



# Ordinary Council

## MAYORAL MINUTES

### Business Paper

**date of meeting:** Wednesday 15 April 2020

**location:** Council Chambers  
17 Burrawan Street  
Port Macquarie

**time:** 5.30pm

**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

**Community Themes**

- ★ Leadership and Governance
- ★ Your Community Life
- ★ Your Business and Industry
- ★ Your Natural and Built Environment

**Ordinary Council Meeting**  
Wednesday, 15 April 2020

**MAYORAL MINUTES**

**Items of Business**

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**Item: 6.01**

**Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE - COVID-19 - FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

**Mayor, Peta Pinson**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council:**

- 1. Call on the Federal Government and NSW Government to urgently deliver comprehensive and multifaceted financial support and stimulus packages to local government to enable them to continue to operate effectively and provide essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- 2. Call for the stimulus and financial packages to include the following measures:**
  - (a) Increasing Financial Assistance Grants payments to 1% to help Councils maintain essential functions and services, acknowledging the increased costs and mounting revenue losses arising from COVID-19, the drought and bushfire disaster, as well as giving Councils capacity to provide hardship assistance to businesses and residents**
  - (b) Providing stimulus funding to Councils for projects that will help sustain Council operations and boost local economies. This could be achieved through increasing or bringing forward funding under existing funding programs or introducing new programs.**
  - (c) Increased access to TAFE, VET and other apprenticeship opportunities that Council staff can undertake to address skill shortages, especially for staff in non-essential services who are unable to be redeployed.**
- 3. Commend the NSW and Federal Governments on their stewardship during this crisis and commit to working in partnership to protect community health and sustain local economies through this crisis.**
- 4. Request the General Manager to write to the following:**
  - (a) Local Federal and State Members - Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Dr David Gillespie MP, Hon Leslie Williams MP and Mr Pat Conaghan MP;**
  - (b) Prime Minister - Hon Scott Morrison MP;**
  - (c) NSW Premier - Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP;**
  - (d) Federal Treasurer - Hon Josh Frydenberg MP;**
  - (e) NSW Treasurer - Hon Dominic Perrottet MP;**
  - (f) NSW Local Government Minister - Hon Shelley Hancock MP;**
  - (g) Federal Minister for Local Government - Hon Mark Coultan MP;**
  - (h) Federal Opposition Leader - Hon Anthony Albanese MP;**
  - (i) NSW Opposition Leader - Ms Jodi McKay MP;**
  - (j) Federal Shadow Minister for Local Government - Mr Jason Clare MP;**
  - (k) NSW Shadow Minister for Local Government - Mr Greg Warren MP****to confirm their support for increased financial assistance and stimulus funding for local government to help councils maintain essential services and employment during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- 5. Endorse Local Government NSW's sector-wide campaign to obtain financial assistance, employment support and stimulus funding for the local government sector.**
- 6. Advise the LGNSW President, Ms Linda Scott, of the passage of this Mayoral Minute.**

## **Discussion**

I am calling on Councillors to support the Local Government sector's campaign for assistance in dealing with the health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council is already suffering the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent drought and bushfire disaster.

I am recommending that we support the campaign, which is being co-ordinated on behalf of the NSW sector by Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and at a National level by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

Council has faced increased costs and at the same time, is experiencing declining revenue as more and more ratepayers are forced into financial hardship. The impacts are rapidly escalating.

Council is doing everything possible to provide support and deliver the services needed to protect community health and keep our communities running during these difficult times. The wellbeing, safety and livelihoods of our communities, customers, and staff is our top priority. However, if additional assistance is not provided, Council may be forced to cut services, infrastructure maintenance and staff.

It is critical that the Local Government sector receives adequate funding and resources to coordinate and deliver the goods and services needed as we navigate through, and recover from, natural disasters and the new challenges presented by COVID-19 and its massive impacts on people and our local economies.

Council needs urgent financial assistance from the Federal Government and NSW State Government to maintain infrastructure, services and employment, as well as funding to give Councils the capacity to provide hardship assistance to the community.

The measures listed below would be effective and simple to implement:

- Increasing Financial Assistance Grants payments to 1% to help Councils maintain essential functions and services, acknowledging the increased costs and mounting revenue losses arising from COVID-19, the drought and bushfire disaster, as well as giving Councils capacity to provide hardship assistance to businesses and residents.
- Providing stimulus funding to Councils for projects that will help sustain Council operations and boost local economies. This could be achieved through increasing or bringing forward funding under existing funding programs or introducing new programs. Existing Federal funding programs include the Roads to Recovery, Bridges Renewal and Road Safety Blackspots programs. State programs include Fixing Local Roads, Fixing Country Bridges and the Stronger Country Communities programs.

- Increased access to TAFE, VET and other apprenticeship opportunities that council staff can undertake to address skill shortages, especially for staff in non-essential services who are unable to be redeployed.

### **Attachments**

Nil

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**Item: 6.02**

**Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE - ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

**Mayor, Peta Pinson**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council:**

- 1. Set additional Ordinary Council Meeting dates for 2020 on 6 May, 3 June and 1 July 2020.**
- 2. Note that the meetings detailed in 1. above, are in addition to the currently scheduled and adopted meeting dates of 20 May, 17 June and 15 July 2020.**

## **Discussion**

As recently discussed with Councillors and the General Manager, it is considered appropriate at this time to hold additional Council meetings for the next three months i.e. in addition to the current Council-adopted Ordinary Council meeting schedule.

These additional Ordinary Council meetings are being proposed to ensure that the volume of items to be dealt with at each Council meeting is manageable, particularly as Council meetings are currently being held by tele/video conferencing.

Clause 3.2 of the Council-adopted Code of Meeting Practice states that the Council shall, by resolution, set the frequency, time, date and place of its ordinary meetings, hence this Mayoral Minute to Council.

## **Attachments**

Nil