



# ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

To be held at 5pm on

**Tuesday 26 April 2016**

Council Chambers 11 Manning Street, KIAMA NSW 2533

## **Members**

His Worship the Mayor

Councillor B Petschler

Councillor W Steel

Deputy Mayor

Councillor M Honey

Councillor G McClure

Councillor N Reilly

Councillor K Rice

Councillor D Seage

Councillor A Sloan

Councillor M Way

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## 16 ADDENDUM TO REPORTS

### 16.1 Commendation for Assistance to Victim of Shark Attack on 31 March 2016

#### Attachments

Nil

#### Enclosures

Nil

### **RECOMMENDED**

That Council:

1. Formally commend Mr Joel Trist for his brave action in assisting Mr Connellan following the shark attack at Bombo on 31 March 2016.
2. Extend its congratulations to those on the beach who provided life-saving assistance to Mr Connellan following the attack.

### **REPORT**

On Wednesday, 31 March 2016, Mr Brett Connellan was surfing at Bombo Beach when he was bitten by a shark, causing significant injury to his left leg. Mr Joel Trist, a friend, was surfing nearby and saw what was happening. According to reports on the incident, despite the danger he immediately paddled to Mr Connellan, dragged the injured man onto his board and carried him to shore where Mr Trist and other beachgoers gave immediate and apparently lifesaving attention to Mr Connellan's wounds.

The bare facts of the incident do not give a true picture of the terrible event, and I believe Mr Trist showed extraordinary courage in taking the action he did to save Mr Connellan. According to the reports I have read, he saw the shark "thrashing" in the sea but did not hesitate to go to the assistance of his friend, knowing the obvious dangers involved; a very courageous act indeed and one that is to be highly commended. I understand a nomination for a formal award is being prepared. Clearly, Mr Connellan may not have survived without the intervention of Mr Trist.

Apparently, the wounds received by the victim of the attack were very significant. While awaiting formal ambulance and medical attention once ashore, it was the efforts of beachgoers who responded with Mr Trist to provide first aid that apparently saved his life. While I am not yet aware of the names of those who gave that assistance, I think it is important that we note their efforts and the part they played in saving Mr Connellan's life..

**16.2 Proposal for Merger with Shoalhaven City Council****Attachments**

Nil

**Enclosures**

Nil

**RECOMMENDED**

## That Council:

1. Again state its opposition to any proposed merger with the Shoalhaven; and
2. Request the Member for Kiama to ensure that the Kiama Council is appropriately represented in any interim governance arrangements that may result should a recommendation be received for such a merger.

**REPORT**

I refer to two items of correspondence from the Minister for Local Government (Hon Paul Toole MP) received since the last Council meeting, the latter advising that the elections due in September 2016 would now be held in March 2017, the former seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from councillors for the interim governance arrangements should a merger proposal proceed.

Although disappointed that the elections have been postponed, I wish to address more particularly the letter seeking EOIs from councillors. I was dismayed to receive this letter as it appeared to pre-empt the decision on a possible merger with Shoalhaven. This was despite the emphasis in the Minister's letter that no decision thereon had been made.

I was also dismayed that councillors who may have wished to provide an EOI were asked to meet certain criteria which I believe were both unnecessary and somewhat demeaning. I know all of my fellow councillors are willing to make decisions in the long term interest of the broader community, are prepared to work collaboratively with government and have a desire to represent the views of the community without having to say so. There is no need to restate those commitments.

I decided to not make such an EOI and I note that the majority of councilors have also made such a decision. I believe that is something which should follow any decision to merge, and should not be considered prior to that time. I do not want to give any commitment to a possible merger until it is actually announced and should not be placed in a position where such a commitment may be presumed.

Council in the budget papers presented at tonight's Council meeting has clearly demonstrated that it meets all the criteria for the Fit for the Future reforms two years in advance of the required date. It should not be considered for merger. However, should such a decision be made by the government, I believe it is at that time that representation for an interim management arrangement should be arranged.

Mayoral Minute

16.2 Proposal for Merger with Shoalhaven City Council (cont)

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It would be unacceptable for Kiama Council to be not represented in such arrangements. I believe Council should seek an assurance from the Minister through our local member (Mr Gareth Ward MP) that appropriate representation from the existing Council will be made in the unfortunate event that the merger should proceed. It should not require councillors to make any sort of prior commitment to the Minister.

**Item 16.2**