



SPECIAL MEETING

AGENDA

29 MAY 2020

Your attendance is required at a Special meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 4 Lagoon Place, Yeppoon on 29 May 2020 commencing at 3.30pm for transaction of the enclosed business.

Brett Bacon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
29 May 2020

Next Meeting Date: 16.06.20

Please note:

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, please be advised that all discussion held during the meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

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1 OPENING

Acknowledgement of Country

"I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully acknowledge the Darumbal People. The traditional custodians and elders past, present and emerging of the land on which this meeting is taking place today."

2 ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Mayor, Councillor Andrew Ireland (Chairperson)
Councillor Nigel Hutton
Councillor Adam Belot
Councillor Pat Eastwood
Councillor Glenda Mather
Councillor Tanya Lynch
Councillor Andrea Friend

Officers in Attendance:

Mr Brett Bacon – Acting Chief Executive Officer
Mr Dave Mazzaferri – Acting Executive Director Liveability and Wellbeing
Mr Scott Casey – Acting Executive Director Infrastructure
Mrs Andrea Ellis – Chief Financial Officer
Mr Matthew Willcocks - Chief Technology Officer
Mrs Belinda Housman – Acting Chief Human Resources Officer

3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE / APOLOGIES

Nil

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

5 PUBLIC FORUMS/DEPUTATIONS

Nil

6 BUSINESS ARISING OR OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil

7 PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Nil

8 MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

9 COUNCILLOR/DELEGATE REPORTS

Nil

10 AUDIT, RISK AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

11 REPORTS

11.1 LIVINGSTONE SHIRE COUNCIL SHOW HOLIDAY

File No:	GR14.4.1
Attachments:	Nil
Responsible Officer:	Trish Weir - Manager Customer Engagement & Communications Brett Bacon - Acting Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Meegan Armstrong - Coordinator Engagement and Events

SUMMARY

Livingstone Shire Council applied and received approval to have a special holiday for the Rockhampton Show on the 12 June 2020. Due to COVID19 restrictions the Rockhampton Show has been cancelled, however, the gazetted special holiday is still currently approved by the Minister, allowing the Livingstone Shire Council area to have a public holiday.

Council has received a request for a Special Council Meeting, in accordance with section 2.3.1(b) of Council's Meeting Procedures Policy, to consider repealing the holiday currently scheduled for 12 June 2020 and applying for a special holiday on 14 August 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

FOR Council decision

BACKGROUND

Livingstone Shire Council has been approved a gazette special holiday on Friday 12 June 2020, for the Rockhampton Annual Agricultural Show. Due to COVID19 the Rockhampton Show has been cancelled. Initial discussions with the Office of Industrial relations was that the gazetted special holidays would remain in place for agricultural shows unless local councils opted to repeal the day.

If council wishes to repeal the gazetted day of 12 June, it would need to write to the Minister to have it officially repealed. If council wishes to apply for a new date later in the year, it would have to also write to the Minister requesting a new special holiday. Advice from the Minister's Office is that there is no guarantee of approval.

Numerous enquiries were made to council's customer service centre regarding the holiday date and verbal confirmation was provided that the show holiday date would remain on Friday 12 June 2020. Many of these enquiries were from schools.

COMMENTARY

After receiving feedback from some members of the community and the tourism sector, Councillors asked officers to provide the process for moving the show holiday date from the 12 June 2020 to another date later in the year. By moving it to later in the year, the Stage Three COVID19 restrictions would be in place allowing tourist operators to be 'open for business'.

