

## **5.8. COVID-19 WAIVE CHARGES FOR BACKFLOW REGISTRATION AND FERRY FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 2020**

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**DEPARTMENT** Finance and Corporate Services

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Council resolve to endorse the proposed waiver of Backflow Registration charges for the period 1 April 2020 - 30 June 2020; and**
- 2. Council resolve to endorse the proposed waiver of Daintree Ferry charges for buses for the period 18 March 2020 – 30 June 2020; and**
- 3. Council resolve to endorse the proposed waiver of Daintree Ferry charges for all vehicles for the period 8 April – 30 June 2020; and**
- 4. Council resolve to extend Daintree Ferry Multi-Day passes to be valid until the 31 December 2020 (previously expired 30 June 2020); and**
- 5. Council delegates authority under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief executive Officer to administer the above relief provisions.**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council Officers wish to propose the waiver of Backflow Registration charges for April to June 2020. Council wishes to propose the waiver of Daintree Ferry charges for buses from 18 March 2020 and all other vehicles from 8 April 2020 to 30 June 2020. Council wishes to extend the Daintree Ferry Multi-Day passes to be valid until 31 December 2020 (previously expired 30 June 2020).

### **BACKGROUND**

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on many businesses and individuals in the Douglas Shire. Council wishes to offer various measures of relief to assist in supporting affected community members for the period up to 30 June 2020.

Further measures will be considered by Council during the preparation of the Budget for 2020/2021.

### **COMMENT**

The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Operating Result for 30 June 2020 is being tracked and forecast. This includes proposed relief measures and the impact on revenue and expenditure due to lockdown measures.

## PROPOSAL

That Council agree to:

1. waive the Backflow Registration charges for 1 April – 30 June 2020
2. waive the Daintree Ferry charges for buses from 18 March – 30 June 2020
3. waive the Daintree Ferry charges for all vehicles from 8 April 2020 - 30 June 2020
4. extend the Daintree Ferry Multi-Day passes to be valid until 31 December 2020 (previously expired 30 June 2020)
5. delegate authority under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to implement these relief provisions

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The estimated lost revenue attributable to waiving Backflow Registration charges is \$4.4k.

The estimated lost revenue to 30 June 2020, attributable to the waiving of Ferry charges combined with the reduction in passengers due to the restrictions on travel to the region is \$768k.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Covid-19 pandemic has and will continue to have a negative impact on Council Operating Results. The Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and Management Team will continue to monitor and manage financial and other risks as they are identified.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

**Economic:** The Covid-19 pandemic will have a negative impact on the economic sustainability of Douglas Shire Council and may impact sustainability ratios. This will be closely managed by Council and mitigated where possible.

**Environmental:** Nil

**Social:** Nil

## 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.*

**Goal 3** - *We will make sound financial decisions by ensuring robust strategic planning, financial management and reporting.*

**Goal 4** - *We will work with our communities to ensure they are informed, empowered and supported so that they are resilient to the impacts of disaster events. Through our leadership and capabilities we will plan, prepare, respond and recover from events so as to minimise the impact on people, property, the environment, and our economic stability.*

## **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:

**Advocate** Council makes representation on behalf of the community on important issues, funding opportunities, projects and programs. Council will use its influence to seek the best outcomes for the community.

**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.

## **CONSULTATION**

**Internal:** Chief Executive Officer, Management Team, Finance & Corporate Services Team.

**External:** Nil

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil