



clarence  
VALLEY COUNCIL

2019

# Extraordinary Council Meeting



**Minutes**

**Grafton Chambers**

Tuesday – 19 March 2019

1.45 pm

## **Agenda**

OPENING OF ORDINARY MEETING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND

STATEMENT IN RELATION TO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

MAYORAL MINUTE

CLOSE OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

**MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL held in the Council Chambers, Grafton, 19 March 2019, commencing at 1.45 pm.**

**PRESENT**

Cr Jim Simmons (Mayor), Cr Jason Kingsley (Deputy Mayor), Cr Andrew Baker, Cr Arthur Lysaught, Cr Peter Ellem, Cr Karen Toms, Cr Debrah Novak, Cr Richie Williamson, Cr Greg Clancy, General Manager (Ashley Lindsay) Director Environment Planning & Community (Des Schroder), Director Works & Civil (Troy Anderson), Director Corporate & Governance (Laura Black)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND**

We acknowledge the Bundjalung peoples, Traditional Custodians of these lands on which this meeting is taking place, and pay tribute and respect to the Elders both past and present of the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl nations which lie within the Council boundaries.

**STATEMENT IN RELATION TO RECORDING OF MEETINGS**

All present are advised that this meeting is being broadcast and audio recorded. The recordings of the non-confidential parts of the meeting will be made available on Council's website once the Minutes have been finalised. Speakers are asked not to make insulting or defamatory statements, and to take care when discussing other people's personal information. No other persons are permitted to record the meeting, unless specifically authorised by Council to do so.

## MOTIONS ON NOTICE

ITEM	11.001/19	EVENTS OF CHRISTCHURCH – NEW ZEALAND FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2019
<b>Meeting</b>	Council	19 March 2019
<b>Directorate</b>	Mayoral Minute	
<b>Submitted by</b>	Cr Jim Simmons	
<b>Attachment</b>	Nil	

Councillors, I felt that the events of last Friday 15 March 2019 in Christchurch New Zealand warranted the calling of an Extraordinary Meeting today to enable Council on behalf of the Clarence Valley community to express our condolences to all those touched by the tragic events of that day.

Please join me in a minute silence out of respect for those people who lost their lives last Friday.

The fact that members of our community have a connection to the tragic event in Christchurch on Friday has touched us all.

The people of Grafton and the Clarence Valley share the sense of grief and outrage over the senseless killing of scores of innocent people in Christchurch. This was an extreme act of violence and the people of the Clarence Valley express our deepest sympathies and condolences for those who were killed and injured as well as their friends and family for the losses they have suffered.

It is a shocking reminder that no community, no matter how small or peaceful, is immune to terrorism or the people who perpetrate it. That the alleged perpetrator came from the close and caring community I represent is almost impossible to comprehend. We should also be careful not to blame his family for these alleged crimes as they, too, are innocent and will be suffering immeasurably.

The tragedy that has transpired isn't a reflection of Grafton or Australia, nor is it a reflection of New Zealand.

This type of tragedy is a result of extremism. Sadly the internet and the evolution of social media is enabling hatred to spread quickly and to gain a worldwide audience.

It is important that our reaction to this tragedy does not give these misguided extremists a larger platform. We must stand united when events like these occur. We must not let these people divide us and we must not give them a larger voice. Let us instead hear the voices of the victims and their families.

Let's not harbour hatred for people of other cultures or religions, instead offer our love and support.

I would like to acknowledge the Christ Church Cathedral Dean, the Very Reverend Dr Gregory Jenks for hosting the prayer vigil last night at Grafton's Christ Church Cathedral. It was a very moving event that was well attended by our community.

I now move the following motion.