The Premier announced that the Ekka Show holiday for the Brisbane City Council area would be moved to Friday 14 August 2020, from Wednesday 12 August 2020, for this year only to provide a long weekend for the region and supporting tourist operators in the hope that it would help the local economy. The following advise has been received from the State:

Further to our telephone conversation yesterday, I wish to confirm the process by which special holidays are appointed is mandated by Section 4 of the Holidays Act 1983. Those provisions empower the responsible Minister (i.e. Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) to appoint a special holiday throughout the State or in a specific district. A holiday shall not be appointed in

respect of a district unless the Minister has, by a date specified, received a notice from the local government for the area in which the district is situated signed by the chief executive officer of that local government requesting that the holiday be appointed. The day appointed may be the date requested or another date as the Minister thinks fit. The appointment of special holidays is required to be published in the Queensland Government Gazette.

The repeal of an appointed show holiday must be done in the same way and subject to the same conditions as applied to the original decision to make the appointment. (i.e. by request from CEO)

A postponed show holiday will only have the status of a public holiday if it is “in respect of an annual agricultural, horticultural or industrial show”.

As you are aware, the Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has announced that, for this year only, People’s Day for the Royal Queensland Show (the Ekka) will become the People’s Long Weekend in 2020 moving from Wednesday 12 August to Friday 14 August.

This change will be made through legislative amendment and will be in place for the Brisbane City Council area.

A number of other regional shows have also been cancelled due to the restrictions arising from the COVID-19 health pandemic and it is proposed that the change to the holiday on Friday 14 August be open to any council wishing to change their nominated show holiday (to be Friday 14 August 2020). No other dates will be considered under these arrangements.

Should Council wish to take advantage of this opportunity, I would recommend a request be made by the Chief Executive Officer to repeal the existing date and have Friday 14 August 2020 appointed as a public holiday for the Livingstone Shire. Please note that as the existing show/public holiday is 12 June 2020, a repeal request would need to be received in this office as a matter of urgency to allow the Minister time to consider and advise of her decision by 2 June so that the repeal may be published in the gazette on 5 June.

Councils may wish to retain their existing show holiday. In this case no further advice is required and the existing arrangements as gazetted will remain.

Further advice was obtained from the State with regards to a timeline to get a repeal request to the office and this was confirmed as Friday 29 May 2020. Council then embarked upon a community consultation strategy to gauge the community’s feedback on changing the show date from Friday 12 June 2020 to Friday 14 August 2020. The following channels were used for the consultation:

- 1) Facebook Poll;
- 2) Poll on our Get Involved platform to business;
- 3) Phone conversations with all schools and day care centres in our Shire.

Results from each of these channels are:

Facebook Poll

Number of Voters:

No – 580

Yes - 1100



Local Business Poll on Get Involved Platform



The feedback from the community and local business is in favour of the show date of the 12 June 2020 being repealed and replaced with 14 August 2020.

The reasoning behind applying for a new special holiday on the 14 August 2020 is beneficial to the Tourism operators and the restaurant industry within the region. Capricorn Enterprise has provided the following argument in support of moving the public holiday:

*If the show holiday was to move to the 14th August which allows our local/regional residents to take a long weekend (2 to 3 nights) at the coast, I believe this **would generate between \$190,000 and \$225,000 to the local economy and be sincerely welcomed by industry.***

When providing this financial estimate, I have considered the following:

Stage 3 of the current Roadmap which will be implemented on 10th July (subject to the state government's further planning and review), will allow intrastate visitors (i.e. within all of Queensland) and possibly interstate to travel.

*However, whilst we will receive some bookings from within Queensland, the competition from other destinations within the state and indeed other states for the domestic spend will be fierce, which means our **reliance upon the local and regional market is even more important than ever before.***

We are already proactively marketing to our local and regional market to book now and holiday soon, however the occupancy rates will not reach the winter peak to which we are accustomed, as our interstate market is largely lost to us this entire winter season, not to mention the international market will not resume for at least another year. We would normally operate at 90% occupancy during the June/July school holidays in ALL accommodation types, with high occupancies throughout winter (from June to Sep/Oct), particularly in our holiday village/caravan parks. *(60_A <https://youtu.be/39PkYwKI9AM> 60_B <https://youtu.be/Mq8mp56b5UU>)*

*I believe our rooms/villas/units will have greater chance of receiving bookings than our caravan/tent sites, so my educated guess is that the conservative economic impact for a long weekend in August, predominantly relying on a local/regional market will be between **\$190,000 and \$225,000.***

*This figure is based on a **conservative occupancy rate of between 50% and 70% in 609 rooms/villas, an average spend per night of \$137 and average spend per visitor of \$530** (the official TRA Domestic spend statistics).*

In the interests of balance, there are some counter considerations to contemplate before making the decision.

