

AMENDED ITEM



Item No: 6.3
Title: Notice of Motion - Council Seeks to Avoid Dismissal
Department: Councillor

25 September 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2019/00041-02 - D13659859

Author: Greg Best, Councillor

Troy Marquart, Councillor

Councillor's Best and Marquart have given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 25 September 2019 they will move the following motion:

- 1 That Council notes with great concern recent media statements attributed to our State MP for Terrigal Mr Adam Crouch that identifies Council as being in "a state of chaos."**
- 2 That Council recognises that such a view is tantamount to a vote of no confidence and could if escalated lead to the dismissal of this Council.**
- 3 That Council now urgently seek to engage the State Government through offering a 'without prejudice' whole of Council Meeting, (i.e. All Councillors) with our State Member and his Advisors.**
- 4 That such a Meeting should seek to re-establish a more congenial working relationship whilst looking at various issues from a strategic perspective, important to our broader Coast Community.**

Councillors Note

In my some two decades now serving my Community on many Councils and working with numerous State Governments of all complexions, I have never witnessed a situation like this. For a respected State Member to feel the need to issue such a graphic Press Release just highlights the level of frustration that currently exists

Councillors, I need not remind you that this Council only exists technically at the good grace of the Minister and with a stroke of his/her pen, the Council can cease to exist. This exact situation occurred overnight in the lead up to amalgamation. In my view if we do not take a more proactive and leadership role in working with our State and Federal partners, this Council may well cease to exist.

More importantly a cohesive working relationship with our two key core grant funders who provide billions of dollars to Local Government is critical.

6.3 Notice of Motion - Council Seeks to Avoid Dismissal (contd)

We have an obligation to our Ratepayers to have a more harmonious relationship, however this does not exclude us from time to time 'respectfully' raise issues without fear or favour. When one looks back over our public record Podcasts, comments attributed to various Councillors are clearly politically charged, hurtful and unhelpful and the reaction we have now received is not unsurprising.

Our Council 'Chamber' has recently just lost its Planning Powers on DA's over \$4 mil. The Government has also sought to provide our largest landowner, The Darkinjung, with an independent process for Approvals, again bypassing Council while the Joint Regional Planning Panel deals with all large developments. I do not believe the State Government is taking these measures lightly, however over the past two years this Council's track record around Development Application rejections and the staggering escalation of Land and Environment Court costs has to come to an end.

Not to mention the insult to our professional Staff who with CEO Mr Murphy work so hard in making their carefully considered recommendations that are all too often rejected on spurious grounds.

Simply put, unless we right side this situation, this Council may well disappear from sight.

Please see Mr Crouch's September 9 Media Release attached.

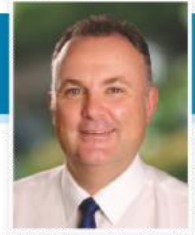
Attachments

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| 1 | 190909 Adam Crouch statement - Chaos at Council still no decision on \$4.6 million | D13659904 |
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MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday, 9 September 2019

CHAOS AT COUNCIL: STILL NO DECISION ON \$4.6 MILLION

Tonight Central Coast Council has demonstrated itself to be in a state of chaos.

Despite receiving clear instructions from Infrastructure NSW to vote yes or no for the \$4.6 million Winney Bay Cliff Top Walk, Labor-Independent Councillors voted to make more changes to the project.

"Plan B" and "Plan C" options have been put forward, even though time has run out to consider new options. The Labor-Independent Councillors have dragged this Council into chaos.

Council has until 18 September to advise Infrastructure NSW it will proceed with the project, or else the \$4.6 million grant will be lost. Such an act would be a tragedy for the Central Coast region.

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