

Late item 8.5

Ordinary Meeting

Thursday, 19 March 2020

commencing at 9:00am

Council Chambers, 1 Omrah Avenue, Caloundra

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
8	REPORTS DIRECT TO COUNCIL	5
8.5	APPLICATION OF FEES AND CHARGES IN RESPONSE TO NATIONAL DECLARED EMERGENCY FOR COVID-19	5

8 REPORTS DIRECT TO COUNCIL**8.5 APPLICATION OF FEES AND CHARGES IN RESPONSE TO NATIONAL DECLARED EMERGENCY FOR COVID-19**

File No: Council meetings
Author: Head of Economic Development
Economic & Community Development Group

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek authorisation for the Chief Executive Officer to exercise discretion to waive commercial and cost recovery fees, in light of the World Health Organisations declaration of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as a pandemic.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation characterized novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as a pandemic.

As a result, significant measures have been put in place by the Federal and State Governments to manage the spread of COVID-19, including limiting non-essential events or gatherings of more than 500 people, restrictions prohibiting non-essential indoor gatherings of more than 100 people, restrictions to entering aged-care facilities and enacting strict travel. These measures are already having a significant impact on our community and local businesses.

This report seeks to provide authority to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise discretion to waive commercial and cost recovery fees during the pandemic.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled “Application of Fees and Charges in Response to National Declared Emergency for COVID-19” and**
- (b) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to exercise discretion where considered reasonable and appropriate with regards to the application of all commercial and cost recovery fees including any fees associated with an approval issued under Council’s Local Laws during the National declared emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

Programs, assistance and services will be implemented by Council officers. Consultation with the Finance Branch will occur.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal: *A strong community*
Outcome: We serve our community by providing this great service
Operational Activity: S3 - Disaster Management - providing regional disaster management coordination including prevention, preparation, response and recovery.

CONSULTATION

Councillor Consultation

- Councillor M Jamieson, Mayor

Internal Consultation

- Chief Executive Officer (Acting)
- Chief of Staff Office of the Mayor
- Group Executive Economic & Community Development
- Group Executive Built Infrastructure
- Group Executive Customer Engagement & Planning Services
- Group Executive Liveability & Natural Areas (Acting)
- Group Executive Business Planning (Acting)
- Head of People & Culture
- Manager Communication
- Coordinator Disaster Management
- Manager Corporate Governance

External Consultation

No formal external consultation has been undertaken in relation to the subject of this report.

However, both the Federal and State Governments have announced wide-ranging assistance packages for the community and businesses.

Council has consulted with the Sunshine Coast Events Board with regard to impacted council sponsored major events and received anecdotal evidence from a range of local businesses that have been impacted already by COVID-19.

Community Engagement

No formal community engagement has been undertaken in relation to the subject of this report, however a number of local residents and businesses have contacted Council's customer contact centre raising difficult personal circumstances.

PROPOSAL

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a major impact on the community and businesses within the community.

In light of the fast-changing environment and impacts at a local level, this proposal seeks to provide the Chief Executive Officer with the ability to exercise discretion where reasonable and appropriate with regards to the application of all commercial and cost recovery fees including any fees associated with an approval issued under Council's Local Laws during the National declared emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In doing so, it will enable Council to better respond to requests from the community and businesses as well as to tailor a local 'stimulus' program to complement the Federal and State Government programs announced in recent weeks.

A range of tailored business support solutions is being developed in this regard.

Legal

Any exercise of the authority conferred by Council under this authorisation would occur in consultation with Council's General Counsel.

Policy

The recommendation is designed to support and complement existing Council policy and allow the Chief Executive Officer discretion to provide additional community and business support.

Risk

Council will manage risk in line with its current risk management policy and framework.

Previous Council Resolution

There is no previous Council resolution relevant to this report.

Related Documentation

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law 1 (Administration) 2011
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law 2 (Animal Management) 2011
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law 3 (Community Health and Environment Management) 2011
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities, Infrastructure and Roads) 2011
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law 5 (Parking) 2011
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law 6 (Bathing Reserves) 2011
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law 7 (Sunshine Coast Airport) 2017

Critical Dates

The authority given to the Chief Executive Officer will cease at the cessation of the national declared emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Implementation

Should Council agree to authorise the Chief Executive Officer to exercise this discretion where considered reasonable and appropriate, the Chief Executive Officer will need to ensure full legal compliance of his actions in this regard.