
Extraordinary Council Meeting

14/09/2016

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| Item No | 4.1 |
| Subject | Introducing the new Bayside Council and recognising former Councillors |
| File | (R) F16/200 |

Administrator Minute 1

It is a privilege to welcome everyone in attendance tonight to this inaugural, Extraordinary Meeting of Bayside Council.

Tonight marks a significant milestone for local government in NSW and particularly within the areas of Bayside's boundaries.

Bayside Council was established by Proclamation on Friday 9 September 2016, merging the local government areas of the former City of Botany Bay and Rockdale City Councils to form this new council entity. The merger brings together two strong and vibrant communities encircling the beautiful features of Botany Bay and linking the vital economic gateways of Sydney International Airport and Port Botany.

With a population over 152,000 across an area of 50 square kms, existing town centres have a strong and diverse community spirit that is evident across the five new wards of Botany Bay, Bexley, Rockdale, Mascot and Port Botany.

I have been appointed to administer the new Council for the coming 12 months until it holds its first elections in September 2017 and will do so through an open and transparent decision making framework.

Supported by appropriate policies, procedures and practices, Bayside Council will build on community confidence through sound and transparent decisions that demonstrate community interests have been equally and fairly represented across the region.

These decisions will be the platform for developing trust and confidence within the community, as the new organisation creates a shared vision for both the Bayside community and the Council organisation itself.

I also take this opportunity tonight, to publicly acknowledge the service to the community and the contributions made by former City of Botany Bay and Rockdale City Councils Mayors, Councillors and staff. Through their hard work and dedication they have provided residents and ratepayers with excellent services and facilities.

This meeting acknowledges the contribution of the former elected representatives who diligently and faithfully served represented their communities and I admire and congratulate their dedication and commitment.

Formal arrangements are being made to suitably recognise the service of those former Councillors of City of Botany Bay and Rockdale City Councils for the 2012-2016 term.

From now to September 2017

In establishing Bayside Council, the NSW Government has communicated the following expectations:

- Administrators and interim General Managers will make decisions with future success in mind.
- There will be a balanced focus on business as usual, establishing the new Council, and delivering the benefits of reform while engaging communities.
- The next local government election will be held on 9 September 2017. There will be fifteen (15) Councillors elected from five (5) Wards and this elected Council will hold office until September 2020.

Council is required to report to the NSW Government on a monthly basis on its progress in establishing the new Council. It is important also that current performance levels can be measured against the organisation's performance in the future. With the absence of elected representatives for the next 12 months it is important that residents and ratepayers feel they can bring their requests and concerns to me and the Council.

I want to ensure the community feels engaged with the new Council and I will be available to meet with residents to discuss matters you wish to raise with me. The opportunity to speak at Council meetings will continue to be available from the first regular Council meeting in October 2016.

The Premier has announced that Councillors who have served on merged Councils will have the opportunity to participate on a newly established local committee aimed at providing community feedback and guiding the implementation of the new Council. Approaches are currently being made to former Councillors to ascertain their interest in joining me to make the new Council a success.

I am extremely honoured to be appointed to serve the community as Administrator of Bayside Council and I look forward to working with you.

Motion

1. That the Minute be received and noted.
2. That the dedication and contributions of Councillors and staff of the former City of Botany Bay and Rockdale City Councils be recorded and acknowledged.
3. That the service of the Councillors of the former City of Botany Bay and Rockdale City Councils in the 2012 to 2016 Term be suitably recognised.

Greg Wright
Administrator