- 1) a large proportion of the shire's residents work in Rockhampton and their public holiday will remain 11 June 2020;
- 2) there is no guarantee that Stage 3 restrictions will be lifted by the 14 August 2020;
- 3) when Stage Three restrictions do lift, this will allow residents to travel outside of the region, so those who do have the holiday may choose to enjoy the long weekend outside the region (defeating the purpose of moving the holiday);
- 4) business will need to budget for an extra public holiday in the 2020/21 financial year with a show holiday on the 14 August 2020 and possibly another on the 11 June 2021 and
- 5) due to the timeframes for submitting a request to repeal the 12 June 2020 date, the Minister may reject the request.

Council has two principal options available which it can consider, namely:

Option One

Retain the current gazetted special holiday of 12 June 2020. This option does not require Council to adopt any resolution, as the day is already gazetted.

Option Two

Adopt the following resolution:

That Council resolve to:

1. request the Queensland Government to repeal the gazetted special holiday of 12 June 2020; and
2. pursuant to section 4 of the *Holidays Act 1983* to request the Queensland Government to appoint a special holiday for Livingstone Shire for 14 August 2020.

The implications of each has been touched upon previously within this report, so will not be repeated.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council has not formally considered this matter, however in a general discussion on 11 May 2020, it was indicated that the show holiday be retained for Friday 12 June 2020. It was requested that a marketing campaign be created to encourage locals to stay, shop and play locally over the weekend. This campaign began the week of the 18 May 2020.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

At this stage there are no budget implications unless a marketing campaign is required outside of free media channels.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The process by which special holidays are appointed is mandated by section four (4) of the *Holidays Act 1983*. These provisions empower the responsible Minister (id est, Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) to appoint a special holiday throughout the State or in a specific district. A holiday shall not be appointed in respect of a district unless the Minister has, by a date specified, received a notice from the local government for the area in which the district is situated, signed by the chief executive officer of that local government requesting that the holiday be appointed. The day appointed may be the date requested or another date as the Minister thinks fit. The appointment of special holidays is required to be published in the Queensland Government Gazette.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications regarding this report.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

There are no staffing implications regarding this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There is the potential for Livingstone Shire Council that it repeals the special holiday on the 12 June 2020 and the Minister does not approve the special holiday on 14 August 2020, leaving the shire without a show holiday for the 2020 year. That is considered unlikely.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The Livingstone Shire Council Show Holiday aligns with Council's EC1 Strategy; identify and capitalise on economic opportunities for the benefit of the community.

- (a) *Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest; and*
- (b) *Sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services; and*
- (c) *Democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement; and*
- (d) *Good governance of, and by, local government; and*
- (e) *Ethical and legal behaviour of councillors and local government employees.*

CONCLUSION

Council has received a request for a Special Council Meeting, in accordance with section 2.3.1(b) of Council's *Meeting Procedures Policy*, to consider repealing the holiday currently scheduled for 12 June 2020 and applying for a special holiday on 14 August 2020. This report provides the guidance for Councillors to settle upon a position.

12 QUESTIONS/STATEMENT/MOTIONS ON NOTICE FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil

13 URGENT BUSINESS/QUESTIONS

Urgent Business is a provision in the Agenda for members to raise questions or matters of a genuinely urgent or emergent nature, that are not a change to Council Policy and can not be delayed until the next scheduled Council or Committee Meeting

14 CLOSURE OF MEETING