

## 5.12. PORT SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL - AMENDMENT TO RESOURCE AND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

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### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council resolves to:**

- 1. Approve the request to amend the Port Shorts Film Festival's current Resource and Performance Agreement to extend the expiry date by one (1) year from October 2021 to October 2022.**
- 2. Delegate authority under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise all matters in relation to the above agreement.**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Port Shorts Film Festival has submitted a request to amend their current Resource and Performance Agreement that began in 2019, to extend the expiry date by one year from October 2021 to October 2022. Each year the event attracts film makers and film enthusiasts from around the nation and internationally as part of the festivals appeal and purpose.

Due to the ongoing challenges and uncertainty surrounding the COVID 19 pandemic, organisers of the Port Shorts Film Festival have made the decision to cancel the event for this year, citing restricted border travel arrangements as being a main factor, with the two major tourist markets of N.S.W and Victoria having restricted access to Queensland.

### BACKGROUND

The Port Shorts Film Festival has been an iconic international film festival event for 20 years that highlights local, international and regional short films and incorporates classes and workshops for upcoming filmmakers in the area. The Port Shorts Film Festival attracts the best short films from local, regional and international film makers with more than \$15,000 in cash and prizes in various awards.

The Council has been a strong supporter of this nationally known and community focused event for many years. In 2020, Council increased its funding of the event to present a free screening, Port Shorts Best of the Fest, as part of a COVID 19 economic and social recovery strategy. Council partnered with Tourism Tropical North Queensland and Tourism Port Douglas Daintree to fund a 3-month screening of the 'Best of the Fest' on the digital media platform 10 play. As part of the 10 play campaign, a fifteen second advertisement promoting the Port Douglas Carnivale was viewed 101,127 times.

In 2019 the Council entered into a three year resource and performance agreement with the festival that saw the event move to Rex Smeal Park and assisted in the professional delivery of the event by funding a large digital screen and providing the use of Rex Smeal Park as in-kind assistance. The final year for the current agreement is 2021.

## COMMENT

An extension on the Resource and Performance Agreement by one (1) year from October 2021 to October 2022 will allow the Port Shorts Film Festival the financial stability to focus on delivering the event in 2022. It is anticipated domestic travel will have opened back up and the multiple issues around running events during a pandemic will have eased significantly.

## PROPOSAL

That Council resolves to:

1. Approve the request to amend the Port Shorts Film Festival's current Resource and Performance Agreement to extend the expiry date by one (1) year from October 2021 to October 2022.
2. Delegate authority under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise all matters in relation to the above agreement.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the extension for the Port Shorts Film Festival will be taken from the 2022 / 2023 operational budget with the acquittal process as outlined in the current resource and performance agreement.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

As this is a public event a full event management plan with permitted approval is required by council before proceeding. COVID 19 risk mitigation applies and Covid checklists will apply.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Economic:** Budgeted in the 2022/2023 Operational budget
- Environmental:** Port Shorts adheres to the plastic free policy and follows best practice for low environmental impact events.
- Social:** Port Shorts is well attended by local residents and is a popular and inclusive festival that celebrates film makers and provides opportunity for their artistic growth.

## CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

#### Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise that it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future. We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire.

We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

**Goal 4** - *We will promote arts and cultural programs and events that bring vibrancy to the community and compliment the tourist experience.*

## **COUNCIL'S ROLE**

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

**Funder** Council often partly funds services, events or community organisations through grants, donations, subsidies and in-kind support. Council will apply robust governance to ensure that such funding is fair and appropriate.

## **CONSULTATION**

**Internal:** Nil

**External:** Organisers of the Port Shorts Film Festival.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Nil

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil