



SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Dear Councillors

Your attendance is hereby requested at the Special Meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Southern Downs Regional Council, 61 Marsh Street, Stanthorpe on **Monday, 7 December 2015 at 8:30AM**.

Notice is hereby given of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

David Keenan

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

4 December 2015

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- 1. ATTENDANCE**
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4. EXECUTIVE

4.1 EXEC - Dungarees - Demonstration of Support 11th December

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: Special Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 7 December 2015
	Chief Executive Officer	File Ref: 0.0

Recommendation

THAT Council undertake the appropriate street closures and related actions at 3.30pm on Friday 11 December to allow for the setting up and hosting of the March of the Dungarees major event at the Warwick Town Hall.

Report

The 1915 March of Dungarees was a recruitment drive to encourage Australians into the First World War. The 239 kilometre march began in Warwick and travelled via Toowoomba, Laidley and Ipswich finishing in Brisbane where it had enlisted 125 brave recruits along the way.

Southern Downs Regional Council, in conjunction with the State Government are hosting a major event recognising the March of the Dungarees which occurred 100 years ago. Council is partnering with a number of volunteer groups and service organisations to stage this event, which will involve many volunteers. Southern Downs Regional Council has been supported by the State Government to facilitate this event, which will focus around the Warwick Town Hall, with an associated march.

There has been a huge amount of work gone into this event, to make it an authentic re-enactment of the 1915 event, but with a modern twist. Southern Downs Regional Council is very pleased to have Marco Giori as the Master of Ceremonies for the event who has woven the past and present together. It is envisaged that it will be a very powerful and moving event. It is a great privilege for Warwick community to be able to host this event.

This project has been in development over 12 months in various versions. A grant was obtained from the ANZAC 100 Commemoration grant based on the event being part of a bigger event that is taking place over the weekend 11-13 December throughout towns along the original route marched by the Dungarees and will conclude in Brisbane with a large event. Although technically not the true anniversary (it was originally in November) the dates of this event were set by the larger event coordinators.

The Dungarees March was significant as it was the only one held in Queensland during WW1 and only one of a few to be held across the country. Our event is not a March re-enactment it is actually a re-enactment of the activities of the night before the Dungarees departed Warwick.

Part of the Demonstration of Support in 1915 saw the recruits after taking the Oath of Allegiance and listening to speeches, a march from the Town hall to Fitzroy St up to Dragon St, along Dragon

St to Percy St down Percy St to Palmerin St and then back to the Town Hall. Due to logistics the 2015 March is only proceeding around the Rose City Shopping Centre Block.

The traffic Management Plan was developed two weeks ago in partnership with Jamie Deacon OIC Warwick QPS. A closure time for Palmerin St was discussed and 2pm agreed on as this is the same time used for the Rodeo Mardi Gras and allows time for the vehicles parked on Palmerin Street to vacate the street. Unfortunately an earlier flyer was sent out to shop owners indicating 4pm for the closure which was an error.

Up until the morning of Friday 4 December the plan was to close the street at 2pm. During the morning some complaints were received from traders. After a meeting of those organising the operational street closures an alternative time of 3pm was determined on the basis that Council staff can close some car parks close to the Town Hall earlier.

Further clarification with the Maintenance Overseer is that a minimum of 1.5 hours (with extra staff although, two hours is more realistic) to do all the setting up and to allow vehicles to clear the parking. Everything needs to be in place by 5pm for 5.30pm commencement of activities. This is a one off and there are no dress rehearsals, to test everything.

This revised time of 3.00pm was communicated to the Chair of the Warwick Chamber of Commerce who indicated on behalf of its members that 4.00pm for the street closures to occur was the preferred time, noting that the Christmas period is the busiest time of the year for traders.

