

# **GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**

TO BE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CIVIC CENTRE 101 GOONDOON STREET, GLADSTONE

On 15 October 2019

Commencing at 9.00am

Mark Holmes CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (Acting)

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# G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

# G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

# G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 1 OCTOBER 2019

**Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer** 

**Council Meeting Date: 15 October 2019** 

File Ref: CM7.2

# Purpose:

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 1 October 2019.

# **Officer's Recommendation:**

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 1 October 2019 be confirmed.

# Attachments:

1. Minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 1 October 2019.

# **Tabled Items:**

Nil.

Report Prepared by: Executive Secretary

# G/3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

# G/3.1. OFFICER'S REPORTS

# G/3.1.1. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

#### **Responsible Officer:** General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

#### Council Meeting Date: 15 October 2019

#### File Ref: FM15.1

#### Purpose:

This report seeks Council adoption of the Monthly Financial Statements for the 2019-20 year to date, for the period ended 25 September 2019.

#### Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Statements attached to this report for the 2019-20 year to date, for the period ended 25 September 2019 as required under Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.

#### Background:

Nil.

#### Consideration:

End of year audit is currently underway with figures yet to be signed off 2018-19 financial year. Any comparative figures provided throughout this report for the 2018-19 financial year are subject to amendment and may not reflect the final position as at 30 June 2019.

The pro-rata rate as at 25 September 2019 is 23.84%.

#### Forecast

The 2019-20 budget was adopted on 17 July 2019 and there have been no changes forecast.

#### Statement of Income and Expenditure

#### Income

#### Recurrent Revenue

Recurrent Revenue

Percentage of Adopted Budget 73.25%

Year to date recurrent revenue is at \$146.0m compared to the budget of \$199.3m. Notable movements are as follows:

Net rates and utility revenue	Percentage of Adopted Budget
Net rates and utility revenue	92.72%

General rates and annual waste, water and sewerage charges have been levied. There has not been any revenue recognised for water consumption in 2019-20 to date.

Fees and charges	Percentage of Adopted Budget
rees and charges	13.32%

Fees and charges revenue is at \$2.5m compared to a budget of \$18.6m. The variance from the pro-rata rate is primarily within tipping fees. Tipping fees received in July that related to June were accrued back into the 2018-19 financial year and tipping fees for September accounts have not yet been recognised.

Sales – contracts and recoverable works	Percentage of Adopted Budget
Sales - contracts and recoverable works	11.51%

Sales revenue is \$0.2m compared to the budget of \$2.1m. A claim for RMPC works will be lodged at the end of September which will assist in closing the gap.

General purpose grants	Percentage of Adopted Budget
General purpose grants	12.41%

The first quarterly instalment of the Financial Assistance Grant has been received in August; however, the largest instalment of this grant is not received until June.

State government grant and subsidios	Percentage of Adopted Budget
State government grant and subsidies	2.14%

Currently at \$0.09m compared to a budget of \$4.0m. The largest component of the budget is the Waste Levy offset payment. These funds were received in June 2019, and they will be recognised as income in the 2019-20 financial year as the costs associated with the Waste Levy are incurred.

Contributions	Percentage of Adopted Budget
	0.00%

The budget for contributions comprises of amounts to be received from the Gladstone Airport Corporation to apply to QTC borrowings. The first quarterly instalment will be processed at the end of September.

Interest received from investments	Percentage of Adopted Budget
	5.47%

Interest from investments is \$0.2m compared to the budget of \$3.1m. A large investment will mature in November which will assist in closing the gap.

Dividends received	Percentage of Adopted Budget
	0.00%

It is expected that a dividend will be received from the Gladstone Area Water Board later in the financial year. The unaudited financial statements for the Gladstone Airport Corporation show a net loss, therefore Council is not expecting a dividend from GAC this year.

Capital revenue	Percentage of Adopted Budget
	14.68%

Total capital revenue for the month of August was \$1.1m compared to the budget of \$7.2m. Capital revenue is predominantly comprised of:

Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	Percentage of Adopted Budget
	14.42%

Currently sitting at \$1.0m compared to the budget of \$7.0m. The major variance is within State Government grants against multiple projects. The largest projects that are yet to receive any funds are the Gladstone WWTP Biosolids building and the Auckland Hill land slide project.

