



21 June 2023

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA:**

- (1) **MAYORAL MINUTES**
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Mayoral Minute

Report No. MM2/2023

General Manager's Unit



***MAYORAL MINUTE No. MM2/2023***

***SUBJECT: WINE COUNTRY DRIVE BUS TRAGEDY***

***RECOMMENDATION***

- 1. That Council express its sincere condolences to the families and friends of those that sadly lost their lives as a result of the tragic bus accident.**
- 2. That Council recognises the bus passengers who survived the crash for their bravery in providing crucial first aid and support immediately after the crash, and expresses our support for them during their recovery.**
- 3. That Council acknowledge and thank all first responders including, NSW Police, Ambulance NSW, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Services, NSW State Emergency Services, Cessnock District VRA Rescue Squad, NSW Health Workers, Transport for NSW, Council Officers and the broader community for their tremendous support and efforts managing this major incident.**

***REPORT/PROPOSAL***

Following the tragic bus accident that occurred within our LGA over the long weekend, I want to express my sincere condolences to the families and friends of those that sadly lost their lives as a result of this incident.

I would like to thank the first responders, the NSW Health workers, Transport for NSW and Council officers who all provided care and assistance to those involved. To see the overwhelming support offered to those impacted by this tragedy is a testament to our community and residents.

On Tuesday morning Council opened a Community Crisis Centre near the site of the accident at Branxton Community Hall; to connect local residents in need with the support services they require in a single location, such as access to mental health workers and a place to connect with one another.

The community also came together last Thursday evening for a vigil near the crash site, to honour those lost in the crash, support their loved ones and pay tribute to the first responders.

***ENCLOSURES***

There are no enclosures for this report

Mayoral Minute

Report No. MM3/2023

General Manager's Unit



***MAYORAL MINUTE No. MM3/2023***

***SUBJECT: FOOD WASTE REDUCTION GRANTS***

***RECOMMENDATION***

**That Council sponsor OzHarvest and local food recycling providers, to utilise unspent funds available from the Better Waste and Recycling Fund program, in accordance with the current grant funding guidelines by 30 June 2023.**

***REPORT/PROPOSAL***

The “Less is More” campaign coordinated by the Environment and Waste team has been running this year focusing on waste avoidance in the areas of food, textiles and furniture. This campaign has been funded from the last of Council’s Better Waste and Recycling Fund (BWRF) grant from 2021-22 which was deferred due to Covid for the last 2 years. The BWRF program was uncontested funding provided to all councils in the Waste Levy paying region and has now ended.

The EPA approved this program with no further extensions after 30 June 2023, and any unspent funds to be returned to them after this.

The measures approved for the program by the EPA are:

- Develop a branding for the program that supports the key message that adoption of a sustainable lifestyle is attractive and has numerous social and personal benefits
- Have 500 people make a public commitment to reducing their household food waste
- Have at least 300 people commit to reducing their personal textile waste
- To have at least 300 people commit to reducing furniture waste
- Host at least one viewing of a green film to encourage the adoption of more sustainable lifestyles.
- Initiate a program of Repair Cafes locally in Cessnock

Through this program Council has endeavoured to use various local charities and community support agencies, including Oz Harvest who are providing catering for the current campaign’s dinner and receiving the ticket sales, to enable resources spent having a social as well as sustainability outcome.

The “Less if More” program is something that Council plans to continue next year within the Waste Education budget, to build on this year’s results and broaden the events and initiatives undertaken.

Council may wish to sponsor a hole at the OzHarvest Golf Day as a way of promoting the program and gaining new participants for next year or look at supporting other food recovery programs.

**Mayoral Minute**

**Report No. MM3/2023**

**General Manager's Unit**

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Council may also consider supporting other local food recycling providers as part of their food recovery program should the program guidelines allow.

***ENCLOSURES***

There are no enclosures for this report