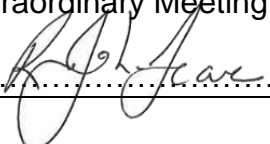


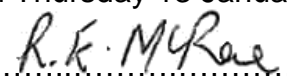
**REPORTS TO MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
TO BE HELD THURSDAY 13 JANUARY 2022**

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Extraordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Thursday 13 January 2022

..... General Manager

..... Mayor

RECORDING & WEBCASTING OF MEETING

In the spirit of open, accessible and transparent Government, and to ensure this meeting is open to the public, this Council meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to the Murrumbidgee Council facebook page. A recording will also be placed on Council's website following the meeting.

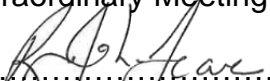
Murrumbidgee Council accepts no liability for any defamatory, discriminatory or offensive remarks or gestures that are made during the course of the Council Meeting. Opinions expressed or statements made by individuals are the opinions or statements of those individuals and do not imply any form of endorsement by Murrumbidgee Council.

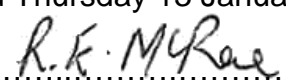
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Any recording or webcast is not, and shall not, be taken to be an official record of Murrumbidgee Council meetings or discussion depicted therein. Only the official Minutes may be relied upon as an official record of the meeting.

This is page 2 of 5 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Extraordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Thursday 13 January 2022

..... General Manager

..... Mayor

OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

ITEM NO. 1 – AUSTRALIA DAY CEREMONY

Council Meeting:	13 January 2022
Report Date:	12 January 2022
Author:	General Manager
File #:	SC5/SC457
Approval:	General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COVID 19 cases have exponentially grown within our communities since Christmas/ New Year, with other social gatherings as early as last week becoming a super spreader of the virus.

Council postponed induction training because of the risk associated with same.

The Australia Day Committee in Jerilderie cancelled the public celebrations at the lake, so as not to encourage another super spreader event.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

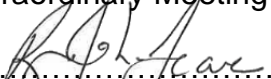
- a) **Council suspend all ceremony and gatherings associated with the Council run Australia Day event 26 January 2022.**
- b) **The award recipients be notified and published in the paper, on Council's website and social media pages.**
- c) **At a safe time in the future, public ceremonies be held to acknowledge the award recipients, the form of these ceremonies be determined by the individual Australia Day Committees.**

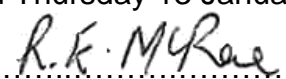
OFFICER COMMENT

There is conflicting information surrounding the latest variant, which, in my opinion, has created a false sense of security. The politicians are saying it's only mild, but the World Health Organisation is saying it is anything but mild, that it is easily transmissible and a side effect is death.

In the press today, the health community is pleading with people not to hold pox parties (gatherings designed to transmit the virus to everyone) under the false sense that it's mild and you gain immunity. Evidence suggests that you only have immunity for about a month and the long term effects to people's respiratory systems is unknown. People may be left with long term or irreversible health complications.

This is page 3 of 5 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Extraordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Thursday 13 January 2022

 General Manager

 Mayor

Australia Day events are for families of the community, and vaccination is a clear benefit in fighting the virus. However, as at today, the largest proportion of 5-11 year olds are not vaccinated, and children 0-5 years are not eligible for vaccination. We have seen our most vulnerable, who are up to date with their vaccinations, contracting the virus and becoming very ill.

Giving the history of our events in Murrumbidgee Council LGA, the population represented is predominately the 0 to 12 and the 65 plus, and we impose a risk on the most vulnerable in our communities by hosting these gatherings.

The recommendation is over and above any current Public Health Order in NSW, with the decision yours to make.

SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

N/A

FINANCIAL

N/A

INTEGRATED PLANS

Our Community
1.4 Enhancing Health and wellbeing
1.5 Creating a safe community

Our Leadership
5.1 Demonstrating Transparent Leadership through Accountability and Community Representation.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The risk associated with this recommendation will be one of reputation.

Council's reputation will be enhanced by showing strong leadership and taking this strong stance in keeping our communities as safe as we possibly can.

Conversely, Council's reputation will take a beating by what may be perceived as an unpopular decision by some members of the community

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

Emails sent to the secretaries of each Australia Day Committee informing them of the report and Extraordinary Council Meeting, welcoming feedback before the meeting for consideration by Council.

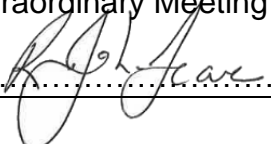
OPTIONS

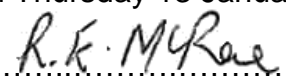
1. As per the recommendation.
2. That Council not accept the recommendation, allowing the Australia Day events to go ahead as determined by the Australia Day Committees.

ATTACHMENTS

NIL

This is page 5 of 5 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Extraordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Thursday 13 January 2022

..... General Manager

..... Mayor