#### Expenditure

Year to date expenditure although lower than pro-rata, is tracking in line with expectations for this time of year at 19.14% of budget. Of note:

Employee Repetits	Percentage of Adopted Budget
Employee Benefits	19.52%

Employee benefits at 25 September are at \$12.8m of a \$65.7m budget.

The second payroll for the month of September was not posted at the time these reports were prepared. Once posted, employee benefits will be in-line with pro-rata expectations.

Materials and Services	Percentage of Adopted Budget	
Waterials and Services	16.13%	

Currently at \$13.5m compared to a budget of \$83.5m. The monthly water charges for September from the Gladstone Area Water Board has not been paid at the time of these reports. There are also significant variances in contractor costs across the business.

Finance Costs Percentage of Adopted Budget
17.35%

Currently at \$1.2m compared to a budget of \$7.0m. The monthly interest charges for September from the Queensland Treasury Corporation have not been paid at the time of these reports.

#### Capital Expenditure

	Year to Date	Adopted Budget	Percentage of Adopted Budget
Year to date capital expenditure	\$8.5m	\$77.1m	11.09%
Including commitments	\$21.2m	φ//.111	27.51%

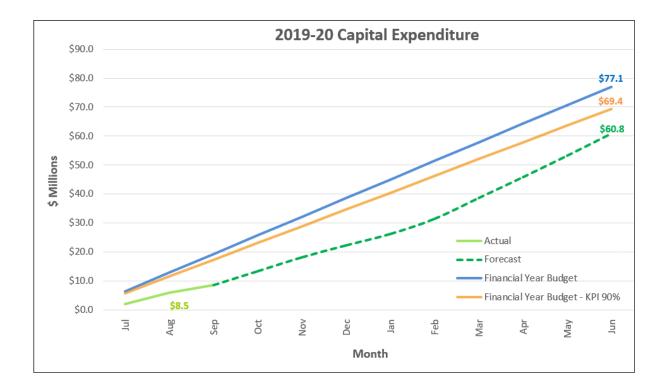
The year to date spend for capital works underway is \$8.5m of a \$77.1m budget. When outstanding purchase orders (commitments) are included, the total capital spend is increased to 27.51% of budget.

Capital expenditure (not including commitments) against groups with significant capital expenditure budgets are shown in the table below:

Group	Adopted Budget	YTD Actual	Actuals as % of Adopted Budget
Parks & Environment Assets	\$1.906m	\$0.320m	17%
Property Assets	\$2.145m	\$0.001m	0%
Road Assets	\$21.544m	\$3.085m	14%
Sewerage Assets	\$20.430m	\$2.301m	11%
Waste Assets	\$4.120m	\$1.506m	37%
Water Assets	\$8.263m	\$0.426m	5%
Delivery Support and Performance	\$8.041m	\$0.529m	7%
Strategy & Transformation	\$9.170m	\$0.173m	2%
Community Development & Events	\$0.651m	\$0.194m	30%
Other	\$0.804m	<b>\$0.01</b> 3m	2%
Total	\$77.075m	\$8.549m	11%

The graph below illustrates the forecast and year to date actual capital expenditure for 2019-20 compared to the adopted budget. Council has an organisational KPI to complete 90% or greater of the value of the annual capital works program which is measured on the graph.

Based on current forecasts, Council is expecting to incur \$60.8m in capital expenditure during 2019-20 which is 78.86% of budget. These forecast figures consider the impending caretaker period from February to April 2020 where projects valued at higher than \$1.4m must be in procurement phase no later than November 2019 with award by the Council meeting held in January 2020.



#### Statement of Financial Position

Year to date Assets	Current Value	Adopted Budget	Percentage of Adopted Budget
Teal to date Assets	\$2.36b	\$2.31b	102.05%

The balance of assets is usual for this time of year. Council's cash and receivables are higher than any other time of the year due to the rates generation. The cash balance is expected to decrease throughout the year as expenditure is incurred. Receivables are also expected to reduce however it is likely that the rate in reduction will be slower than previous years due to the extended rates discount date.

Year to date Liabilities	Current Value	Adopted Budget	Percentage of Adopted Budget
	\$153.98m	\$133.05m	115.73%

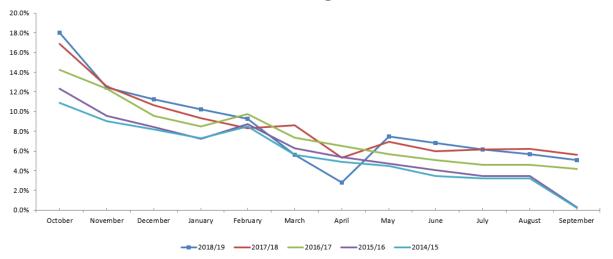
Council's borrowing repayments are made quarterly throughout the year. The repayments for the first quarter will be processed at the end of September and will go towards closing the gap between budget and actual liabilities.

