

5.5. MARCH COUNCIL MEETING CHANGE OF DATE

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DEPARTMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That Council amends the March Council Meeting dates as follows:

1. Meeting scheduled for the 3 March 2020 to be moved to 10 March 2020; and
2. Meeting scheduled for 24 March 2020 to be cancelled

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is a statutory requirement for Council to determine its meeting schedule annually in advance. While endeavors are made to ensure efficiency of operations, unplanned matters and events may emerge during the year. Therefore, to continue to optimize Council performance, it is necessary to amend meeting schedules when required.

The meeting schedule for the month of March 2020 has been revisited to ensure all operational matters can be fulfilled. Accordingly, it has been determined a variation to the published meetings dates is beneficial to achieve desired outcomes and this amendment is presented to Council for adoption.

The amended meeting schedule for March 2020 will conform to legislative requirements.

BACKGROUND

At Council's Ordinary Meeting held 19 February 2019, the schedule of Ordinary Council Meetings for the 2019/2020 financial year, until the quadrennial local government election 2020, was adopted in accordance with Section 257 (1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

COMMENT

As meetings are held every three weeks, there are two meetings scheduled for March 2020 – 3 March 2020 and 24 March 2020. All Local Government entities will be in the Caretaker Period in the month of March, with the quadrennial local government election being held on 28 March 2020.

Therefore, reducing the number of meetings to one in March, would be a far better use of council time and resources to continue business as usual during the caretaker period.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed to amend the Council Meeting Dates for March as indicated:

1. Meeting scheduled for the 3 March 2020 to be moved to 10 March 2020; and
2. Meeting scheduled for 24 March 2020 to be cancelled

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

As the number of meeting to be held has been reduced, there is no budgetary implications.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Change in meeting dates will be advertised through all usual mediums that Council utilises to convey information to the community.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

Theme 5 - Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery

Strong governance and financial management are the foundations of the way in which Council will conduct its business and implement the initiatives of the Corporate Plan.

Goal 1 - *We will conduct Council business in an open and transparent manner with strong oversight and open reporting.*

Operational Plan 2019-2020 Actions:

5.2.3 - *Implement continuous improvement program.*

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:

Regulator	Council has a number of statutory obligations detailed in numerous regulations and legislative Acts. Council also makes local laws to ensure that the Shire is well governed. In fulfilling its role as regulator, Council will utilise an outcomes based approach that balances the needs of the community with social and natural justice.
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CONSULTATION

Internal: Councillors and Management

External: Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Nil