Southern Downs Regional Council staff indicated that the following works and actions need to be undertaken;

- Allowing enough time for all parked vehicles to leave the street
- Allowing Salvation Army and Lions Food vans to move into place and set up (restaurants/cafes were invited to stay open in the flyer)
- Public seating to be placed out
- Stage to be set up with all Pa systems and power connections to be sourced from street centre medium
- Three large TVs (one of which is a blow up screen) to be set up for the "Live" feed from inside the Town Hall
- Setting up of crowd management barriers in particular around where the horses are stationed during the speeches
- Setting up of street traffic signage on all other legs of the March (3 streets and 4 intersections)
- Setting up of other furnishings around town hall including drapes, flags, catering tables, official party seating etc
- Managing authorised traffic into and out of the closed street section
- Marking out the positions for each of the groups involved in the parade

Southern Downs Regional Council staff indicated that if the street closures were to come into place at 3.30pm the necessary works could be undertaken by 5.00pm, on the proviso that there are no unforeseen issues or hold ups.

The new street closure time of 3.30pm was communicated to the Chair of the Warwick Chamber of Commerce who forwarded an email to Southern Downs Regional Council Councillors and staff indicating that the revised time of 3.30pm was acceptable.

Post the email communication from the Chair of the Warwick Chamber of Commerce, Deputy Mayor Councillor Bartley, presented a request, supported by Councillors Pennisi and Mackenzie, for a Special Council Meeting, as per Section 5.1.3 (1) of the Southern Downs Regional Council Code of Meeting Practice Policy, at approximately 5.00pm Friday 4 December.

Whilst the written request for the Special Meeting of Council calls for a discussion to occur on street closure times, Cr Bartley indicated that traders were not content with the 3.30pm street closure and their request is for a 4.00pm street closure, so as to minimize impact on trade.

Budget Implications

Most of the staff involved in the setup are outdoors staff and will be working beyond their normal hours. Depending on the timing of the street closures there will be different levels of overtime incurred by Southern Downs Regional Council.

Southern Downs Regional Council has received funding from a number of agencies to undertake this event. These agencies are listed on the attached flyer.

Policy Consideration

Southern Downs Regional Council Code of Meeting Practice Policy (2014).

Community Engagement

Southern Downs Regional Council staff have promoted this event for the past 6 months. The agencies that Southern Downs Regional Council have been working with are listed on the attached flyer.

There has been direct communication with the Warwick Chamber of Commerce in relation to the proposed street closures.

