

ADMINISTRATOR'S MINUTE BOOKLET

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary Meeting of Council will be held at the Civic Centre, Dee Why on

Wednesday 3 May 2017

Beginning at 7:00pm for the purpose of considering and determining matters included in this agenda.

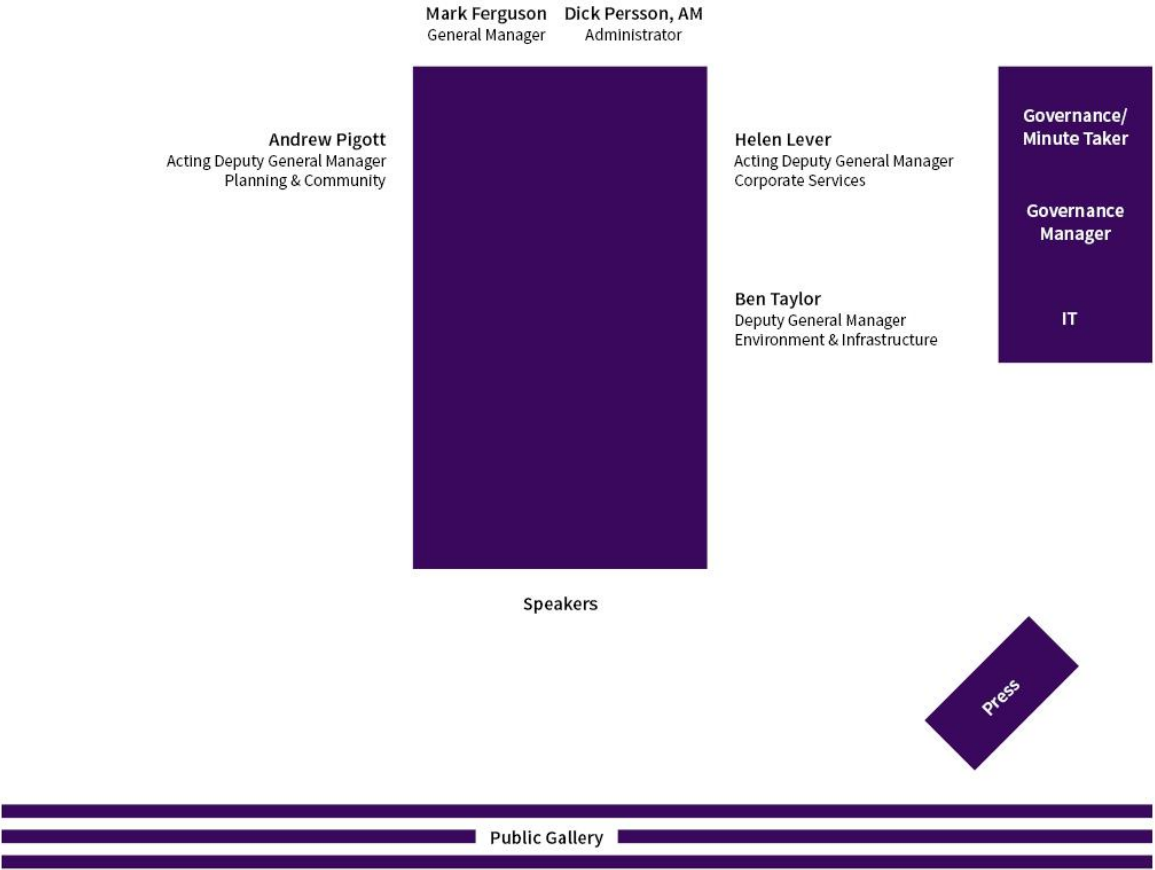


Mark Ferguson
General Manager

Issued: 03/05/2017

OUR VALUES

Respect
Empowerment
Service
Wellbeing
Equity



**Administrator's Minute for an Extraordinary Meeting of Council
to be held on Wednesday 3 May 2017
at the Civic Centre, Dee Why
Commencing at 7:00pm**

4.0	ADMINISTRATOR'S MINUTES.....	1
4.1	Administrator's Minute No 3/2017 - Merger Savings Funding – Investment in new Programs	1

4.0 ADMINISTRATOR'S MINUTES

ITEM 4.1	ADMINISTRATOR'S MINUTE NO 3/2017 - MERGER SAVINGS FUNDING – INVESTMENT IN NEW PROGRAMS
TRIM FILE REF	2017/118520
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

BACKGROUND

At the 7 July 2016 Council Meeting it was adopted (033/16) *“that savings from the merger be set aside in a special Northern Beaches Merger Savings Fund to provide an on-going pool of money for projects that directly benefit the community”*.

