



CUMBERLAND CITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting

*Wednesday, 19 February 2020 at
6:30pm*

Cumberland City Council Chambers
Merrylands Service Centre, 16 Memorial Avenue, Merrylands

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Item No: MM02/20-21

MAYORAL MINUTE - THANK YOU TO STAFF FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR

Author: Mayor Steve Christou
File Number: SC486

SUMMARY

As many of you would know, Cumberland City Council recently postponed its Lunar New Year celebrations, which was due to be held in Auburn (1 February 2020), because of fears about coronavirus.

The global emergency over coronavirus continues and unfortunately, the current circumstances are not ideal for celebrating Lunar New Year in a safe and healthy way.

As a Council, we have a responsibility to consider public safety. The decision to postpone was unfortunate but it is in the best interests of our community.

It was also made out of respect for residents in our community who have been impacted by Coronavirus, particularly with cases abroad, where there have been nearly 70,000 cases confirmed world-wide.

I want to reassure the community that Council's Lunar New Year event has only been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date. This new date will be contingent on advice from public health authorities.

I also want to thank our Council staff, notably in the events team, for their hard work and dedication on the Lunar New Year council event. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Deputy Mayor Eddy Sarkis for his active role in resolving this issue. Eddy's hands on support and activity ensured this unfortunate cancellation was completed smoothly.

An enormous amount of work took place to make Lunar New Year happen, working in partnership with members of our Chinese community. We appreciate your efforts and we look forward to using your skills to reschedule the event, when it's safe to do so.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council congratulate and thank all staff and volunteers that contributed to the planning and preparation of the Lunar New Year event.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item No: MM02/20-22

MAYORAL MINUTE - DEPARTURE OF HOLDEN BRAND

Author: Mayor Steve Christou
File Number: SC486

SUMMARY

As the Mayor of Cumberland City Council and as an elected representative, I want to formally express my disappointment over General Motor's decision to retire the Holden brand.

I actually own a Holden. It's a brand that I have trusted and connected with for many years. I think the decision to discontinue the Holden brand, will be felt deeply by the many people who feel connected to the company.

Holden has been a powerful driver of the industrialisation and advancement of Australia over its proud 160-year history.

It's a real shame that Holden could not prioritise the investment required to be successful in the long term in the right-hand drive market.

The Holden car brand will be no more, with General Motors opting to dump the name synonymous with Australian motoring by 2021. The Holden footprint will no longer be in Australia.

The sad reality is the majority of Holden's employees will also lose their jobs by June. I feel very sorry for these employees who will soon be in a position where they need to look for work, potentially in other industries, due to this decision.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note General Motors' decision to retire the Holden brand and the impact it will have on workers employed by Holden.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil