



**Minutes of Special Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 19 August 2020**

*Held in the Simeon Lord Room
Library / Museum Building
Redbank Street, Esk*

Present

Cr Graeme Lehmann	(Mayor)
Cr Helen Brieschke	(Deputy Mayor)
Cr Sean Choat	(Councillor)
Cr Cheryl Gaedtke	(Councillor)
Cr Kylee Isidro	(Councillor)
Cr Jason Wendt	(Councillor)
Cr Bob Whalley	(Councillor)
Mr A Johnson	(Chief Executive Officer)
Mr M McGoldrick	(Director Corporate and Community Services)
Mr L Hannan	(Director Planning and Development)
Mr G Smith	(Director Finance)
Mrs K Jones	(Director HR and Customer Service)
Mrs S Pitkin	(Minute Secretary / Executive Assistant)
Ms M Maeseele	(Communications and Marketing Manager)

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Opening of Meeting

The Mayor, Cr Graeme Lehmann, opened the meeting at 1.02 pm.

Leave of Absence

Nil

Conflict of Interest

No declarations of conflict of interest in the following agenda items were notified at this time.

Subject:	Queensland Bushfires Local Economic Recovery Program and Plans
File Ref:	Grants / programs / Local Economic Recovery Program
Action Officer:	DFIN

Background/Summary

On 13 May 2020, Council endorsed the Somerset Battleplan submission seeking project funding to respond to the economic impacts of bushfires and the COVID 19 pandemic on our community. The Battleplan process was coordinated through the Local Government Association of Queensland.

Both the Australian and Queensland Governments have responded to requests for assistance with various funding programs.

On 13 August 2020, the 2019 Queensland Bushfires Local Economic Recovery Program (LER) was announced (guidelines attached).

LER is a competitive funding program.

The selection criteria includes assessment of how LER funding submissions are aligned with local Recovery Plans, “builds future resilience” and “reduces future disaster risk”.

An amended local Recovery Plan for bushfire and COVID-19 is now recommended to take into account the funding opportunities of LER.

For example, an objective “Investigate, plan and progress improved evacuation and emergency services response routes via Council local roads that carry more than 2,000 vehicles per day and for urban areas with more than 500 people that have one point of road exit and entry in the event of an emergency” would support Council’s for widening and improving Lowood Minden Road.

Attachments

- Somerset Battleplan Submission
- 2019 Queensland Bushfires Local Economic Recovery Program guidelines attached
- Current adopted Bushfire Recovery Plan
- Current adopted Annex B to COVID 19 recovery action plan – (Economic Recovery and Human and Social Recovery)
- Proposed Somerset Recovery Plan - Bushfire and COVID-19

Recommendation

1. THAT the proposed Somerset Recovery Plan - Bushfire and COVID-19 be adopted.
2. THAT Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to lodge funding submissions under the 2019 Queensland Bushfires Local Economic Recovery Program including pledging Council co-contributions towards identified projects as required.

Decision:

Moved - Cr Whalley

Seconded - Cr Choat

1. THAT the proposed Somerset Recovery Plan - Bushfire and COVID-19 be adopted.
2. THAT Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to lodge funding submissions under the 2019 Queensland Bushfires Local Economic Recovery Program including pledging Council co-contributions towards identified projects as required."

Carried*Vote – Unanimous***Other Business**

Nil

Closure of Meeting**Summary**

There being no further business, the Mayor, Cr Graeme Lehmann closed the Special Council meeting at 1.50 pm.