**PROPOSED MOTION**

That Council:

1. On behalf of all residents of the Clarence Valley offer condolences to all those touched by the tragic events that occurred in Christchurch New Zealand last Friday 15 March 2019 and convey that expression to the Mayor of Christchurch, her fellow Councillors and to the Christchurch community.
2. Open a "Book of Condolence" to the citizens of Christchurch for Clarence Valley residents to sign and the book be available until 30 April 2019 at Council's Libraries at Grafton, Maclean, Yamba and Iluka and Council's customer service offices at Grafton and Maclean.
3. Approve the Mayor and General Manager to attend a memorial service in Christchurch at the appropriate time at which the "Book of Condolence" be presented to the Mayor of Christchurch.
4. Recognise the difficult time the local Tarrant family is facing and call on the community to be supportive at this time.

**MOTION**

Mayor Simmons

That Council:

1. On behalf of all residents of the Clarence Valley offer condolences to all those touched by the tragic events that occurred in Christchurch New Zealand last Friday 15 March 2019 and convey that expression to the Mayor of Christchurch, her fellow Councillors and to the Christchurch community.
2. Open a "Book of Condolence" to the citizens of Christchurch for Clarence Valley residents to sign and the book be available until 30 April 2019 at Council's Libraries at Grafton, Maclean, Yamba and Iluka and Council's customer service offices at Grafton and Maclean.
3. Approve the Mayor and General Manager to attend a memorial service in Christchurch at the appropriate time at which the "Book of Condolence" be presented to the Mayor of Christchurch.
4. Recognise the difficult time the local Tarrant family is facing and call on the community to be supportive at this time.

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION**

Kingsley/Williamson

That Council:

1. On behalf of all residents of the Clarence Valley offer condolences to all those touched by the tragic events that occurred in Christchurch New Zealand last Friday 15 March 2019 and convey that expression to the Mayor of Christchurch, her fellow Councillors and to the Christchurch community.
2. Open a "Book of Condolence" to the citizens of Christchurch for Clarence Valley residents to sign and the book be available until 30 April 2019 at Council's Libraries at Grafton, Maclean, Yamba and Iluka and Council's customer service offices at Grafton and Maclean.
3. Approve the Mayor and General Manager to attend a memorial service in Christchurch at the appropriate time at which the "Book of Condolence" be presented to the Mayor of Christchurch.

4. Explore locations in the Grafton area for a permanent memorial to be erected to recognise the tragic events of 15 March 2019 and a report be provided to Council at a future Council meeting identifying potential locations and memorial options.
5. Recognise the difficult time the local Tarrant family is facing and call on the community to be supportive at this time.

Voting recorded as follows

For: Baker, Novak, Ellem, Kingsley, Williamson, Simmons, Lysaught

Against: Clancy, Toms

The Amendment to Motion was put and declared CARRIED. The amended motion was then considered.

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#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION – 11.001/19**

**Mayor Simmons**

**That Council:**

1. **On behalf of all residents of the Clarence Valley offer condolences to all those touched by the tragic events that occurred in Christchurch New Zealand last Friday 15 March 2019 and convey that expression to the Mayor of Christchurch, her fellow Councillors and to the Christchurch community.**
2. **Open a “Book of Condolence” to the citizens of Christchurch for Clarence Valley residents to sign and the book be available until 30 April 2019 at Council’s Libraries at Grafton, Maclean, Yamba and Iluka and Council’s customer service offices at Grafton and Maclean.**
3. **Approve the Mayor and General Manager to attend a memorial service in Christchurch at the appropriate time at which the “Book of Condolence” be presented to the Mayor of Christchurch.**
4. **Explore locations in the Grafton area for a permanent memorial to be erected to recognise the tragic events of 15 March 2019 and a report be provided to Council at a future Council meeting identifying potential locations and memorial options.**
5. **Recognise the difficult time the local Tarrant family is facing and call on the community to be supportive at this time.**

Voting recorded as follows

For: Baker, Toms, Novak, Clancy, Ellem, Kingsley, Williamson, Simmons, Lysaught

Against: Nil

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#### **CLOSE OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

There being no further business the Extraordinary Council meeting closed at 2.15 pm.