



14.1 EXERCISE OF DELEGATION BY THE CEO DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: KYLIE BENNETTS, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE CEO

PREPARED BY: KIRSTY PEARCE, SENIOR GOVERNANCE ADVISOR

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present a summary of all decisions made by the Chief Executive Officer under resolution of the Council on 19 March 2020, and the Instrument of Delegation adopted by Council on 25 March 2020.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 16 March 2020, the Premier of Victoria declared a State of Emergency under the provisions of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. At its Special Meeting of 19 March 2020 Council resolved to provide certain additional delegations to the CEO to enable quick decision making given the dynamic nature of the current situation and if Council was not able to meet due to an inability to maintain quorum.
- 2.2 At its meeting, Council also noted that the CEO would engage with Councillors wherever possible before exercising these delegations and would provide regular reports to Councillors and communities to ensure transparency.
- 2.3 Council reconfirmed the provision of delegation to the CEO and resolved to issue an Instrument of Delegation at its Special Meeting of 25 March 2020.
- 2.4 This report provides a rolling report on exercise of delegation by the CEO since 19 March 2020.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Receives and notes the Register of Exercise of Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer during a declared State of Emergency – COVID-19, 2020 report (Attachment 1).

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Use of Delegations

- 4.1 Since 19 March 2020, the CEO has utilised the additional delegations to alter the service levels of a range of Council services in direct response to the State Emergency declared by the Victorian Government in response to COVID-19. These are outlined in the delegations register on Attachment 1.

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 15 APRIL 2020



- 4.2 Wherever possible, the CEO has briefed the Councillors virtually or through email of the intent to exercise these delegations prior to these being enacted.

Advocacy for Electronic Meeting Provisions

- 4.3 Officers have continued to work with other inner metropolitan Councils to urgently advocate to the State Government seeking provisions to enable Councillors to meet electronically.
- 4.4 To date officers have been advised that this is not possible through the Local Government Act, however officers are continuing to explore other legislative options through the Emergency Management Act. Further updates will be provided as these come to hand.

5. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 5.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

TRIM FILE NO: F20/1

ATTACHMENTS 1. Decisions made by CEO during COVID emergency