#### **Outstanding Rates**

Outstanding rates as a percentage of gross rates levied, and collectible, is at 5.09% at the end of September, compared to 5.59% for the same period last year. Due to the recent rates generation, there is a total of \$57.0m rates not due until 18 November 2019. Of the \$8.9m of outstanding rates 13.2% relates to commercial/ industrial assessments and 86.8% represents residential assessments.

These figures include \$3.41m of rates that are currently being repaid under an authorised payment plan, for which there were 44 commercial/industrial assessments and 1,097 residential assessments. A total of 1,141 assessments, which is an increase from 484 assessments in August. There were 2,548 ratepayers who had paid their rates in advance, in the amount of \$1,689,583.

**Outstanding Rates** 



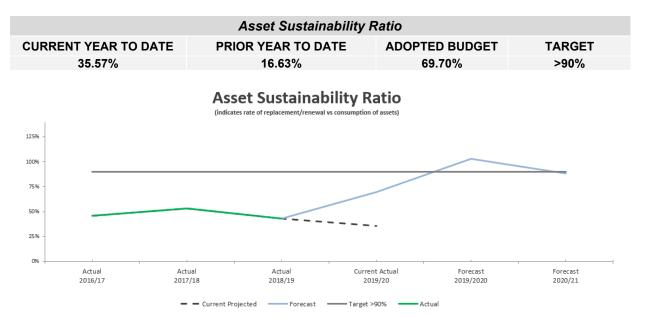
#### **Sustainability Ratios**

Council's Sustainability Ratios for the period are generally in line with expectations at this stage of the reporting year. Early in the financial year, ratios are typically distorted given that Council raises the majority of its yearly revenue in August but incurs expenses and delivers its capital program on an incremental basis throughout the year.

Financial ratios provide a useful snapshot of Council's financial status and emerging trends. Individual ratios do not provide enough information to form a comprehensive opinion of Council's financial position and performance, but when the right mix of ratios are considered together, they become an important tool in analysing Council's overall financial performance.

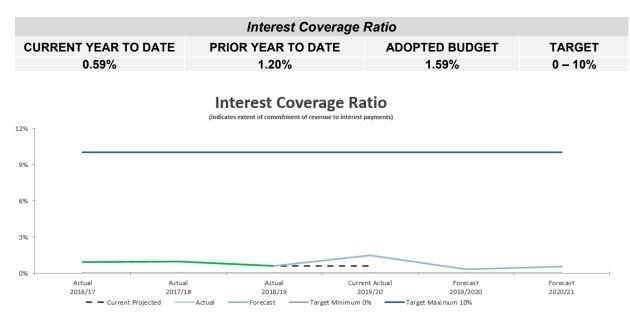
#### Asset Sustainability Ratio

This ratio compares Councils expenditure on capital renewal assets with the rate at which our assets are depreciating. A low result was achieved in 2018-19 due to delays in delivering Councils capital program following the organisational restructure in August 2018 The results of this ratio are expected to increase in 2019-20 and 2020-21 as capital expenditure normalises following completion of the deferred asset replacement works, and in line with the projected cyclical investment in the renewal of Council's asset base.



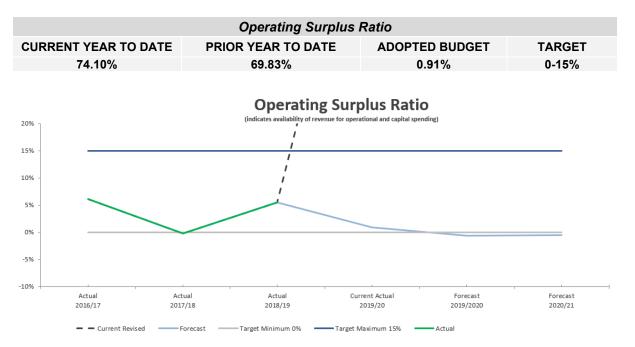
#### Interest Coverage Ratio

The interest coverage ratio is reflecting slightly lower than the budget as the finance costs from Queensland Treasury Corporation for September will be incurred at the end of the month.



#### **Operating Surplus Ratio**

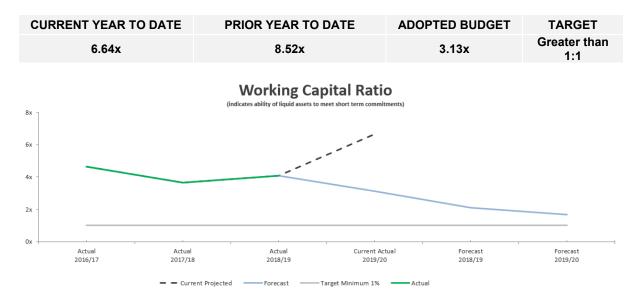
The results of this ratio are affected by the rates generation that occurred in August. This result will change throughout the year as expenditure is incurred and the operating surplus decreases.



#### Working Capital Ratio

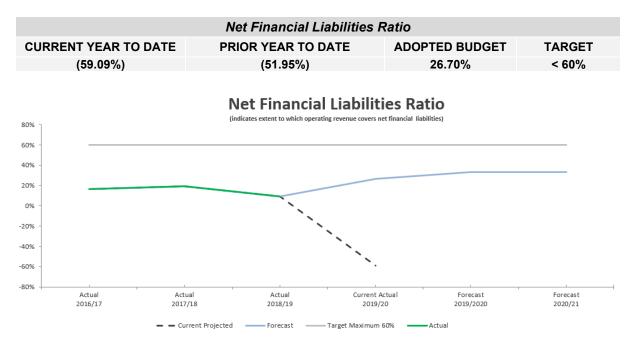
Following the rates generation, Council has a large balance of current assets including cash and receivables that increase the results of this ratio. The ratio is in excess of the target minimum, reflecting a healthy position for Council.

#### Working Capital Ratio



#### Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

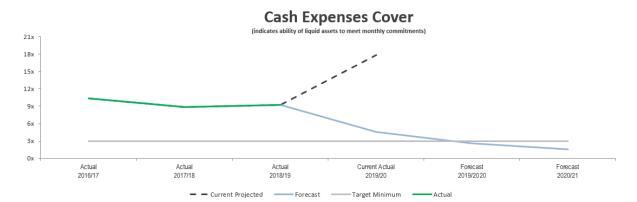
Again, the results of this ratio are abnormal due to the high value of current assets and operating revenue following the rates generation in August. This result will align closer to budget as the year progresses.



#### Cash Expenses Cover Ratio

The current result reflects a continuing strong cash position proportional to operating costs. This result is well above the target ratio.

Cash Expenses Cover Ratio			
CURRENT YEAR TO DATE	PRIOR YEAR TO DATE	ADOPTED BUDGET	TARGET
17.79x	10.10x	4.53x	> 3x



# Communication and Consultation (Internal/External):

Input regarding budget and forecast sought from Systems Modelling and Metrics Specialist. Input regarding unpaid and prepaid rates sought from Senior Rates Officer.

# Legal Environmental and Policy Implications:

Nil.

# Financial and Resource Implications:

Nil.

# **Commentary:**

Nil.

# Summary:

Nil.

# **Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:**

17 September 2019.

## Attachments:

- 1. Monthly Financial Statements period ending 25 September 2019
- 2. Operating Statements for month end September 2019

# Tabled Items:

Nil.

## Report Prepared by: Statutory Accountant

# G/3.1.2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL LAWS - GATES & GRIDS

# Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

# Council Meeting Date: 15 October 2019

File Ref: LE3.1

#### Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to recommend Council to make changes to its local laws with respect to Gates and Grids following Council's resolution to change its position on Gates and Grids at the General Meeting held 21 May 2019.

#### Officer's Recommendation:

That Council resolves:

- a) to propose to make Alteration or Improvement to Local Government Controlled Areas and Roads (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2019;
- b) to propose to make Carrying out Works on a Road or Interfering with a Road or its Operation (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2019;
- c) to propose to make Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2019;
- d) to propose to make Subordinate Local Law (Repealing) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2019.

## Background:

At Council's General Meeting held 21 May 2019, Council resolved (viz G/19/3778) to adopt the following:

#### That Council:

1. Adopt an amended version of Option 2 as the position to be reflected in revised drafting of Local Law and Policy, whereby ownership of gates and grids transfers to Council and at the end of a gate or grid's useful life the structure is either replaced at the request and cost of the impacted landowner/s or removed by Council.

