



CUMBERLAND CITY COUNCIL

Extraordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday, 27 May 2020 at 6:00pm

Cumberland City Council Chambers

Merrylands Service Centre, 16 Memorial Avenue, Merrylands

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For information on Council services and facilities please visit www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au

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Item No: EMM05/20-30

MAYORAL MINUTE - COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO EASING OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Author: Mayor Steve Christou
File Number: SC486

SUMMARY

I have been disappointed to hear some criticism that Council is not acting quickly enough to reopen facilities and services as the state government eases the Covid-19 restrictions.

At all times during the current pandemic, the decisions of Council's Critical Incident Management Team have been guided by the overriding principle of protecting the health and safety of Council staff and of our community. Council took a measured approach to the imposition of the restrictions and will take a similarly measured approach to the easing of restrictions.

The worst possible outcome would be for Council to act too quickly to ease restrictions and either a staff member or a member of the community becomes infected as a result. The Critical Incident Management Team's deliberations are guided by Council's adopted *Risk Management Policy*, the latest version of the NSW Public Health Order and any published exemptions. Federal and State Government announcements are also monitored on a daily basis.

As late as yesterday the NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant, stated that Covid-19 is likely to be around for at least a further 12 months, and I believe therefore that it is unlikely that things will return to complete normality before this. It is important therefore that Council remains vigilant and takes all steps necessary to ensure that its operations are conducted in such a way that social distancing and all other restrictions are complied with.

Therefore Councillors I am recommending the following:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council support a measured approach to the reopening of Council services and facilities, consistent with the NSW Public Health Order and other state government guidelines.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil