

# ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 21 AUGUST 2019



## **14.2** STATUS OF COUNCIL DECISIONS: 1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2019; AND QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE RECORDED BY COUNCIL SINCE OCTOBER 2016

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** KYLIE BENNETTS, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE CEO

**PREPARED BY:** REBECCA PURVIS, GOVERNANCE OFFICER

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### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide Councillors with an update on the status of all Resolutions passed by Council at Council and Planning Committee Meetings between 1 April and 30 June 2019, and the status of actions that were previously reported as outstanding in the last quarterly status report.
- 1.2 To provide Council with an update on the status of Questions Taken on Notice during Council Meetings since October 2016, being all meetings of the current Council term, to 30 June 2019.

### **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **2.1 Council Resolutions**

- 2.1.1 The implementation status of Council Resolutions is a vital measure of Council's performance. This process may also assist reporting for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.
- 2.1.2 A total of 63 decisions have been made by Council, in Council and Planning Committee meetings open to members of the public, since 1 April 2019. Of these, 7 decisions remain open/outstanding.
- 2.1.3 A further 5 decisions have been made in Council and Planning Committee meetings closed to members of the public. Of these, there are no confidential actions remaining open.
- 2.1.4 Decisions that were outstanding prior to 1 April 2019 are included in this report. Of these, 11 remain open/outstanding and 2 have been completed.
- 2.1.5 This report is a report in time and is representative of decisions made by Council in the period 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019.

#### **2.2 Questions taken on notice**

- 2.2.1 At each meeting, provision is made at the beginning for members of the public and for Councillors to ask general question/s. Questions relating to a topic on the agenda are not permitted during this time but can be asked prior to the discussion of that item. When a question is unable to be responded to at the time, it is taken 'on notice' for a response to be provided.
- 2.2.2 The response status of Questions taken on Notice during Council meetings is a measure of Council's commitment to open and transparent decision making, and its engagement and communication with the community.



- 2.2.3 A total of 143 questions have been taken on notice during the current Council term, in Council and Committee meetings open to members of the public. A copy of the response to each of these questions has been made available on the website. There are no outstanding questions on notice.
- 2.2.4 This report is a report in time and is representative of responses undertaken through until 30 June 2019. This is the first time the status of Questions taken on notice at meetings has been reported to Council, and this will now become a regular report which is provided to Council on a quarterly basis.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the implementation status of Council and Planning Committee Resolutions as contained in Attachments 1 - 3.
- 3.2 Notes the response status of questions taken on notice during Council Meetings since October 2016, being all meetings of the current Council term to 30 June 2019, as contained in Attachment 4.

### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Accountability is a fundamental requirement of good governance. Council has an obligation to report, explain and be answerable for the consequences of decisions it has made on behalf of the community.
- 4.2 Reporting on the progress of the implementation of Council resolutions provides Council with the information it needs to demonstrate its accountability to the community.
- 4.3 Decisions of Council should be implemented in an effective, timely, appropriate and responsive manner that makes the best use of the available people, resources and time to ensure the best possible results.

#### 4.4 Council Resolutions

- 4.4.1 A resolution made by Council is when an officer recommendation or a Councillor's motion is adopted at a Council Meeting or Planning Committee (i.e. a decision has been made). Once a decision on a recommendation has been made, it turns into a resolution. These resolutions are tracked through an internal system.
- 4.4.2 Attachments 1-3 of this report includes a summary of the actions taken to implement resolutions where required, or confirmation that Council has noted items where appropriate. The summary of actions has been compiled and divided into three (3) categories:
- Status of Resolutions made at Council Meetings – Outstanding
  - Status of Resolutions made at Council Meetings – Completed
  - Status of Resolutions made at Planning Committee Meetings - Completed
- 4.4.3 The Status of Resolutions documents include resolution of officer's reports, notices of motion, petitions and joint letters, and items of urgent business.



Resolution of procedural motions (i.e. attendances and apologies, closing the meeting to discuss confidential items) have not been included.

4.4.4 Some of the reasons that resolutions have not been fully implemented may relate to consultation processes being undertaken, awaiting legal advice, or waiting for documents to be executed.

4.4.5 Where it is expected that a resolution may take a longer time to fully implement, the expected completion date has been extended.

#### **4.5 Questions taken on notice**

4.5.1 At each meeting, provision is made at the beginning for members of the public and for Councillors to ask general question/s. Questions relating to a topic on the agenda are not permitted during this time but can be asked prior to the discussion of that item. When a question is unable to be responded to at the time, it is taken 'on notice' for a response to be provided.

4.5.2 Attachment 4 of this report includes a summary of question asked and a link to where the response to that question has been published on Council's website.

4.5.3 Only questions taken on notice are captured through this report. It is not practicable to record questions asked during a meeting outside of public and councillor question time (i.e. during the presentation of reports), and therefore it is difficult to establish the percentage of questions that are responded to by officers at the meeting. Whilst 143 questions were taken on notice during the current Council term, the total number of questions asked – while unable to be determined, is a significantly higher number.

### **5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

This report provides Council and the community with an update on the implementation of outcomes of council decisions.

### **6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

If decision-making is open and able to be followed by observers, it is more likely that all relevant legal requirements will be complied with.

### **7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There are no financial impacts arising from this report.

### **8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

### **9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

9.1 Making decisions and having to account for them in an open and transparent way encourages honest consideration of issues by Councillors, and promotes community confidence in the decision-making process.

9.2 Members of the community should be able to follow and understand the decision-making process. This means that they will be able to clearly see where a decision was made, and how this decision was implemented.



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### **10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

- 10.1 Reporting on the progress of council resolutions delivers on Direction 6 of the Council Plan (Our Commitment to You), by providing a transparent and good governance approach to decision making.
- 10.2 Good decision-making processes helps people feel that Council will act in the community's overall interest. It also encourages Councils to remember that they are acting on behalf of their community and helps them to understand the importance of having open and ethical processes which adhere to the law and stand up to scrutiny.

### **11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

#### 11.1 TIMELINE

Council receives ongoing reporting on the status of implementation of Council Decisions, and questions taken on notice at Council Meetings, on a quarterly basis.

### **12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

**TRIM FILE NO:** 18/01/95

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Status of decisions made at Ordinary Council Meetings 1.4.19 - 30.6.19 - Outstanding
2. Status of decisions made at Ordinary Council Meetings 1.4.19 - 30.6.19 - Completed
3. Status of decisions made at Planning Committee 1.4.19 - 30.6.19 - Completed
4. Questions Taken on Notice - Current Council Term