Legislation/Local Law

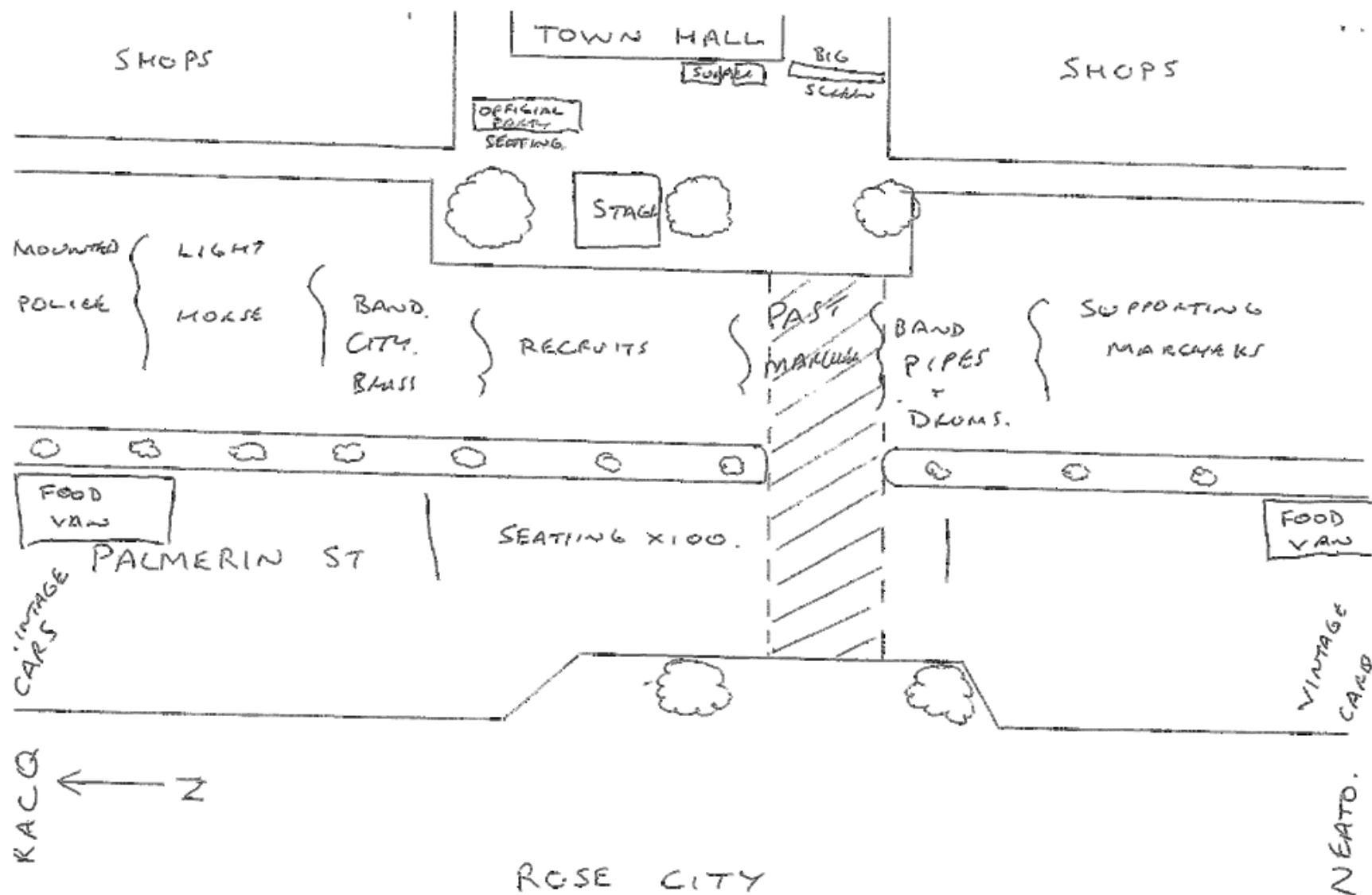
Nil.

Options

1. That Council undertake the appropriate street closures and related actions at 3.30pm on Friday 11 December to allow for the setting up and hosting of the March of the Dungarees major event at the Warwick Town Hall.
2. That Council undertake the appropriate street closures and related actions at 4.00pm on Friday 11 December to allow for the setting up and hosting of the March of the Dungarees major event at the Warwick Town Hall.
3. That Council take no action.

Attachments

1. Indicative Plan of the Event [View](#)
2. March of the Dungarees Flyer [View](#)



The city of Warwick played a significant role in World War I when an event occurred that helped cement the city's place in Australian military history.

After the heroic landing of the Anzacs at Gallipoli Cove on 25th April 1915, the country became caught up in the patriotic fervour of the period. However, when the high casualty figures were released Prime Minister Billy Hughes called on the youth of the nation to enlist, and help bolster the Anzac forces. This resulted in so called "snowball" marches in regional towns throughout New South Wales with the "Goose" march from Gilgandra to Sydney.

Warwick became the only Queensland regional town to take up the challenge in order to reach the Prime Minister's target of 5,300 recruits per month, and brought about the Dungaree March to Brisbane.

The original Dungaree march began on 16th November 1915 when 28 men under the command of Lieutenant David Blinke assisted by Sergeant-Major Flannery. Lieutenant Blinke was a Civil Servant who had served nearly five years in the Army Reserves and in 1915 was the Area Commander of Military Training at Rosewood, and later served with distinction on the Western Front in France.

