

ADDITIONAL ITEM

12 March 2014

To the Ordinary Council Meeting

Councillor

1.5 Mayoral Minute - Bluetongue Brewery

TRIM REFERENCE: F2010/00500 - D06136822

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As discussed at Councils weekend workshop, the GM and I contacted Carlton and United Brewery (CUB) to discuss future uses of the Bluetongue Brewery.

A meeting was arranged at CUB head office in Melbourne last Thursday. Present at the meeting were Grant Peck, Managing Director Supply, Kathryn Hodges, Government Relations Manager, Kevin Hardman, Plant Manager Bluetongue, the GM and myself.

Council put to CUB that they had a moral if not legal obligation to recompense Council and the community for some millions of subsidies that were given by Council and the State Government to assist in the establishment of the brewery.

At that time we were promised an Iconic Brewery that would brew 100 million liters of beer per annum at full production, employ 400 staff and include a significant tourist element of café, beer tastings and tours.

Sadly these promises were never fulfilled with limited production, just 60 staff and no tourism and now the factory is to close after just 4 years. CUB acknowledged the community concerns. Discussion then focused on a possible reuse of the factory as a water bottling plant.

CUB did not rule out this future use but said at this stage they did not have a detailed list of plant to be removed. Accordingly the feasibility of a bottling plant could not be ascertained at this time. CUB agreed to a meeting in late June on site to further explore this proposal.

"I formally move:

- 1 That Council note this report.**
- 2 That Council ratify the actions of the Mayor and GM in actively pursuing retention of the Bluetongue factory.**
- 3 That Council delegate authority to the Mayor and GM to enter into agreements in relation to the retention of the factory site."**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.