



# **SPECIAL MEETING**

## **AGENDA**

**1 JUNE 2020**

*Your attendance is required at a Special meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 232 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton on 1 June 2020 commencing at 9.00am for transaction of the enclosed business.*

*In line with section 277E of the Local Government Regulation 2012, it has been determined that it is not practicable for the public to attend Council meetings in person at the current time. Until further notice, Council meetings will instead take place via videoconference and will be livestreamed online.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. P.", written in a cursive style.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
29 May 2020

**Please note:**

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, please be advised that all discussion held during the meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

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**1 OPENING**

**2 PRESENT**

Members Present:

The Mayor, Councillor M F Strelow (Chairperson)  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor N K Fisher  
Councillor C E Smith  
Councillor C R Rutherford  
Councillor M D Wickerson  
Councillor D Kirkland  
Councillor A P Williams  
Councillor S Latcham

In Attendance:

Mr E Pardon – Chief Executive Officer

**3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

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## 5 OFFICERS' REPORTS

### 5.1 DATE OF GAZETTED ROCKHAMPTON AGRICULTURAL SHOW HOLIDAY FOR 2020

<b>File No:</b>	<b>6097</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Authorising Officer:</b>	<b>Ross Cheesman - Deputy Chief Executive Officer Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Damon Morrison - Manager Office of the Mayor</b>

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#### SUMMARY

*The Chief Executive Officer is seeking approval to write to the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations asking for permission to change the gazetted Rockhampton Agricultural Show Holiday date for 2020.*

#### OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations seeking permission to postpone the gazetted Rockhampton Agricultural Show holiday date from 11 June 2020 to 14 August 2020.

#### COMMENTARY

Due to COVID-19 the 2020 Rockhampton Agricultural Show planned for 10-12 June 2020 was cancelled. Council had nominated 11 June 2020 as the public holiday for the show and this was approved as a gazette holiday by the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations.

At its meeting on 14 April 2020 Council resolved that the Minister be requested to postpone the gazette holiday to a later date in 2020 to allow a community celebration. A written request was sent to the Minister on 16 April 2020 and discussions were held with representatives from the Office of Industrial Relations on 6 and 7 May 2020.

Discussions focused on Council's request to either postpone the holiday from 11 June to a date to be advised later in 2020 or if postponement wasn't possible, Council would still like to retain the holiday on 11 June 2020.

As the "Special Holiday" was granted for the Rockhampton Agricultural Show, and Council has already cancelled the Show for 2020, Council officers were advised that it was unlikely approval would be given by the Minister to transfer or postpone the date if the proposed new date is not to support an Agricultural Show.

At its meeting on 12 May 2020, Council confirmed it would retain the gazette public holiday for the Rockhampton Show on Thursday 11 June 2020, based on the information it had on hand.

On Thursday 21 May 2020 the Premier of Queensland told State Parliament that "after careful consideration the (Ekka) public holiday would now fall on Friday 14 August 2020". In subsequent correspondence and media, the Premier encouraged Councils who wanted to change the date of their gazetted show holiday to move to the 14th August date as a State-wide co-ordinated boost to tourism, noting expected greater reduction in movement restrictions throughout Queensland at that time thus allowing travel and holidays.

On 27 May 2020, Mackay Regional Council moved to lodge an application to change their Show Holiday from 18 June 2020 to 14 August 2020.

Livingstone Shire Council are meeting on Friday, 29 May 2020 to also consider moving their Show Holiday from 12 June 2020 to 14 August 2020.

**PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

At its Ordinary Meeting on 14 April 2020, Council resolved to:

*“...authorise the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Minister for Industrial Relations Policy and Regulation seeking permission to postpone the gazetted Rockhampton Agricultural Show holiday date from 11 June 2020 to a later date in 2020 to be determined once COVID-19 Event regulations have been lifted to allow community events to resume.”*

At its Ordinary Meeting on 12 May 2020, Council resolved to:

*“THAT the current gazetted public holiday of Thursday 11 June 2020 be kept to keep consistent with other Queensland regions.”*

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications to be considered.

**LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT**

Section 4 of the *Holidays Act 1983*, the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations appoints the holiday for the Rockhampton Region for the purpose of the Rockhampton Agricultural Show.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Outside the requirements of Section 4 of the *Holiday Act 1983* as noted in this report, there are no additional relevant legal implications for consideration.

**STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

Not applicable.

**CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

Corporate Plan – Section 2.1 “*A destination sought for lifestyle, community events and tourism*”.

**CONCLUSION**

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in line with a suggestion from the Queensland Premier, that for 2020 only, consideration be given to moving the Rockhampton Agricultural Show holiday from Thursday, 11 June 2020 to Friday, 14 August 2020 to make a long weekend and encourage tourism support.

**6 CLOSURE OF MEETING**