

Question on Notice - Policy P100516 - Sustainable Events

On 21st August 2018 Council adopted Policy P100516 - Sustainable Events, with the following conditions:

1. A nine-month transition period to allow Shire staff to undertake engagement with affected stakeholders and promotion of the Policy.
2. Shire staff to review the Policy after nine-months with referral back to Council.

It was also the intent of Council that this policy be supported by Information sheets and/or educational material.

This policy is consistent with Council's adopted Strategic Community Plan, Denmark 2027:

E1.0 Our Economy - We are an attractive location to live, invest, study, visit and work.

E1.1 To have a locally supported resilient, stable and innovative business community that embraces creativity, resourcefulness and originality.

N2.0 Our Natural Environment - Our natural environment is highly valued and carefully managed to meet the needs of our community, now and in the future.

N2.1 To preserve and protect the natural environment.

N2.3 To reduce human impact on natural resources, reduce waste and utilise renewable energy.

N2.4 To acknowledge and adapt to climate change.

C4.0 Our Community - We live in a happy, healthy, diverse and safe community with services that support a vibrant lifestyle and foster community spirit.

C4.3 To create a community that nurtures and integrates natural, cultural and historical values.

The policy has, in general, been enthusiastically adopted by our community. Organisations such as Denmark Arts, Greenskills, Plastic Reduction Denmark along with many other organisations and community groups have taken steps to comply with the intent of the policy.

This is admirable, particularly considering the Shire have, due to various staff losses/changes been unable to offer the full level of support envisaged in the Officer Recommendation:

Should Council endorse the proposed final Policy, a nine-month transition period is still proposed to enable engagement with affected external stakeholders to transition to the new requirements and inform the wider community. This is likely to involve, but not be limited to:

- *Advertisements in the Denmark Bulletin and Walpole Weekly newspapers.*
- *Promotion and information on the Shire's website, Administration office and social media.*
- *Shire staff and Councillor education via internal email, staff meetings and more detailed meetings with relevant staff.*
- *Letters to all community and relevant sporting groups.*
- *Direct engagement with larger event organisers via targeted letters and/or meetings as required.*
- *Letters to local vendors and relevant businesses eg. caterers, catering suppliers.*
- *Drawing competition for children to design an image for the Shire to use in continued promotion of the Policy eg. refuse to use single-use plastics.*
- *Promote the success of local events in implementing the Policy.*
- *Survey all known events held during the transition period.*

Having said this, I'd like to acknowledge our Community Development team and other staff members who have embraced this policy and done all they can to contribute to its success.

Given the efforts and expense that many groups within our community have gone to to comply with Policy P100516, I was disappointed to hear of an event held recently on Council property where everything the group used for the catering was made from single use plastic.

Can the CEO please outline the actions that will be taken, to comply with the intent of the Policy and Res: 090818 including new timelines for officers to review the Policy and report back to Council as the 9 month timeframe is now clearly unachievable.

Thank you.

21 May 2019 - Attachment 4.3.1