The name Dungaree was derived from the distinctive type of trousers worn by men in this period so the name Dungaree stuck as has now become part of the Anzac legend. The plan was to march from Warwick on 16th November, and march through the regional communities of Allora, Clifton, Greenmont, Cambooya, Toowoomba, Melidon, Gatton, Laidley, Rosewood, Ipswich and Oxley; a total of 270 kilometres.

The Dungarees were given rousing receptions from large crowds that turned out to greet them in all towns and when they reached Brisbane with a group of 125 recruits which had swelled from the original 28 that left Warwick, a crowd of 30,000 cheered as they were joined by a large contingent of Regular Army soldiers as they marched down Queen Street to Albert Square.

Council thanks the following for their highly valued contribution to this event:

Working Party: Denise Reed (Warwick) and Patricia Mitchell (Society), Patrick Conigan (Warwick RSL), Geoff Strain (Combined Service Clubs of Warwick), Sharon Glin (ANZAC), post and sign project, Bill Coufal (Warwick RSL) and 1915 Re-enactment March participants, Councillor Jo McCall, Pam Kirby (Southern Downs Regional Council)

Midnight Mass: Warwick Abchurch House, Warwick City Brass Band, Warwick White Pipe Band, 139 Army Cadet Unit, Warwick Lions Club Inc, The Salvation Army, QCAWA, Baden Powell, Warwick and District Historical Society Inc, Old Police Service Mounted Unit, John Teller & Pat McCaughey, Old State Library, Destination Southern Downs, SES, Warwick RSL, Warwick Veterans & Vintage Vehicle Club

The performers: Sarah Beckett, Bob Vermeulen, Kim Wilson, Ann Woodall-Becker, Norma O'Brien-Hughes, Brenda Brimbleton (Bogies), Betty Ann, Joely Bagley and Zoe Wilson, Margaret Bryant, Warwick Orchestral Society, East Street Singers

Co-ordination of the parade: Mick Saunders (Southern Downs Regional Council), Officers and Cadets 139 Army Cadet Unit

Special thanks to the staff from Office of Premier who so generously encouraged and supported the working party through all the planning and delivery of this event.

The first idea of a re-enactment of this legendary recruitment march germinated in the mind of Pat McCaughey in 1995 when he read a story in the newsletter of a re-union group of the Big Brother Movement (1925 - 1992) of a re-enactment of a WWI recruitment march known as the "Kookaburras", who started their march from the small New South Wales village of Soudanah with 24 men and arrived in Bathurst 380 kilometres away with 93 volunteers. This march was organised by Bryan Bywater who had successfully organised the famous "Goose" March from Gilgandra to Sydney in 1987 for which Pat had also taken part.

Pat was further motivated by an article in the Brisbane Courier Mail on original Dungaree marcher and WWI veteran Eric Abrahams. When he told Eric of his intention to organise a re-enactment march in 1998, Eric responded:

"I have been trying for 30 years to get someone to do exactly that, but no one is interested."

Pat decided that from that moment on he was going to organise a re-enactment march from Warwick to Brisbane following the original route of the 1915 marchers. With great determination and support from the Department of Veteran Affairs under the "Their Service Our Heritage Program", politicians, service organisations, local communities, police and defence personnel, the 1998 Re-enactment March took place spurred on by the 104th birthday of Dungaree original, Eric Abrahams. Eric gave a rousing speech as he saw off the departure of the marchers from Warwick Showgrounds on Monday 13th April 1998 with the inspiring words:

"Our service is now your heritage, please look after it."

The marchers followed the original route of the 1915 group receiving rousing receptions along the way and a very large crowd assembled in Brisbane on 25th April 1998 for the annual Anzac Day Ceremonies.
Story by John Teller



Southern Downs Regional Council



Proudly Presents:

Commemorating the 100th anniversary

MARCH of the DUNGAREES 2015

Demonstration of Support

**Town Hall
Palmerin Street
Warwick**

**Friday 11 December 2015
5.30pm through to 9.30pm**

Item 4.1 EXEC - Dungarees - Demonstration of Support 11th December
Attachment 2: March of the Dungarees Flyer