Minutes of the Special Council Meeting
of Logan City Council

Meeting #: 269
Date: 25 March, 2020
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Council Chambers
Level 3, Logan City Council Administration Centre
150 Wembley Road, Logan Central

Present
Interim Administrator - T O'Shea

In Attendance
A/Chief Executive Officer - S Trinca
Director of Organisational Services - R Strachan
Secretariat & Legislation Program Leader - S Hucknall
A/Meetings Services Coordinator - K Reddy

1. **Acknowledgement of Country**

   The Interim Administrator of the Logan City Council, Tamara O'Shea, opened the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the meeting was gathered, including Elders past, present and emerging.

2. **Logan Economic Response Package - For Business and Residents COVID-19**

   Resolution Number: 27/2020

   Moved By Interim Administrator - T O'Shea


   2. That the Acting Chief Executive Officer be delegated authority to undertake any actions required to give effect to the Logan Economic Response Package for Businesses and Residents: COVID19, as detailed Clause 1 above.

   Carried
3. **Community Relief Package - COVID-19**

Resolution Number: 28/2020

Moved By
Interim Administrator - T O'Shea

1. That Council endorse the redirection of $200,000 from the Community Project Grants budget to go towards the Emergency Relief Fund, which is part of a broader Community Relief Package, as detailed in the report of the Community Services Manager dated 25 March 2020.

2. That the Community Services Manager be delegated authority to prepare agreements with identified community organisations relating to the distribution of the Emergency Relief Funds, as detailed in Clause 1 above.

3. That the Sport, Leisure and Facilities Manager, in conjunction with the Finance Manager, be delegated authority to make the necessary adjustments in the 2019/2020 budget amendment provide the Lease Fee (Rent abatement) for community leased facilities, as detailed in the report of the Community Services Manager dated 25 March 2020.

4. That the Finance Manager be delegated authority to make the necessary adjustments in the 2019/2020 budget amendment to include further funding sufficient to cover the application of increasing Council’s existing 50% or 60% remissions, increasing to 100% remissions towards charges to be invoiced in April 2020, for the period January - March 2020 for period, as detailed in the report of the Community Services Manager dated 25 March 2020.

Carried

4. **Rating changes as a result of COVID-19**

Resolution Number: 29/2020

Moved By
Interim Administrator - T O'Shea

1. That the extension of the April to June 2020 interest free period from the due date of 15 May 2020 to 30 September 2020, be endorsed, noting that the 15 May 2020 due date is to remain the same and is applied for discount purposes.

2. That the immediate suspension of some rates related debt recovery functions, specifically the lodgement of claims in the Magistrates Court and outsourcing of debt to external collection agencies, be endorsed.

3. That the amended policy titled 'Recovery of Rates and Other Rates related charges from customers experiencing financial hardship', as attached to the report of the Finance Manager dated 25 March 2020, be adopted.

4. That the Corporate Governance Manager be requested to update Council’s Policy Register in accordance with Clause 4 above.

Carried
5. **Location of Local Government Meetings**

Resolution Number: 30/2020

Moved By

Interim Administrator - T O'Shea

**AMENDMENT**

1. That, subject to the 2020 Local Government Elections proceeding, the Post-Election meeting be held at the Logan Entertainment Centre.

2. That, subject to the 2020 Local Government Elections proceeding, Ordinary Council and Local Government Committee meetings be held at the Logan Entertainment Centre for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, as prescribed by the Australian Government.

   *Carried*

6. **Statement**

   Statement from the Interim Administrator:

   "When I delivered my farewell speech in this Chamber just three weeks ago, I could barely have contemplated that I would be back in here again, let alone under these circumstances.

   The COVID-19 crisis that is unfolding across the world, and that has now taken a foothold in Australia, is already wreaking havoc on our economy and our communities.

   We have seen Federal and State Governments, as recently as last night, step up with some extraordinary interventions to help, in some way, cushion the devastating impacts being felt across all parts of our society.

   As the level of government that plays such an important part in our communities’ day-to-day lives, it is incumbent on us as a Council to also step up and do what we can to support those in our city.

   As such, today I am announcing Council's first suite of measures as part of a staged approach to help assist Logan's businesses and residents during this difficult time.

   The *Logan Economic Response Package* will provide immediate assistance for rate payers, suspend debt recovery measures and prioritise procurement for local business operators.

   We will also re-direct $200,000 from the Community Project Grants budget into an Emergency Relief Fund, as part of a broader Community Relief Package.

   The Fund will help cover costs of providing goods and resources immediately to those in hardship and those who have already been significantly impacted by the pandemic.

   Key components of the support plan include:

   - An additional four-month interest free period for the April – June quarter rates and charges notice."
Council’s existing hardship arrangements for residential property owners will be extended to all ratepayers.

Council will cut its invoice payment time by half with 14-day payments to contractors.

A 50 per cent refund for operational (licence) fees paid since July last year for nearly 1300 businesses including hospitality and food operators, hotels and motels, manufacturers and a range of other businesses. Fees will be waived for any new applications (of that type) received up until August 31 this year.

Three months of lease fees will be waived to external operators engaged to manage Council-owned venues.

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Annual lease fees for not-for-profit organisations who lease a Council community-leased facility will be waived for 2020.

Organisations operating from a Council community-leased facility (and have none or less than 15 gaming machines), will have their existing levels of Council remissions increased to 100 per cent for the January to March 2020 billing period.

These lease fee waivers and remissions will deliver much-needed financial relief to more than 180 sport, recreation and community organisations within Logan.

I would like to assure Logan’s residents, and indeed, the many candidates currently vying for election, that I have not taken today’s decision lightly.

Given the uncertain and rapidly evolving nature of this pandemic, and its potential effects on the timeliness of the local government election results, I felt it was critical to deliver this first tranche of relief measures as soon as possible for the sake of the city’s residents and businesses.

I would also like to emphasise that it is my hope that when your future council is sworn in (which may still take some weeks until after the election) that they will continue to look at even more ways in which Council can help alleviate some of the hardships that will be felt throughout this city as a result of this unprecedented event.

It will take each of us, as individuals, to do our part in helping to contain the spread of this virus.

But it will take all of us, joining together, to help support – then re-ignite – our communities, our businesses and our economy.

Please, everyone, take care of yourselves, your family, and wherever possible, help those in need.

Before I finish, I would like to publicly acknowledge the A/CEO, the executive leadership team and all the managers and staff who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to activate Council’s business continuity plans and responding to the rapidly changing circumstances. The work occurring here to ensure continuity of essential services for this city, has been nothing short of inspirational.
Again, I would like to thank you all so much for your support during my time here as Interim Administrator.

I am genuinely sorry to be leaving you at this difficult time, but I trust your new elected Council will whole-heartedly step in to take care of those in this city who need help, and that they will be compassionate leaders who make wise decisions throughout this term, leading this amazing City of Logan into a bright future.

Take care, and thank you."

The meeting concluded at 10.07 am.