The Northern Beaches Council is the only newly created councils to have established this type of fund to demonstrate the benefits that a council of this size can deliver.

PROPOSAL

Merger Savings Funds are available to support priority initiatives for the community in 2017/18.

The Draft Operational Plan 2017/18 (see item 8.1 on the Council Agenda) commits \$4million from the Merger Savings Fund to the Connecting all Through Play Program. This was announced in December 2016 and provides Merger Savings funding of \$2m for inclusive playgrounds and \$1m each for sporting clubs and surf clubs over two years.

Since being appointed in May 2016 I have had the opportunity to visit and talk to people from across the Northern Beaches and understand firsthand what they value. Recent community engagement for our SHAPE 2028 Community Strategic Plan has given further opportunity to understand the long term strategic priorities for the Northern Beaches Community.

Community priorities include:

- Relieving transport and infrastructure pressure
- Housing affordability
- Economic development with local jobs for local skills
- Arts and Cultural Initiatives
- Youth programs
- Community events
- Environmental programs
- Open space and diverse recreation

Some of these priorities are more complex and it will be an important task for the incoming Council to develop considered strategies that will deliver much needed outcomes for the community around Transport, Infrastructure, Housing Affordability and Economic Development.

In order to start seeing direct benefits to the community from the Merger Savings Fund, I am proposing to commit monies from the Merger Savings Fund to multi-year programs starting 2017/18 to deliver on social and environmental priorities expressed during engagement to date.

In consultation with the Implementation Advisory Group, I have determined that these program areas of Arts and Culture, Youth, Community Events and Environment are appropriate for immediate funding commitments in order to start delivering direct benefits to the community.

This approach of committing initial funding to social and environment initiatives reinforces Council's commitment to delivering on community priorities expressed through the Community Strategic Plan (CSP). By initially focusing funding allocation on social and environmental priorities, we can start delivering programs that bring people together, build social cohesion and support a healthy lifestyle. This gives the incoming Council the space to work on the development of more complex

and considered strategies for improving transport, economic and governance outcomes without the pressure of initial funding commitments.

After consultation with the Arts and Culture Strategic Reference Group, I am announcing funding commitments for Arts and Culture, including:

- \$0.5 million per annum for four years for the installation of public art in key locations along the coastal walkway with local artists commissioned where possible for the work. The focus is on a quality public art program centred primarily along the coastal walkway with a strong local flavor
- \$1 million for creative art space in Avalon/Newport, similar to the Creative Space in North Curl Curl

I will be working with the other Strategic Reference Groups over the coming weeks while the Operational Plan is on exhibition to develop initiatives for Youth, Community Events and Environment Programs. Submissions received during this exhibition period will be taken into consideration. I will be in a position to announce funding and initiatives under these programs at the 27 June council meeting.

The proposed programs will commit only a portion of the funds available over the coming years from the Merger Savings Funds and will allow the new Council scope for addressing other priority areas. This allocation of the Northern Beaches Merger Savings Fund will ensure a significant dividend is delivered to the community every year from the efficiencies achieved through the merging of the three councils. This is a huge win for the Northern Beaches community and demonstrates the benefit of merging Council's resources. This is a great legacy for future generations on the Northern Beaches.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- A. Supports the funding of the following new programs from Merger Savings:
- a. Arts and Cultural Program:
 - i. \$1 million in 2017/18 for a creative art space in the northern end of the Peninsula (Avalon/Newport)
 - ii. \$0.5 million a year for four years commencing in 2017/18 for public art in key locations (eg coastal walkway) with commissions from local artists where possible
 - b. Youth Program
 - c. Environment Program
 - d. Community Events Program
- B. That the Administrator's Minute be publicly exhibited along with the draft Operational Plan 2017/18 and a further report on submissions received be brought to the Council meeting on 27 June 2017
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Dick Persson
ADMINISTRATOR

NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL

