

Subject: GM - Need to Amend Date for Council's April 2009 Ordinary Meeting
Index: Council Meeting Schedule
Author: General Manager - Keith O'Leary

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

Advising Council that there is a need to amend the scheduled date for the April 2009 Ordinary Meeting from 28th April 2009 as it will not be possible to have a quorum present on that date due to the number of Councillors required to attend the Administrative Decisions Tribunal hearing scheduled to be held at Taree from Monday 27th to Wednesday 29th April 2009. A suggested date for the Ordinary Meeting is Tuesday 21st April 2009 commencing at 2.00pm (following the completion of the MidCoast Water meeting earlier that day).

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Council's current meeting schedule be amended to provide for the April 2009 Ordinary Meeting to be relocated from Tuesday 28th April to Tuesday 21st April 2009 (commencing at 2.00pm).

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATION:

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, Council is required to have at least 10 Ordinary Meetings each calendar year. The current meeting schedule provides for 11 Ordinary Meetings to be held during 2009 (one each month from February to December 2009). Should Council so require it may therefore resolve not to hold an Ordinary Meeting in April 2009, however it is considered preferable to hold a shorter meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday 21 April 2009 if this date is suitable to Councillors.

LIST OF ANNEXURES:

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

REPORT

Council's current meeting schedule lists an Ordinary Meeting for the fourth Tuesday of April (28th April 2009) in accordance with its current policy.

As Council is aware however, a number of Councillors will be required to attend a hearing of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal scheduled for Taree from Monday 27th to Wednesday 29th April 2009. This will result in a quorum not being present on the scheduled Ordinary Meeting date for April.

The options for Council are as follows:-

1. Amend Council's scheduled meeting date from Tuesday 28th April to an alternative date, or
2. Cancel the April 2009 Ordinary Meeting. In this regard, the Local Government Act 1993 requires that Councils must have at least 10 Ordinary Meetings each year. Council's current meeting schedule provides for 11 Ordinary Meetings to be held during 2009 (ie one each month from February to December inclusive).

COMMENT: GENERAL MANAGER

Whilst Council can legally cancel the April 2009 Ordinary Meeting, I believe that it is preferable for a meeting to be held, if at all possible, in order to avoid a two months gap between such meetings.

As a suggestion, an Ordinary Meeting could be scheduled for the afternoon of the preceding Tuesday (21st April 2009), commencing at 2.00pm, following the completion of the MidCoast Water meeting to be held earlier that day.

Should this date be suitable to Councillors, every effort will be made to limit the agenda for the April Ordinary Meeting to ensure that the agenda is not overly excessive (due to the limited time available).

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Council's current meeting schedule be amended to provide for the April 2009 Ordinary Meeting to be relocated from Tuesday 28th April to Tuesday 21st April 2009 (commencing at 2.00pm)