



Hawkesbury City Council

extraordinary  
meeting  
late  
supplementary  
business  
paper

date of meeting: 25 March 2021

location: council chambers and  
by audio-visual link

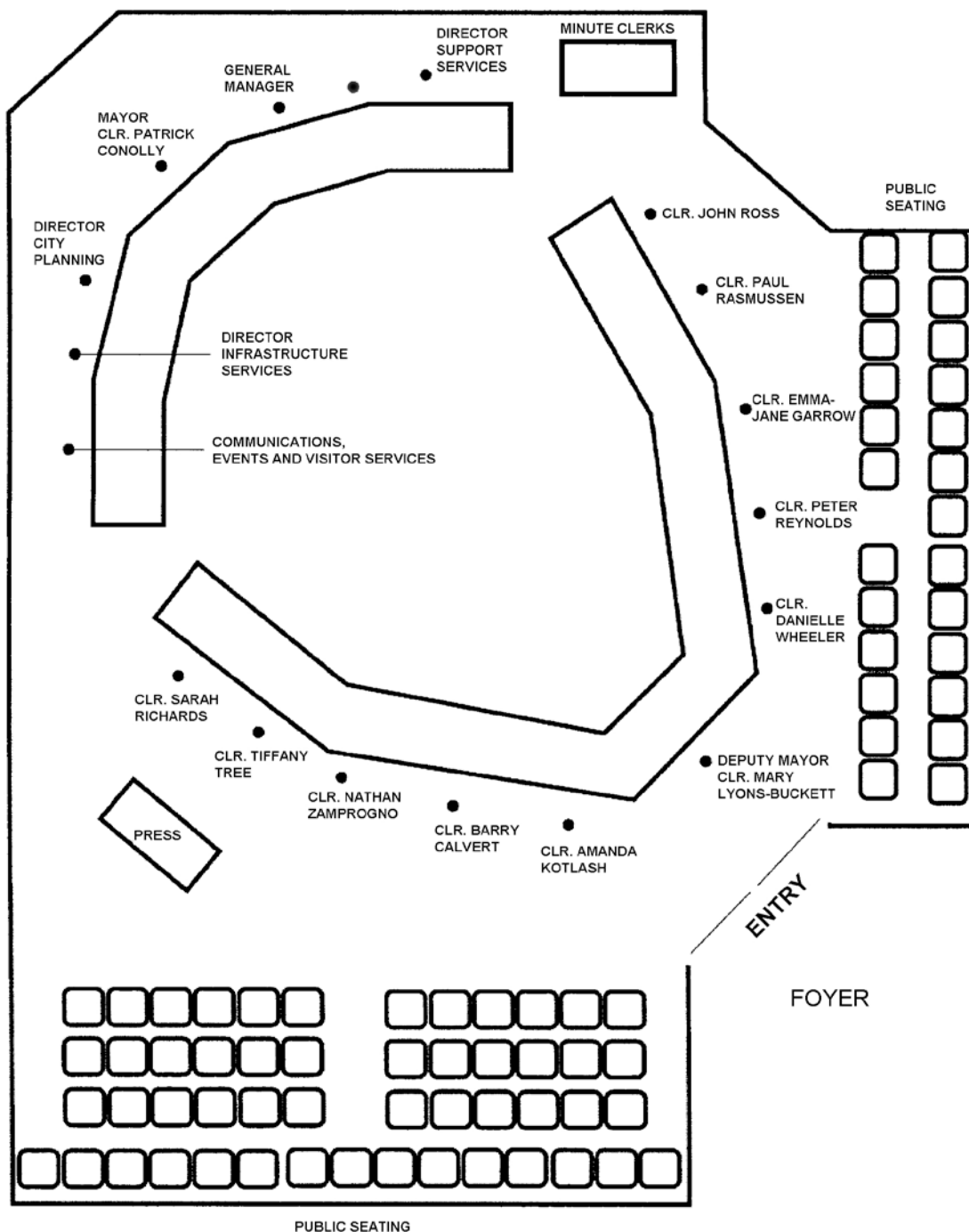
time: 6:30 p.m.



