



AGENDA

Thursday, 2 December 2021

Special Council Meeting

I hereby give notice that a Special Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Thursday, 2 December 2021

Time: 9:00am

Location: Council Chambers

**Peter Franks
Chief Executive Officer**

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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

2 APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE/ABSENCE ON COUNCIL BUSINESS

3 OFFICE OF THE CEO

7.1 COVID-19 VACCINATION MANDATE RESTRICTIONS

Date Prepared: 26 November 2021
Author: Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is aware of the concerns of some individuals and some members of the business community with regard to the introduction of restrictions for unvaccinated people to commence from 17 December 2021 as mandated by the Queensland Government.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers what position it wishes to take on this matter.

BACKGROUND

A petition containing a number of submissions objecting to the State Government restrictions imposed on unvaccinated people from 17 December 2021 was received by Council on 24 November 2021.

In addition, Council has received numerous emails and letters from individuals expressing their concerns regarding the imposition of these requirements.

The imposition of these requirements have been done by the Queensland Chief Health Officer (CHO) utilising the broad powers he has as a result of the declaration of a public health emergency under the Public Health Act 2005.

Council has no powers under this Act and it is required to adhere to any Directive given by the CHO.

The directive coming into effect on 17 December see's many of the restrictions currently in place for businesses being lifted. Most particularly the capacity restrictions. However, there are new restrictions being imposed on unvaccinated people.

They will be **unable** to:

- visit vulnerable settings, including hospitals, residential aged care, disability accommodation services, and prisons. This does not apply to residents and patients of these facilities, and there will be some exceptions for medical treatment, end-of-life visits, childbirth and emergency situations
- attend hospitality venues such as hotels, pubs, clubs, taverns, bars, restaurants or cafes
- attend indoor entertainment venues such as nightclubs, live music venues, karaoke bars, concerts, theatres or cinemas
- attend outdoor entertainment activities such as sporting stadiums, theme parks or tourism experience like reef excursions

- attend festivals – either indoor or outdoor – such as musical festivals, folk festivals or arts festivals
- attend Queensland Government owned galleries, museums or libraries.

To date Mareeba Shire Councils position has been, under advice from the State Government Chief Health Officer, it supports the intent of general COVID-19 vaccination to protect the Shires population and neighbouring communities.

In doing so, however, Council respects the rights of individuals to make their own choice with regards to COVID-19 vaccine. Mareeba Shire Council also supports the communities right to voice their concerns to the State Government, regarding the restrictions imposed on unvaccinated people from accessing certain venues and activities from 17 December 2021.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Legal and Compliance

Council is required to adhere the CHO's directives

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Economy and Environment: A resilient economy that promotes and supports the shire's natural assets and local industry and encourages investment while preserving and future proofing for generations to come.

Governance: Sound decision making based on effective frameworks and clear strategic direction to achieve regulatory compliance while delivering affordable levels of identified services within the Shire.

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATION

That once Council has determined its position on this matter this position will be communicated to the Petitioners, published on the Council Website and Facebook page and provided as a response to any further communication in this regard.

