

## **NOTICE OF MOTION - ALLOCATION - BLI BLI AND DISTRICT RURAL FIRE BRIGADE**

**File No:** ECM 26 July 2012  
**Author:** Division 9 Councillor, Stephen Robinson  
Notices of Motion

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Councillor S Robinson intends to move the following Notice of Motion at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 26 July 2012 .

### **COUNCILLOR RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve the use of \$8,000 of Councillor Emergent Capital works and Minor Operational Works allocation towards the running costs of the Bli Bli & District Rural Fire Brigade.**

### **COUNCILLOR COMMENT**

Bli Bli Rural Fire Brigade have commenced building a Station at Bli Bli. They have committed \$75,000 of their own money raised via sausage sizzles, levies and fundraising activities, but are unable to fund the final stage which includes a septic/sewerage system. The expected cost of this system is approximately \$8,000.

For the past 10 years the Brigade have been looking for a piece of land to build the appropriate structure, they have now been awarded a 3x10 year lease free of charge, from a private individual.

The Brigade enjoys a healthy membership of over 30 dedicated, hardworking people who give their time and personal resources whenever they are called upon. They are a not for profit organisation that focuses on supporting the community and I believe they now need the support of their council to further their plans.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMENT**

A Rural Fire Levy is collected by council and remitted to the State Government for distribution by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.

The Rural Fire Levy is a charge made to all rateable land within the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and revenue raised by the Levy in 2012/13 will be approximately \$525,000.

Council is not aware of the proportion of the Levy granted to Bli Bli & District Rural Fire Brigade by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. However, the Levy money is used for the purchase of equipment and operational costs and training initiatives required by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. This in turn allows the Brigade to direct more time toward:

- (a) prevention of rural fires;

- (b) education of residents; and
- (c) training of volunteers

The Bli Bli & District Rural Fire Brigade would also be eligible to apply for Council's Community Grants Program. The major grants round opens for applications on the 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 closing on the 1 September, 2012. Applicants will be advised of grant outcomes in November, 2012.

Council's Grants Policy specifies a process that includes the making of applications, assessment of these applications and approval by Council based on these processes and timeframes. Operating outside of these processes and timeframes is considered technically inconsistent with Council's Grants Policy.

Should the Council wish to proceed with this Notified Motion and observe technical compliance with Council's Grant's Policy and the Finance Regulation, Council would need to revise the Grants Policy so that the Policy:-

- (a) specifies closing dates for particular categories of grant application; but
- (b) reserves to Council the right to consider a grant application at a meeting of Council subsequent to a relevant closing date.

Notwithstanding the matter of technical non-compliance, should the Notified Motion pertaining to the Bli Bli & District Rural Fire Brigade proceed as per the Divisional Councillor's intention via the resolution of council, the resolution would need to include a statement of reasons why the policy advice was not accepted, in accordance with Section 70 of the Local Government (Operations) Regulation 2010.

It is further noted that Council is currently unable to utilise the Councillor Emergent Capital Works and Minor Operational Works Policy for the purposes of funding community organisations. A change to the criteria of this Policy would need a council resolution as currently the Policy does not allow "community donation funds".

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