

COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING 15 MAY 2015	3.1
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RESCHEDULE COMMENCEMENT TIME OF 26 MAY 2015 ORDINARY MEETING
Darryl Crees: General Manager Corporate Services #454617

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves to reschedule the commencement of the next Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on the 26 May 2016 from 10:00am to 11:00am, for the purpose of hosting the annual Sorry Day commemoration and flag raising service

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Each year on the 26 May Council hosts a community event to commemorate National Sorry Day. This event is to remember and commemorate the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were directly affected by Australian government's policies. These policies resulted in Indigenous children being separated, often forcibly, from their families and communities. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were subjected to this policy are known as the "Stolen Generations".

This year, Sorry Day coincides with the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for the same date.

BACKGROUND:

National Sorry Day was first held on May 26, 1998, one year after the tabling of the report "Bringing Them Home" which was an inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their Families.

A recommendation of the "Bringing Them Home" report suggested that a National Sorry Day be declared. Each year since, events have been held across Australia on or around May 26, to acknowledge the impact of the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

It has become an annual tradition that Council hosts a local commemorative Sorry Day service and flag raising ceremony on the 26 May; which is the same day as the scheduled Ordinary Council Meeting.

COMMENT:

Council has an ongoing commitment to acknowledge Sorry Day and to bring together the boarder Douglas communities to have a greater understanding and appreciation of the experiences of the stolen generations who live within local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

PROPOSAL:

It is proposed to reschedule the commencement of the next Ordinary Council Meeting from 10:00am to 11:00am. This will provide the opportunity for Councillors to attend with the local Indigenous and wider Douglas communities the Sorry Day event to be held prior to the Ordinary Council Meeting.

The change of time would allow Councillors to attend the Sorry Day service which would be hosted by Council in the portico and flag pole areas at the front of the Council Chambers and commences at 10:00am.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE:

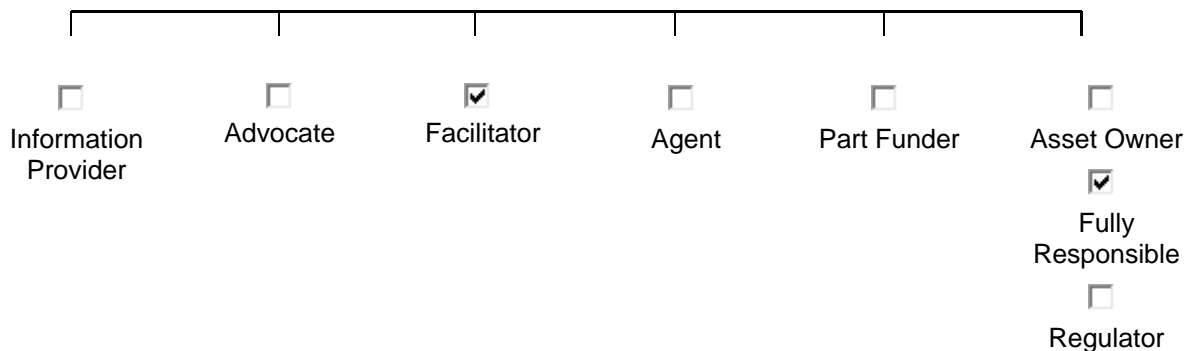
This report has been prepared in accordance with the Corporate Plan, Goal 1.1.4 which states:

Support and encourage a healthy, active and capable region through sporting, cultural and recreational opportunities, and community wellbeing initiatives.

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:



Fully Responsible: Funding the full cost of a program or activity.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There will be a small operational cost in advertising the alteration of the commencement time for the Ordinary Meeting 26 May 2015 however this cost will be covered in operational budget.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Amending the Council meeting time to allow all Councillors to attend Sorry Day Ceremony will reinforce Council’s reputation in supporting significant cultural events.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

ECONOMIC: Not Applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL: Not Applicable

SOCIAL: Strengthening and supporting reconciliation within the Douglas Shire.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:

Local Kuku Yalanji community – would like Council to continue the tradition of hosting the Sorry Day and flag raising commemorative service.

Senior Management supports the continuation of this important cultural event.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil