

## AMENDED ITEM



**Item No:** 5.1  
**Title:** Notice of Motion - Soap in Public Toilets  
**Department:** Councillor

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22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00037 - D14023927

Author: Louise Greenaway, Councillor

Councillor Greenaway has given notice that at the Ordinary Meeting to be held on 22 June 2020 she will move the following motion:

- 1 That Council acknowledges that the Number #1 recommendation in Australian government guidelines for Good hygiene for coronavirus (COVID-19) is to wash your hands often with soap and water. The second recommendation is to use alcohol-based hand sanitisers when you can't use soap and water.**  
<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19/good-hygiene-for-coronavirus-covid-19>
- 2 That Council requests that the Chief Executive Officer provide a Report on the reinstallation of soap in public toilets including Information that specifically addresses:**
  - i. The number of Council-run Public Toilet/ Amenities blocks**
  - ii. The reasons for the removal of soap from public toilets (on the Coast and generally throughout NSW/ Australia if known)**
  - iii. The cost of reintroducing soap to Council's Public Toilet blocks**
- 3 That Council note that the Public Toilet Strategy is currently being undertaken and request that this Strategy include at least preliminary information on the matters raised in para 2 above.**
- 4 That Council request that the CEO, in the interim, make inquiries in an effort to source vandal-resistant soap dispensers or brackets or other innovations to give best effect to protecting soap installations should they be recommended**

### Attachments

- 1 CEO Response - Notice of Motion - Soap in Public Toilets** D14031404

**Title:** CEO Response - Notice of Motion - Soap in Public Toilets

**Department:** Connected Communities

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00039 - D14031404

Author: Kim Radford, Unit Manager, Facilities and Asset Management

Executive: Julie Vaughan, Director Connected Communities



### Summary

This report provides a response to Item 5.1 - Notice of Motion – Soap in Public Toilets.

**Motion:** *That Council acknowledges that the Number #1 recommendation in Australian government guidelines for good hygiene for coronavirus (COVID-19) is to wash your hands often with soap and water. The second recommendation is to use alcohol-based hand sanitisers when you can't use soap and water.*

### Staff Comments:

Council does not provide soap or soap dispensers in its public amenities due to a history of them being subjected to vandalism, resulting in soap on the floors. There is a high risk of people slipping and injuring themselves.

Our neighbouring Councils; Lake Macquarie, Cessnock and Newcastle are also not supplying soap dispensers to their public amenities and are not planning to do so.

We note that Newcastle Council did install soap dispensers to their public amenities and within a few weeks they were being vandalised and replaced. This happened on numerous occasions before Newcastle Council removed all soap dispensers from their public amenities.

Council have corresponded with Sunshine Coast Council regarding their installation and advise that the cost to implement was in the vicinity of \$53,000 plus the ongoing maintenance. We also advise that they have had 17 units damaged/destroyed/stolen since implementation (14 week period).

**Motion:** *That Council requests that the Chief Executive Officer provide a report on the reinstallation of soap in public toilets including information that specifically addresses:*

- i. The number of Council-run Public Toilet/Amenities blocks*
- ii. The reasons for the removal of soap from public toilets (on the Coast and generally throughout NSW/Australia (if known))*
- iii. The cost of reintroducing soap to Council's Public Toilet blocks*

**Staff Comments:**

Noted.

**Motion:** *That Council note that the Public Toilet strategy is currently being undertaken and request that this Strategy include at least preliminary information on the matters raised in paragraph 2 above.*

**Staff Comments:**

Council has planned to develop a Public Toilet Strategy, and this has been planned for inclusion in the 20/21 operating budget and delivery year.

**Motion:** *That Council request that the CEO, in the interim, make inquiries in an effort to source vandal-resistant soap dispensers or brackets or other innovations to give best effect to protecting soap installations should they be recommended.*

**Staff Comments:**

Council has already started preliminary investigations into vandal-resistant soap dispensers and brackets.

**Link to Community Strategic Plan**

Theme 4: Responsible

**Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships**

G2: Communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on transparency, understanding, trust and respect.

**Attachments**

*Nil.*