

Richmond
Valley
Council



SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 17 March 2020

Time: 5.00pm

**Location: Council Chambers
10 Graham Place, Casino**

**Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager**

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1 MAYORAL MINUTES

1.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - IMPACTS AND MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19

Author: Robert Mustow, Mayor

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the impacts and actions being taken by Council to manage the response to COVID-19.

REPORT

As the number of confirmed cases of Coronavirus or COVID-19, both internationally and within Australia, has continued to rise the response from the Federal and NSW Government has escalated. This has required an increased response from Council which the General Manager has been implementing in line with our Business Continuity Plans. Council's Management team are actively monitoring the situation and responding as required to manage the risks and minimise the impacts on the business and community.

On 15 March 2020 the NSW Government under the Public Health Act 2010 issued the Public Health Order (COVID-19 Public Events) Order 2020 which restricts gatherings of 500 or more people. This has impacted on public events that were planned during this period including Primex and Beef Week.

As Mayor I have significant concerns for the impacts the COVID-19 virus may have on our community especially the elderly and more vulnerable. It is also having an impact on businesses and our local economy. This is distressing given what our area has been through over the last twelve months with drought, bushfires and a flood.

Council is being active with Government seeking economic stimulus to support our local economy to sustain itself through this crisis. Our Bushfire Recovery Plan includes stimulus projects and our Casino Industries Activation project is another good prospect for local stimulus. We have also commencing the residential subdivision on Canning Drive which will provide local jobs in the construction industry before the end of 2020. These are just some of the projects we need to get moving to assist our businesses to survive.

Another impact we need to be mindful of is the requirements for social distancing may have an impact on the elderly in our community who need these interactions in their daily lives. It will be a challenge to manage the requirements to isolate to reduce the risk of the virus spreading with the need for socialisation to ensure good mental health.

Council will continue to monitor the daily updates provided by the Governments and continue to respond as required depending on the nature of the risks that emerge. At this time Council has had to temporarily close its Visitor Information Centres, however our library services continue to operate with measures in place to minimise contact and ensure hygiene in the workplace. We are also monitoring the potential impacts this could have on the NRLX which is critical to so many in our local economy. Measures have been put in place to manage hygiene risks at the facility.

I will continue to monitor the situation in conjunction with the General Manager on a daily basis to ensure our organisation can continue to deliver the critical services we provide to our community and support our local economy to remain sustainable despite another major impact on our way of life.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil