuses on part a. of the terms of reference of the inquiry, being the 'process leading to the making of the order' and, part d. 'any other related matters'. In particular, we are concerned that the process of making the Order did not lead to the Order including other Corporate Commonwealth Entities that would benefit from being co-located with non-agricultural research facilities in regional Australia.
3. The Order directs a "Commonwealth entity with agricultural policy or regulatory responsibilities" to be located "within 10 kilometres by road of the main campus of a regional university that is recognised for research and teaching in the field of agricultural science."
  - Notably, many universities located in regional Australia, such as those in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region, are national leaders in fields other than agriculture.
  - The benefits to other Corporate Commonwealth Entities of being co-located with nationally leading universities appears to have been over-looked in the process.
  - Many regional economies are well positioned to benefit from decentralisation of Corporate Commonwealth Entities.
  - The Commonwealth could benefit from the opportunity to attract a highly talented and engaged workforce by co-locating Corporate Commonwealth Entities in regional Australia.
4. The Port Macquarie-Hastings local government area, although commonly known for significant exports in tourism, manufacturing, agriculture and aquaculture, is home to some of Australia's leading facilities for health research and training, including:
  - The Shared Health Research and Education Campus which is jointly operated by the University of NSW, North Coast TAFE and the University of Newcastle.
  - The University of NSW Rural Clinical School - the state's first regional campus to offer a full six-year medical degree.
  - Charles Sturt University's Port Macquarie campus which is focused on providing leading allied health training and research for rural and regional Australia.
5. Increasingly, population growth in the Port Macquarie-Hastings area is driven by regional migration of highly-skilled and experienced employees seeking to capitalise



on living in one of Australia's most enviable coastal locations. This has led to a unique employment market, with employers in the area enjoying unparalleled access to highly skilled employees for a variety of disciplines. There are a number of reasons for this, including:

- The Port Macquarie-Hastings region is known to have "the best climate in Australia" (CSIRO).
  - Compared to other major housing markets, the Port Macquarie-Hastings region offers attractively priced housing and property for coastal and hinterland lifestyles.
  - Port Macquarie-Hastings region offers particularly strong education outcomes for families in the region.
  - Port Macquarie has quality air and road links with key metropolitan cities - Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.
6. Like many local regions and in addition to the above, the Port Macquarie-Hastings region has many industry assets that support the potential collocation of Corporate Commonwealth Entities. These include a Council Food, Soil and Water Laboratory (located at the Charles Sturt University Campus) and key local industries such as forestry, oyster farming, tourism, health and aged care.
7. We encourage the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee to consider the process leading to the making of the order. Specifically:
- a. Did the process involve appropriate consultation with other regions that may benefit from relocation of Corporate Commonwealth Entities?
  - b. Did the process consider aligning all relevant Corporate Commonwealth Entities with leading regional universities?
  - c. Did the process consider the significant opportunity for advancing Commonwealth outcomes from a broader process of relocating Corporate Commonwealth Entities to regional locations?
8. To conclude, we ask the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee to consider recommending a broader approach to decentralisation of Commonwealth Agencies and Entities into regional Australia.