

# **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**General Meeting - 535**

**4 August 2021**

## LIST OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

for consideration within the respective session of the General Meeting

<b>10. OFFICERS' REPORTS TO COUNCIL (conducted in Sessions) cont'd</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>(as referred by the Chief Executive Officer)</i>	
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ADDITIONAL COVID SUPPORT MEASURES	
REPORT DETAIL	

## 10. OFFICERS' REPORTS TO COUNCIL (conducted in Sessions) cont'd

*(as referred by the Chief Executive Officer)*

Consideration of officers' reports as referred by the Chief Executive Officer, to be conducted in Sessions.

The appointed Portfolio Councillor will facilitate the conduct of the respective session under the control of the Mayor as the Presiding Officer.

Session	Portfolio Councillor	Deputy Portfolio Councillor
<b>1 Governance &amp; Engagement</b>	Cr P Flannery (Mayor)	Cr D Sims (Deputy Mayor)
<b>2 Infrastructure Planning</b>	Cr A Hain	C T Latter
<b>3 Engineering, Construction &amp; Maintenance</b>	Cr B Savige	Cr C Tonks
<b>4 Planning</b>	Cr D Grimwade	Cr K Winchester / Cr M Booth
<b>5 Community &amp; Environmental Services</b>	Cr M Gillam	Cr S Ruck
<b>6 Finance &amp; Corporate Services</b>	Cr M Constance	Cr J Shipway

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**6 FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES SESSION**

**(Cr M Constance)**

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**ITEM 6.2**  
**ADDITIONAL COVID SUPPORT MEASURES**

*Meeting / Session:* 6 FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES  
*Reference:* 62576850 : 2 August 2021  
*Responsible Officer:* JL, Financial Operations Manager (FCS Financial Operations)

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**Executive Summary**

The State Government has responded to an outbreak of the highly contagious Delta variant of COVID-19 in the community by declaring a “lockdown” on 11 south east Queensland local government areas.

Assistance measures for the community and local business have already been announced by the Federal and State Governments. This report examines and recommends opportunities for Moreton Bay Regional Council to provide assistance to the community in response to the current lockdown.

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council endorses the support measures as outlined in this report in order to provide relief to residents, community organisations and local businesses within the Moreton Bay Region experiencing financial hardship due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), and to help stimulate the local economy in the region.
2. That Council is satisfied that during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the hard lockdown affecting the Moreton Bay Region in July and August 2021, the payment of rates or charges will cause hardship to landowners and that by granting the following concession it will encourage the economic development of the area.
3. That Council grants a rates concession under section 121(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld):
  - a) to any ratepayers required to pay rates on property in the Moreton Bay Regional Council area; and
  - b) amend the due date for rates payment to be 15 September 2021.
4. That pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld), Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the right to:
  - a) determine a ratepayer's eligibility for the concession under section 120(c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld);
  - b) enter into repayment plans with eligible ratepayers; and
  - c) determine the form of the Repayment Plan Agreement.
5. That consistent with the period of the rates concession above, Council suspend rates collection activities to 15 September 2021.
6. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to take all action reasonably required to give effect to implementing and administering these support measures.

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*ITEM 6.2 ADDITIONAL COVID SUPPORT MEASURES - 62576850 (Cont.)*

## **REPORT DETAIL**

### **1. Background**

South East Queensland is currently experiencing an outbreak of the highly contagious Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. In response to this outbreak, the State Government has imposed a lockdown on 11 local government areas in the south east corner, including Moreton Bay Regional Council from 4pm on Saturday 31 July 2021.

The lockdown was originally anticipated to last three days, however following an increase in case numbers and exposure sites in the community, the State Government has further extended the lockdown period until 4pm on Sunday 8 August 2021, with further extensions possible.

The lockdown has a significant effect on the local business community who, in many cases, are unable to operate during the lockdown period. It also has a significant impact on employees of the local businesses who are unable to work and as a result will experience a reduction in their income. Both the State and Federal Governments have announced relief measures for impacted individuals and businesses.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic in early 2020, Moreton Bay Regional Council has supported the community and local businesses through a raft of assistance measures and targeted projects to stimulate the local economy totalling over \$55 million. Council acted swiftly to ensure immediate support to the community from as early as March 2020 activating most of the levers available to local governments.

These measures include:

- providing \$7 million in Community Infrastructure Revitalisation and Community Hardship and Assistance Grants;
- rates rebates;
- Food Licence refunds (two financial years);
- suspension of rate collection activities and an introduction of an interest free period;
- deferred payment of infrastructure charges for development projects;
- the introduction of a Local Preference Objective in our Procurement policy;
- fast tracking \$4 million in additional contracted maintenance works;
- recruitment of Council staff providing employment opportunities; and
- fast tracking of payments to suppliers to assist businesses manage cashflow impacts (two payments weekly for the last 18 months upon approval of invoice).

In addition to the measures above, Council received almost \$60 million in State (\$39.3 million) and Federal (\$20.7 million) Government Stimulus grants. Council has invested an additional \$43 million to bring the total infrastructure spend to almost \$105 million. This has enabled Council to fast-track 146 capital projects throughout the region. These projects are estimated to have created nearly 1,600 jobs.

As the current COVID-19 lockdown continues to evolve, it is recommended Council once again look to how it can support the local community. The measures outlined above are a quick response to impacts right across the community and go some way to helping families and businesses manage their cashflow at this time.

### **2. Explanation of Item**

In response to the current lockdown, it is recommended that Council consider the following assistance measures:

1. Defer the due date for the 1 July to 30 September 2021 rates notice by four weeks. The current due date is 18 August 2021 and the deferred due date is proposed to be 15 September 2021.
2. Continue the fast tracking of payments to suppliers until 1 October 2021.
3. Defer the due date for the payment of the renewal of Food Licences until 3 January 2021.

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ITEM 6.2 ADDITIONAL COVID SUPPORT MEASURES - 62576850 (Cont.)

**3. Strategic Implications**

**3.1 Legislative / Legal Implications**

The support measures outlined in this report are able to be implemented in accordance with provisions in the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**3.2 Corporate Plan / Operational Plan**

Strengthening Communities: Strong local governance - strong leadership and governance.

**3.3 Policy Implications**

All policies have been complied with in developing the recommendations for Council's consideration.

**3.4 Risk Management Implications**

The primary risk is reputational due to the potential for the community to hold differing views on the proposed support measures. This will be managed through community messaging.

**3.5 Delegated Authority Implications**

☒ Nil identified

**3.6 Financial Implications**

The above measures will have the following financial implications:

- Prolonging the receipt of rates payments and food licences as well as the fast tracking payments to suppliers will impact cash flow, however the effect on investment interest earnings from this delay will be negligible.
- Delaying the due date will also delay the date in which rates and charges are considered overdue. This will delay the commencement of penalty interest charges on overdue rates relating to this quarter. The effect penalty interest earnings is not expected to be significant.

**3.7 Economic Benefit Implications**

These measures will reduce the immediate burden on businesses and individuals suffering financial loss as a result of the lockdown and provide them with additional short term cashflow to be able to sustain and recover from the lockdown.

**3.8 Environmental Implications**

☒ Nil identified

**3.9 Social Implications**

☒ Nil identified

**3.10 Human Rights Implications**

Under the Human Rights Act 2019 (QLD), Council must not make a decision which is incompatible with human rights. Council must also give proper consideration to any human rights relevant to its decision. Officers consider that there are no human right implications relevant to Council's decision in this matter.

**3.11 Consultation / Communication**

Chief Executive Office and Executive Leadership Team  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Director Finance and Corporate Services  
Financial Operations Manager