



MELTON CITY COUNCIL

**Notice is hereby given that a
Meeting of the Melton City Council
will be held via a videoconference
on 14 May 2020 at 7:00pm.**

**Kelvin Tori
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Mayor will call for any apologies received from any Councillors who are unable to attend this meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST, OTHER INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF ANY COUNCILLOR

Pursuant to Section 77A, 77B, 78A, 78B, 78C, 78D, 78E and 79 of the Local Government Act 1989, any Councillor must declare any direct or indirect interest, and any conflict of interest, in any items contained within the Notice Paper.

3. PRESENTATION OF STAFF REPORTS

3.1 COVID-19 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP MITIGATION MEASURES

Author: Kel Tori - Chief Executive Officer
Presenter: Kel Tori - Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To determine the Council's financial hardship mitigation measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

RECOMMENDATION:

No officer recommendation.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

At its advertised Meeting held Monday 11 May 2020, the Council resolved to hold a Meeting of Council on Thursday 14 May 2020 to consider financial hardship mitigation measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Officers have provided Councillors with all relevant financial and legal information in order for a decision to be made including but not limited to the report set out at Item 12.9 of the agenda for the 11 May 2020 Council Meeting, of copy of which is attached at **Appendix 1**. The legal advice obtained on this matter is also attached at **Appendix 2**.

2. Background/Issues

At its advertised Meeting held Monday 11 May 2020, Council considered at Item 15.5 Notice of Motion 689 (Cr Carli).

Notice of Motion 689 proposed as follows:

That Council:

- a) *Grant a waiver to residential owner occupiers pursuant to Section 171 of the Local Government Act 1989 based on general financial hardship resulting from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the objectives of:*
 - a. *stimulating the local economy;*
 - b. *easing the financial burden on owner occupier ratepayers during an unexpected period of severe financial downturn; and*
 - c. *assisting those residential owner occupier ratepayers to be able to meet their rates liability when amounts become due and payable.*
- b) *Apply the waiver, based on Council's records and without the need for any eligible rate payer to apply for such waiver, to the 4th quarter instalment of 2019/20 general rate, and*
- c) *Determine the waiver to be in the amount of \$100 per eligible rateable assessment.*

Cr Ramsey foreshadowed a Motion should this Notice of Motion be defeated.

Notice of Motion 689 was debated, then voted on and was Lost.

Cr Ramsey then moved the foreshadowed Motion (seconded Cr Mendes) as follows:

That Notice of Motion 689 (Cr Carli) be deferred to a meeting of Council to be held at 7:00pm on Thursday 14 May 2020 and that in the interim our Mayor convene a Councillor workshop at 7:00pm on Wednesday 13 May 2020 to explore all options.

This Motion was debated, then voted on and was Carried.

Officers have provided Councillors with all relevant financial and legal information in order for a decision to be made including but not limited to the report set out at Item 12.9 of the agenda for the 11 May 2020 Council Meeting, of copy of which is attached at **Appendix 1**. The legal advice obtained on this matter is also attached at **Appendix 2**.

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2017-2021 Council and Wellbeing Plan references:

1. A proud, inclusive and safe community: A City of people leading happy and healthy lives
 - 1.2 *A safe and equitable community.*

4. Financial Considerations

Financial considerations were set out in in Item 12.9 of the 11 May 2020 Council agenda at **Appendix 1**. These will be further explored at the Councillor workshop scheduled for 13 May 2020.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

There has been no direct public consultation on this issue.

All Consultation has been between Councillors and/or Councillors and staff.

A Councillor workshop is scheduled to occur on Wednesday 13 May 2020.

Councillors have been provided with various financial briefings by staff over the last few weeks as minuted and reflected in the Agenda of 11 May 2020.

6. Risk Analysis

The financial effects and risks to the Council, as an entity, will depend on the financial hardship mitigation measures Council resolves to put in place. Different financial scenarios and their effect must be considered, including the impact (if any) to existing and planned services and/or capital works.

The effects of any mitigation measures upon Council as an entity must then be balanced against the effects of any mitigation measures to Council as a local government area, that is, the effects upon the community. Financial measures may have the effect of stimulating the local economy, allowing residents to better survive and allowing residents to more easily meet their rates liability.

Highly dependent on the quantum and also the details as to entitlement/process of any mitigation measures, the reputational risks include being perceived as financially reckless, financially strategic or somewhere in between.

7. Options

To be determined.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Item 12.9 - Melton City Council COVID-19 Program Report - dated 11 May 2020
2. Email and Legal Advice - dated 24 April 2020 - **CONFIDENTIAL**

Designated as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 77(2)(c) and Section 89(2)(f) of the *Local Government Act* 1989.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

5. CLOSE OF BUSINESS