

## NOTICE OF MOTION

**SUBMITTED BY:** Councillor J Natoli

**COUNCIL MEETING:** Ordinary Meeting 9 December 2021

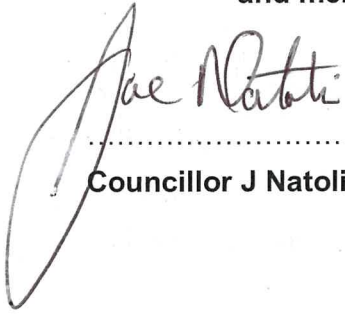
I hereby notify of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting to take place on Thursday, 9 December 2021:

That Council

- (a) inform the Premier of Queensland that it has serious concerns regarding the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions from 17 December 2021 due to the following:
- (i) Small businesses have been highly impacted by the lockdowns imposed on them and many businesses are struggling to recover since COVID-19 first impacted our community
  - (ii) The impact on small businesses required to police the new restrictions, will be an unreasonable impost and burden on operational costs
  - (iii) It is an unreasonable impost to place the obligation on small business owners to dismiss employees who choose not to be vaccinated
  - (iv) The outcome of the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions may result in business owners having to close their businesses due to owners choosing not to be vaccinated or being unable to continue to operate due to loss of staff
  - (v) The reduced revenue will have a negative effect on the local economy by restricting non vaccinated customers from entering businesses
  - (vi) Greater understanding is needed about the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions on:
    - The mental health of our community, especially affected small business owners and sacked workers
    - The potential financial impacts on affected small business owners
    - The financial, social and mental health impacts on sacked workers
    - The concerns of the social impacts and fall out, by creating divisions within our community
    - The legal and financial liability to businesses applying State Government mandates declared during a State of Emergency, insofar as the decisions they make now, will affect them legally in the future when the State of Emergency no longer exists. This is a cause of major concern
    - By making vaccination a term of employment, businesses fear that anyone who gets vaccinated solely in order to keep their job, who then suffers from an adverse reaction, may be able to seek damages from their employer

(b) request the State Government to

- (i) not to proceed with the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions until it understands the full impact and fallout on small businesses, and undertakes a full economic impact assessment on small businesses and
- (ii) not introduce the COVID-19 restrictions on 17 December 2021 based on concerns it will have serious impacts on small business, on certain workers and members of our community and that it will create a divided community.



.....  
**Councillor J Natoli**

29-11-2021

.....  
**Date**

**To all Councillors and Group Executives**

I hereby notify that Councillor J Natoli intends to move the motion as shown above at the Ordinary Meeting to be held on 9 December 2021.

In accordance with section 16 (4) of the *Standing Orders of the Sunshine Coast Council 2020*, I certify that the motion as shown above complies with sections 16 (1) and 16 (2) of the aforementioned Standing Orders.



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**Emma Thomas**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

29/11/2021

.....  
**Date**



## COUNCILLOR COMMENT

Following the Premier's announcement of the vaccine mandate, more than 32,000 members of the "Sunshine Coast Businesses Welcome All" Facebook group have indicated openly that they are not in favour of the new proposed COVID Vaccine Mandates and will welcome all customers. On top of that, councillors have received in excess of 1000 emails from concerned businesses and residents. On 27 and 28 November 2021, thousands of people attended two rallies at Cotton Tree and Buddina expressing concerns and their opposition to the mandate.

They would like the Council to convey in writing to the Queensland State Government the following concerns of Sunshine Coast Business owners that:

The discriminatory nature of the mandates will have a detrimental effect on businesses, staff and members of the public.

Businesses stand to lose a lot of money if they must turn away unvaccinated customers and clients. The impact of this could be devastating for some businesses especially since the mandates come into effect during the busiest, most profitable holiday period of the year. Staff shortages, increased obligations, uncertainty about what is and what isn't permissible and what restrictions will still apply, in both restricted and non-restricted business settings, is of utmost concern. Business owners fear that another low turnover holiday period will result in business closures.

The ability of businesses to benefit from economic recovery following the re-opening of borders with other States and Territories will be limited by the effect of these restrictions on business operation and profitability.

The effect on business turnover and profitability is not limited to "restricted" businesses that are required to enforce the mandate. The flow-on effects extend to all businesses (suppliers, contractors, maintenance workers and cleaners) who provide goods and services to a restricted business since they will all lose trade and contracts if they do not also comply with the mandates.

The uncertainty surrounding the topic of how long future restrictions will last is something that is preventing businesses from being able to recover or thrive. Not knowing how long restrictions will last makes it impossible for businesses to plan appropriately. Businesses that rely on advanced planning will be affected the most by this mandate.

Vaccination must always remain an individual choice and employers should not be placed in a position where they are expected to enforce restrictions that have been imposed by the State Government and, as a result, face losing valued employees who exercise their right of choice.

The legal and financial liability to businesses applying State Government mandates declared during a State of Emergency is a source of great concern to businesses and especially how the decisions they make now will affect them legally in the future when the State of Emergency no longer exists. By making vaccination a term of employment, businesses fear that anyone who gets vaccinated solely in order to keep their job, who then suffers from an adverse reaction, may be able to seek damages from their employer.

They are very concerned about the detrimental economic and societal impact that the COVID vaccine directives for different industry sectors have had and will have on both restricted and non-restricted local businesses (including private health practitioners, holistic and wellness industries), their employees, suppliers, contractors, and the public.

They object to, and find it unethical and unreasonable, that they be mandated to do something (refuse entry to a sector of society and require employees to undergo a medical procedure) that they would otherwise deem unconscionable, and that goes against the norms of society.

They state they have been functioning safely during a pandemic for almost two years and industry specific COVID safe plans have sufficed in terms of reducing and negating the spread of COVID-19.