



AGENDA

Extra Ordinary Meeting of Council
To be held 6 April 2020 at 7pm
via Video Conference

Postponed Ordinary Meeting of Council
Monday 23 March 2020

8.4.2. FIN - 23/03/2020 - Establishment of Mayoral Relief Fund

Report by {position}

Reference

Min. No. 20-3 Extraordinary Meeting of Council 13 January 2020.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the progress of an application to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to establish a Mayoral Relief Fund with deductible gift recipient status. The report also proposes fund rules to support the application.

Commentary

At the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 13 January 2020 Council resolved:

20-3 RESOLVED

8. That the General Manger enact the following current council resolution 15-330 adopted at the 14th December 2015 Council Meeting:

“Establish a relief fund to attract public donations for the support of the community during declared natural disasters only and as each event occurs, seek Deductible Gift Recipient Status for the fund from the Australian Taxation Office.”

Council has applied to establish a “*public fund for persons in necessitous circumstances*”. The fund would be set up as a perpetual Mayoral Relief Fund to enable the Council to be more responsive and to be able to offer direct support to community members when State declared natural disasters occur.

Endorsement of the Fund’s Deductible Gift Recipient status will allow the Council to receive tax deductible donations to help community members facing financial hardship as a result of any future State declared natural disasters and be more proactive in helping affected residents.

Proposed Fund Rules

The proposed fund rules state that the fund will:

- Accept donations from members of the public, with the sole aim of providing funding to assist residents who are in financial necessity, as a result of a State declared natural disaster.
- Provide a “one stop shop” where members of the general public can donate money to assist local residents affected by State declared natural disasters.
- Allocate 100% of funds received directly to those residents adversely affected by a State Declared Natural Disaster.
- Operate for a period of up to two years for any single natural disaster or sequence of disasters.

The governance structure of the Lithgow Mayoral Relief Fund Advisory Committee will include two highly prominent local citizens and the General Manager. Following a State Declared Natural Disaster, the General Manager and Mayor will convene a Committee to determine if the fund is activated,

Next Steps

To progress the Deductible Gift Recipient fund application, the ATO requires:

- A copy of the fund rules document, executed by the Mayor and General Manager.
- A copy of the meeting minute approving the rules
- A copy of the Mayoral Relief Fund financial assistance application form.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

- Budget approved - N/A
- Cost centre - N/A
- Expended to date - N/A
- Future potential impact – N/A

Legal Implications

Nil.

Attachments

1. Necessitous Circumstances Fund - Public Fund Rules draft version March 2020 [8.4.2.1 - 3 pages]

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the progress of the application to the Australian Taxation Office to establish a Mayoral Relief Fund with deductible gift recipient status.
2. Approve the public fund rules included as an attachment to this report.