2. In recognition of the time it will take to amend the policy and local law, authorise the Chief Executive Officer to administer an amnesty period for the current fees and charges under the existing policy P-2015-27 Gates and Grids.

This report presents one step in implementing the above resolution by proposing the necessary changes to subordinate local laws.

#### Consideration:

The proposed subordinate local laws are summarised below:

- (a) Subordinate Local Law (Repealing) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2019; and
- (b) Alteration or Improvement to Local Government Controlled Areas and Roads (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2019; and

- (c) Carrying out Works on a Road or Interfering with a Road or its Operation (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2019; and
- (d) Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2019.

The proposed subordinate local laws (if adopted and enacted) will result in the following:

- a) Subordinate Local Law 1.16 (Gates and Grids) 2011 is no longer required as Council will be taking on responsibility for gates and grids.
- b) Amendment to Subordinate Local Law No. 1.1 (Alteration or Improvement to Local Government Controlled Areas and Roads) 2011 will remove authority to grant approval for alterations or improvements relating to gates and/or grids.
- c) Amendment to Subordinate Local Law No. 1.15 (Carrying out Works on a Road or Interfering with a Road or its Operation) 2011 will remove authority to grant approval for works on roads that includes installing or repairing gates and/or grids.
- d) Amendment to Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas; Facilities and Roads) 2011 amends the mechanism where a person who wishes to install a gate or grids may apply for an approval.

Essentially, to enable implementation of Councils resolution G/19/3778, requirements outlined in current subordinate local laws are no longer required. Management of Gates and Grids for new or replacement installations will occur through a revised Gates and Grids Policy (to be presented prior to adoption and enactment of the proposed subordinate local laws amendments) based on Council as the responsible entity who will undertake the associated works.

It is noted that subordinate local laws proposed do not contain any anti-competitive provisions with a copy of each list attached.

## Communication and Consultation (Internal/External):

Extensive consultation was undertaken during the review of the existing Gates and Grids Policy with the outcomes of that consultation forming part of the report and considerations made at the General Meeting held on 21 May 2019. Further consultation will occur as part of the local law review process via public notice and feedback options for a minimum three week period.

## Legal Environmental and Policy Implications:

At this stage, this report recommends proposing amendments to existing subordinate local laws but does not commit or enact any changes. Therefore, there are no legal or policy implications at this stage of the local law making process.

## **Financial and Resource Implications:**

Legal costs will be incurred in the making of the subordinate local law changes and will be covered by Council's current operational budget allocations.

## Commentary:

Nil.

## Summary:

This report is the first formalized step of implementing Council new position on Gates and Grids that was adopted at the 21 May 2019 General Meeting. Further reports will be tabled to future meetings as necessary to enable commencement of the position by 1 July 2020.

# Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

Within one month of resolution.

## Attachments:

- 1. Alteration or Improvement to Local Government Controlled Areas and Roads (Amendment) SLL (No. 1) 2019
- 2. Carrying out Works on a Road or Interfering with a Road or its Operations (Amendment) SLL (no. 1) 2019
- 3. LG Controlled Areas Facilities and Roads (Amendment) SLL (No. 1) 2019
- 4. SLL (Repealing) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2019
- 5. Anti-Comp Provisions Alternation of Improvement to Local Government Controlled Areas and Roads
- 6. Anti-Comp Provisions Carrying out Works on a Road or Interfering with a Road or its Operation
- 7. Anti-Comp Provisions LG Controlled Areas Facilities and Roads SLL (No. 1) 2019
- 8. Anti-Comp Provisions Subordinate Local Law (Repealing) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2019

## Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: Manager Governance

# G/3.1.3. REVISED UNIFORM AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT POLICY

# Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

# Council Meeting Date: 15 October 2019

File Ref: CM28.2

#### Purpose:

This report presents a revised Uniform and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy for Council's consideration.

#### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council:

- 1. Repeal existing P-2015/25 Corporate Uniform Policy; and
- 2. Adopt revised P-2019-20 Uniform and Personal Protective Equipment Policy.

#### Background:

Council's Uniform Policy was due for its periodic review on the 18 August 2018. Whilst the review did commence last year it has been delayed as a result of the changing priorities of the organisation and workloads.

