

AMENDED ITEM



Item No: 6.1
Title: Questions with Notice
Department: Governance

27 April 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2020/00039 - D13865325

6.1 Questions with Notice

No Questions with Notice were received for the Ordinary Meeting 27 April 2020.

Questions with Notice submitted for a response at the Ordinary Meeting 23 March 2020 Ordinary Meeting, however due to COVID-19 and social distancing rules the meeting was cancelled and Questions with Notice items were not dealt with at the 23 March 2020 Extraordinary Meeting.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Smith at the Ordinary Meeting on 9 March 2020:

Council planning staff attending monthly meetings of external stakeholder groups

On 24 Feb, 2020, a response to QoN indicated that staff from Strategic Planning and Development Assessment teams attended 22 meetings of the UDIA Central Coast during the period June 2017 – December, 2019.

Could staff please advise, for the period June 2017-Dec, 2019, how many regular meetings of each of the following organisations that planning staff have attended to provide an update on items currently on public exhibition and current planning issues which may be relevant to those organisations:

- *Local Chambers of Commerce*
- *Central Coast Sports Group*
- *Community Environment Network*
- *Central Coast Youth Interagency*
- *or any other community stakeholder group that are not Council Advisory committees or external committees coordinated by government entities*

Response provided by the Director, Environment and Planning:

Planning staff from the Environment and Planning Directorate have not undertaken regular attendance at any meetings of the above-mentioned agencies during the period of June 2017 – December, 2019.

6.1 Questions with Notice (contd)

However, staff outside of the planning teams and Environment and Planning Directorate may have undertaken regular or sporadic attendance at these meetings.

The following questions were submitted by Councillor MacGregor:

Direct employment of Council workers by Council Directorate

How many directly employed staff do council currently employ in each of its directorates and are staff able to provide a table which clearly shows direct staffing numbers by directorate in response to this question on notice?

Contractors compliance and assessment to avoid sham contracting and non-compliance with industrial law by rogue contractors

How does council consider as part of its tendering process the compliance of companies with relevant industrial standards and legislation to avoid sham contracting and employing contractors that are in breach of state or federal industrial law? I.e. does council cross reference and check companies records or supplied documents on superannuation, workers compensation, long service leave, insurances and the like before accepting the tender?

Response provided by the Executive Manager People and Culture:

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Council has a headcount of 2,734 employees on the payroll. This includes 450 casual employees and 135 employees who work flexible arrangements (e.g. part time employees).

The table below shows the current employee break up by headcount.

Assignment Types	Connected Communities	Environment and Planning	Roads Transport Drainage and Waste	Water and Sewer	Information Management and Technology	Innovation and Futures	Governance	Finance	People and Culture	Office of the Chief Executive Officer	Grand Total
Permanent	518	429	356	274	105	25	116	195	64	7	2089
Temporary	47	20	6	7	31	1	4	7	12	1	136
Trainee	7	1	1	3			1				13
Apprentice	4	2	2	12				9			29
Undergraduate	2	2	8	2	3						17
Casual	431	6	1				11		1		450
Grand Total	1009	460	374	298	139	26	132	211	77	8	2734

6.1 Questions with Notice (contd)

The FTE budgeted positions for each department are as follows:

Directorates	Permanent	Temporary	Casual	Grand Total - Budgeted FTE
Connected Communities	538.78	8.40	57.64	604.82
Environment and Planning	483.03	14.08	0.60	497.71
Finance	221.00	12.00	0.00	234.00
Governance	133.36	3.00	3.79	140.15
Information Management and Technology	116.09	98.60	0.00	215.69
Innovation and Futures	29.00	1.00	0.00	30.00
Office of the Chief Executive Officer	8.00	0.00	0.00	8.00
People and Culture	68.51	12.40	0.00	80.91
Roads Transport Drainage and Waste	405.97	1.00	0.00	406.97
Water and Sewer	343.50	1.00	0.00	344.50
<i>Grand Total - Budgeted FTE</i>	2347.24	151.48	62.03	2562.75

There are a number of checks undertaken through the Tender evaluation process prior to accepting a tender that include:

- Contractor is a legal entity
- notification of threatened or pending litigation
- Worksafe fines or improvement notices
- Environmental Protection Agency fines or improvement notices
- Financial viability including directors and managers profiles and ASIC information relating to the Contractor
- Review of Contractors insurances including: Public Liability, Workers Compensation, and other insurances relevant to the works (e.g. Insurance of the works and motor vehicle insurance)

In addition, once the Contract is awarded, the Contractor must submit a 'Subcontractors Statement' regarding Workers Compensation Payroll Tax and Remuneration with each payment claim to evidence the payment of subcontractors and entitlements in relation to construction works. Cross referencing and checking of company's records are undertaken but are not specific to relevant industrial standards or 'sham' contracting.

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Attachments

Nil