



**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
13 APRIL 2015**

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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL HELD ON 13 APRIL 2015 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL, 64 FITZROY STREET, WARWICK AT 1:10PM

1. ATTENDANCE

Present: Crs Blundell (Chair), Bartley, Ingram, Mackenzie, McNally, Meiklejohn and Pennisi.

Officers: David Keenan (Chief Executive Officer), Peter See (Director Engineering Services), David Tuxford (Director Business & Community Services), Sue Harrold (Minute Secretary).

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution

Moved Cr N Meiklejohn

Seconded Cr D Ingram

THAT the apologies of Crs G Rees and C Gow be recorded and leave of absence be granted.

Carried

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORTS

4.1 BCS - National General Assembly of Local Government - Motions

Resolution

Moved Cr J McNally

Seconded Cr V Pennisi

THAT Council adopt that the following three motions be submitted to the 2015 National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government for inclusion into their Business Papers:

1. The inability of local government to fund repairs following natural disasters and that the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) threshold is not reduced and is maintained at the current levels.

Motion

That the day labour component of any emergent and restoration works that occur during a natural disaster becomes claimable under NDRRA Guidelines which will allow council's to ensure the safety of their communities in the aftermath of any natural disaster, with the choice of Local Governments to engage its local workforce or contractors.

Also, that pressure is maintained on the Federal Government to ensure that the current threshold and assistance rates level of funding provided under the NDRRA banner is not reduced and is maintained at the current levels.

2. The core business of the three levels of government needs to be made clearer which would include how funds are distributed between Federal, State and Local Government and would alleviate cost shifting from occurring.

Motion

Clearer guidelines and/or a Memorandum of Understanding needs to be established to determine the core business of the three levels of government. Adequate funding needs to be distributed to all three levels of government to ensure the roles and responsibilities of Federal, State and Local Governments are clearly understood and funded accordingly.

Cost shifting describes a situation where the responsibility for or merely the costs of providing a certain service, concession, asset or regulatory function are 'shifted' from a higher level of government on to a lower level of government without providing corresponding funding or the conferral of corresponding and adequate revenue raising capacity.

It is not always easy to know which government is responsible for which service therefore clearer guidelines would alleviate cost shifting from occurring.

3. The Federal Assistance Grants (FAGs) freeze to Local Government be lifted.

Motion

That the Federal Government maintains the system of payments to support Local Government through FAGs and lifts the current freeze on indexation of FAGs to Local Governments.

All council's use FAGs to build and maintain community assets and provide services to their communities. They form a large part of the revenue base to many council's across Australia. The current indexation freeze is restricting council's in service delivery to their communities and placing added pressure for council's to consider rate increases to compensate for the lost revenue associated with the indexation freeze.

Carried

MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1:50pm.