As part of the review process, the existing Corporate Uniform Corporate Standard and the PPE Corporate Standard were also reviewed. It was decided to incorporate the corporate uniform policy and corporate standard and the personal protective equipment corporate standard into a single policy and supporting corporate standard to streamline and reduce the number of corporate documents.

The policy has had a significant re-write to transfer operational considerations into the corporate standard to produce a strategic policy.

The major changes to the policy are summarised below:

- Operational considerations have been transferred out of the Policy into the corporate standard leaving just the strategic issues for Council direction including making the wearing of the corporate uniform and PPE mandatory, adopting the corporate colours for the clothing, determining allocations and delegating to the Chief Executive Officer the authority to approve free-dress days.
- The policy proposes an increase in the uniform allocation to ensure employees have one complete set of clothing for each working day during a typical work week. For those wearing the corporate uniform this will mean an increase in the allocation of uniform bottoms from three to five for a full-time employee.
- In relation to the corporate uniform colours, the revised policy proposes the removal of the grey and light blue shirts from the range of corporate wear but proposes the inclusion of a black shirt. Previously the black shirt was limited to just staff of GECC. During staff consultation, there was strong support for black shirts to be made available as part of the broader range of corporate wear. In relation to the removal of the grey and light blue shirt options, there was concern expressed that having too many colour variations reduces the

branding impact.

- Polo shirts are proposed to form part of the corporate uniform but will be subject to the requirements of Section 6.1 that clothing appropriate to the work environment and duties must be worn.
- As part of the consultation process on the policy and corporate standard, the issue of wearing shorts for outdoor work was considered. The original view of management was that shorts be removed from the range of clothing for those involved in outdoor work to ensure our people are protected from the effects of ultraviolet rays, cuts, abrasions, bites and chemical splash back on exposed skin. There were strong representations from a portion of staff and their unions suggesting that shorts are appropriate for outdoor work in some circumstances. Having considered these representations, Executives resolved that shorts remain as part of the PPE range subject to a risk assessment approach.

## Consideration:

#### Option 1 – Adopt the Recommendation

If Council is comfortable with the revised policy content it should adopt the recommendation.

#### Option 2 – Adopt the Recommendation with some amendments

If Council would like to see changes to the revised policy as tabled, it may wish to pass the following resolution:

#### "That Council:

- 1. Repeal existing Corporate Uniform Policy P-2015/25; and
- 2. Adopt revised Corporate Uniform and Personal Protective Equipment Policy P-2019-20, subject to the following amendments:
  - (a) insert amendment;
  - (b) insert amendment....."

<u>Option 3 – Repeal the Policy and manage uniform and PPE matters at an operational level</u> If Council considers that it does not wish to form a policy position on uniforms and PPE and that the issue be dealt with at an operational level, it may elect to repeal the current uniform policy and not replace it, by passing the following resolution:

"That Council repeal existing Policy P-2015/25 Corporate Uniform Policy with the subject matter to be managed operationally."

## Communication and Consultation (Internal/External):

Targeted and extensive consultation was undertaken with the workforce and associated Unions on both the draft policy, corporate standard and supporting catalogues during the month of July 2019. There was a good level of feedback on the documents which in most cases was accepted and incorporated into the proposed revised policy and corporate standard.

#### Legal Environmental and Policy Implications:

There is no legal requirement for Council to provide a corporate uniform. Council is legally obligated to provide personal protective equipment (including clothing) when a risk assessment determines that it is needed to reduce the risks associated with certain types of work or tasks.

# Financial and Resource Implications:

Whilst the policy proposes an increase in the allocation of corporate wear uniform bottoms for fulltime employees, with the changes proposed in uniform options to allow for polo shirts, officers anticipate the changed policy position will be cost neutral and will remain within existing budget allocations.

## **Commentary:**

Not applicable.

# Summary:

Not applicable.

## **Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:**

31 October 2019

## Attachments:

- 1. Existing P-2015/25 Corporate Uniform Policy;
- 2. Proposed Revised P-2019-20 Uniform and PPE Policy.

## **Tabled Items:**

Nil.

## Report Prepared by: Governance Advisor

# G/3.1.4. NEW BODY WORN CAMERA POLICY

# Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

# Council Meeting Date: 15 October 2019

#### File Ref: CM28.2

#### Purpose:

This report presents a proposed new Body Worn Camera Policy for Council's consideration.

#### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council adopt the proposed P-2019-25 Body Worn Camera Policy as tabled.

#### Background:

Council's internal audit team conducted an audit on Right to Information / Information Privacy Compliance during February/March 2019. One of the outcomes of that audit was that Council "Address privacy issues in structured and documented policies and procedures for portable audiovisual recording devices (Body Worn Cameras)". An extract from the Audit Report is Attachment 2 to this report.

The audit identified that Council was not fully compliant with privacy principles IPP1, IPP2 and IPP11 in advising the public of:

- The use of camera surveillance; and
- How to access footage.

Legal advice from King and Company on the privacy issues associated with the use of body worn cameras (BWCs) and in particular, advising individuals that an interaction is being recorded, suggests that officers involved in law enforcement activity (which includes Council officers monitoring legislation and local laws) do not have an obligation to advise parties that an interaction is being recorded, particularly where body worn camera devices are clearly visible.

In balancing the considerations of the Information Privacy principles and the legal position on this matter, the policy suggests a practical approach in that officers exercise discretion in relation to providing verbal advice on the recording of interactions. Where it is appropriate to do so, verbal advice will be provided.

The policy also contains provisions in relation to responsibilities, data management including access to footage and the delegations to approve the use of BWC devices.

#### Consideration:

There is benefit in having a public facing policy that addresses the audit recommendations as it demonstrates a level commitment to providing the public with information on the circumstances where Council Officers are likely to use body worn camera devices; how that data is stored and managed by Council; and how access to footage can be sought.

# Communication and Consultation (Internal/External):

Executive Team Local Laws Team Environmental Health and Biosecurity Team Records Team Manager Governance Manager Development Services Manager Strategic Information Communication and Technology Senior Legal Advisor

# Legal Environmental and Policy Implications:

Council has legal obligations under the *Information Privacy Act 2009* and *Right to Information Act 2009* to comply with the information privacy principles.

## **Financial and Resource Implications:**

There will need to be resources allocated to establish the records management processes required for the storage and disposal of recorded data in accordance with the policy requirements. It is anticipated that existing operational resources will be sufficient to undertake these requirements.

## Commentary:

Not applicable

#### Summary:

Not applicable

## **Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:**

31 October 2019

## Attachments:

1. Draft P-2019-25 Body Worn Camera Policy

## **Tabled Items:**

Nil.

Report Prepared by: Governance Advisor

# G/4. DEPUTATIONS

# **G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT**

# **G/6. URGENT BUSINESS**

# G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION

# **Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer**

# Council Meeting Date: 15 October 2019

File Ref: CM7.2

#### Purpose:

Present a Notice of Motion in support and acknowledgment of the Australian Baha'i community and celebration of the Bicentenary of the Bab.

#### **Councillor's Recommendation:**

That Council receive the motion in support and acknowledgment of the Australian Baha'i community and celebration of the Bicentenary of the Bab.

#### Background:

'The Earth is but one nation and mankind her citizens' is a core teaching of Bahaullah and the Australian Baha'i Faith.

No place on earth is this more true than our great nation of Australia. Indeed Baha'i values of peace, love, service, volunteering, observance of the rules of Country's laws, and helping thy neighbour are intrinsically Australian values.

Australian multicultural diversity is a beacon of light for humanity throughout our nation and indeed the world. Australia stands strong as a nation of all people with thousands of years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples culture, and more recently further enriched by people of all parts of the globe.

It is important to note that whilst as all Australians we celebrate in Australia, we cannot ignore the injustices still faced by the Baha'i in other parts of our world.

It is with great respect that I advocate in favour of our Australian community by moving a vote of thanks to our Australian Baha'i community for their citizenship and service: from Aboriginal Australian Baha'is to new arrival migrants; and congratulate the community on the Bicentenary of the Bab celebrations happening across the nation: from Gladstone, Queensland to Ingleside New South Wales, to Rostrevor South Australia and beyond. May God bless you.

#### Consideration:

Nil.

## Communication and Consultation (Internal/External):

Nil.

## Legal Environmental and Policy Implications:

# Financial and Resource Implications:

Nil.

# Summary:

The motion in support and acknowledgment of the Australian Baha'i community and celebration of the Bicentenary of the Bab.

# Attachments:

Nil.

# **Tabled Items:**

Nil.

Notice of Motion Prepared by: Councillor Sobhanian.

# **G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

# ATTACHMENTS