

CITY OF NEWCASTLE

Minutes of the Briefing Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Level 1, City Administration Centre, 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West on Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 6.33pm.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor (Councillor N Nelmes), Councillors M Byrne, J Church, D Clausen, C Duncan, K Elliott, B Luke, J Mackenzie, A Robinson, A Rufo, E White and P Winney-Baartz.

IN ATTENDANCE

J Bath (Chief Executive Officer), D Clarke (Director Governance), B Smith (Director Strategy and Engagement), F Leatham (Director People and Culture), K Liddell (Director Infrastructure and Property), A Jones (Director City Wide Services), E Kolatchew (Manager Legal), M Bisson (Manager Regulatory, Planning and Assessment), S Moore (Acting Chief Financial Officer), A Abbott (Manager Community Strategy and Innovation), M Murray (Chief of Staff), J Vescio (Executive Officer), K Sullivan (Councillor Services/Minutes), A Knowles (Councillor Services/Meeting Support) and G Axelsson (Information Technology Support).

APOLOGIES

MOTION

Moved by Cr Winney-Baartz, seconded by Cr Clausen

The apology submitted on behalf of Councillor Dunn be received and leave of absence granted.

Carried

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil.

BRIEFING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ITEM-2 BR 16/03/21 - COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE PACKAGE EVALUATION

On 24 March 2020, City of Newcastle (CN) adopted the \$5.5m Community and Economic Resilience Package (CERP) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis; one of the first government responses across Australia.

The package comprised 10 programs over three tranches between April 2020 and June 2021 with a suite of financial relief, business and community supports – including interest free rate payment plans, rent reductions on CN owned buildings, free online training, and community grants to support vulnerable and at-risk community members.

The CERP aimed to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for Newcastle through:

- i) Direct action to support community wellbeing;
- ii) Timely responses to address cash-flow for small business;
- iii) Innovative programs to provide long-term strategic legacy benefits for the city;
- iv) Collaboration with partners and support for existing initiatives; and
- v) Financial responsibility for the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

Dr Anthea Bill, Hunter Research Foundation Centre, briefed Council on the independent evaluation of CN's COVID-19 CERP.

The meeting concluded at 7.20pm.