



# Post Election Meeting

TRC Community Education and  
Disaster Coordination Centre  
15 Vernon Street, Atherton  
Thursday, 20 April 2020  
at 9:30am

## MINUTES

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### 1. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

**Members Present:** Cr R Marti (Mayor), Crs K Cardew, A Haydon, D Clifton, D Bilney, P Hodge and B Wilce.

### OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

J Commons (Chief Executive Officer), H Jackson (General Manager Organisational Services), M Vis (General Manager Infrastructure Services), B Owen (General Manager Community, Planning and Environment), T Vallance (Strategic Communication Advisor), N van Beuningen, A Loudon and J Hunter (Minute Secretary).

### 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the following Acknowledgement of Country: *'I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land we are meeting on and pay respect to their Elders both past, present and emerging.'*



### 3. WELCOME BY MAYOR

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's only every four years that the community gets a say in the leadership team of its Council. On this occasion the community has voted for a mix, with two incumbent councillors returned and five new councillors added. This is a good blend. Cr Haydon and Cr Bilney bring their experience and corporate knowledge of Council while the new councillors bring fresh ideas, energy and a desire for reform.

I'll take this opportunity to congratulate all councillors on their election to public office. It's no mean feat running a campaign, putting it all out there and ultimately having the community select you to represent them. And I look forward to working with every one of you. The task ahead for this Council is like no other before it. Our community, across the board, is faced with challenges and hardship that no one saw coming. The weeks and months ahead will be unprecedented and as a community we'll need to adhere to the health advice and protocols to ensure the best outcome. As individuals, we must ensure we make extra effort to check on those people we know who may be more dependent, more vulnerable, or involuntarily isolated. For Council, it will need to be fully attuned to the hardship and be agile and responsible in its undertakings. Above all, Council will do all it reasonably can to keep people safe and contend with hardship.

Notwithstanding the challenges of Corona, Council itself does have to contend with some serious issues. The relationship between Council and community is strained and with the new Council comes an opportunity for re-building. This Council will work hard on being more open, more accessible and with well-governed community groups seek to build strategic partnerships in the public interest.

Within Council, there will be a significant effort to deal with a workplace culture that is not serving the community or the organisation well. Council must realign to a 'we are here to help' attitude in all that it does. This is what a service organisation is about and Council is community's preeminent service organisation. Council's MO and attitude must meet community's minimum expectation. At the same time, I'd like to acknowledge the dedicated, often anonymous and thankless work that the great majority of staff deliver daily, despite the culture. Your dedication will continue to be greatly appreciated.

The relationship between councillors and senior officers is also in need of reform. Councillors are elected to make decisions and be responsible for those decisions. The Belcarra reforms do provide important protections and checks and balances, however they are not a free ticket for Council operations to run unchecked. The role of those elected is the only tangible link the community has to the deliberations and decisions of Council. If the need arises, this Council will not hesitate to venture into areas that may have been considered operational. And it is not the intention to become operational, rather it is to re-position those elected to be better informed and closer to decisions, and thereby more accountable to ratepayers.

I suggest that this elected Council's intention is to be seen as sober, fair, equitable, and reformist. When considering the upcoming budget, it will look at ways to reduce costs across the board. Rates and charges, for many, have become out of reach and this is now exacerbated by Corona. There is much work to do and hard decisions will need to be made.

In wrapping up, can I suggest the Tablelands is a unique and privileged part of Australia highlighted by our recent looking-on status as much of the country burned, and now our relative isolation as Corona rumbles along. And our primarily agricultural economy is now more important than ever as our farmers, unlike operators in many other commercial sectors, continue to go about



**ITEM-4.3**

**COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

Moved by Cr Hodge

Seconded by Cr Bilney

"That Council:

1. Hold its Ordinary Meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month commencing at 9.00am, except for the April 2020 meeting which is to be held on 30 April, 2020.
2. Conduct the Ordinary Council Meetings in/from the CEDCC, 15 Vernon Street, Atherton.
3. Publish the dates of the ordinary meetings of Council as required by the Local Government legislation.
4. Advise the public that it is not practicable for the public to attend Council Meetings in person because of health and safety reasons associated with the public health emergency involving COVID-19.
5. Advise the public that Council Meeting will be made available for real-time and webcast viewing and/or listening by the public on Council's website.
6. Schedule informal workshops to be held in the CEDCC on the following days of each month, for the period April – June 2020:-
  - a. the second Wednesday
  - b. the second Thursday
  - c. the fourth Wednesday, and
  - d. the fourth Thursday (following conclusion of Council Meeting).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEM-4.4**

**LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP - APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR & DEPUTY CHAIR**

Moved by Cr Clifton

Seconded by Cr Cardew

"That Council:

1. Appoint the Cr Wilce as Chairperson of Local Disaster Management Group;
2. Appoint Cr Marti as Deputy Chairperson of the Local Disaster Management Group;

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



## 18. NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL

The next Ordinary meeting of Council will be held at Atherton  
9:00 am on Thursday 30 April 2020

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.32am.

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Cr Rod Marti  
Mayor

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Justin Commons  
Chief Executive Officer