# mission statement

*Hawkesbury City Council  
leading and working  
with our community  
to create a healthy  
and resilient future.*

# Hawkesbury City Council





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## EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

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## SECTION 2 – Mayoral Minutes

Item: 050

MM - Further Information Flood Emergency Response - (125610, 79351)

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### BACKGROUND:

I would like to pay tribute to our emergency services personnel, volunteers and the broader community for their response, generosity and compassion during the flood emergency.

The impact of the current flood emergency is however continuing despite the gradual recession of floodwaters.

Many of our residents have been significantly impacted and whilst basic services are being restored to some areas other areas continue to be isolated.

There are however significant works and challenges ahead and Council will need to work in partnership with other levels of Government in managing the clean-up and recovery process.

Many properties and dwellings have been inundated and damaged, and whilst it is not yet possible to inspect or quantify these properties, it is clear that the clean-up of damage will be a major and high priority task, with over 4,500 properties within the inundation zones.

Whilst the NSW and Australian Governments have indicated that support will be provided to undertake this work, the NSW Government indicated through a communication received today that the priority will be to ensure, roads will be accessible, make places safe for people to return, assist with washout and clean up and remove bulk waste to provide initial relief. The removal of waste will be via the placement of skip bins and dump trucks at various locations. A copy of the communication, from the NSW Government is attached as Attachment 1 to this report.

Whilst Council is seeking further details on these arrangements, it is likely that immediate assistance will be required whilst those arrangements are finalised.

Council has initiated a number of actions in regard to the flood emergency:

- Steps are being undertaken to recommence waste collection on the west side of the River utilising an alternate EPA approved storage facility
- Clean up of roads is progressively being undertaken as floodwaters recede, with those costs likely to be met through Natural Disaster Funding
- Issued a newsletter to the Business Community providing information about support programs and potential funding they can access.
- Council has staff located in evacuation centres to support the Department of Community and Justice
- Providing regular updates to the community through a range of channels including social media, website, media releases, radio, television about waste services, flood waste, Council facilities, getting around and donations
- Council has been using the emergency and disaster dashboard to provide regular updates on closures of local roads and also closures of regional and state roads which are located on [livetraffic.com](http://livetraffic.com)
- Providing waste pickups to areas that are not flood affected and developed plans to collect waste from flood affected areas as the flood waters recede
- Development of our Flood Information Hawkesbury 2021 website with all the most up to date information on the disaster and recovery
- Actively sought to open Council facilities as soon as possible
- Set up a temporary customer service centre on the west side of the River

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- Closed the Animal Shelter and evacuated the animals
- Arranged road crews to close roads, assess road conditions and undertake road repairs and pot hole filling
- Shared information about GIVIT, being the official way to donate to the flood emergency

In regard to waste, I understand the pressing nature of the clean up and waste disposal. Pending the commencement of the clean-up program from the NSW Government, I would like to propose Council accept waste from flood affected properties in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, at its Waste Management Facility, at no cost, from Monday, 29 March 2021, when the Facility will reopen.

In doing so I am conscious of the logistics and the cost to Council.

The NSW Government has waived the Waste Levy for flood waste, however costs will still be incurred by Council to dispose of this waste. I am advised that these costs will be approximately \$110 per tonne to accept and dispose of flood affected waste.

Whilst I am conscious of the cost to the community, particularly if this is an open ended arrangement, I consider this would be a strong sign of commitment to our flood affected residents pending the implementation of the NSW Government's flood assistance measures.

It is my recommendation that Council commit to meeting these interim costs and an appropriate adjustment be made to Council's current Operational Plan in the March 2021 Quarterly Budget Review. This financial assistance from Council should be regularly reviewed as damage assessments and State assistance is finalised.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Pending the commencement of flood assistance by the NSW Government in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, Council accept waste from flood affected properties within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, at Council's Waste Management Facility, at no cost, from Monday, 29 March 2021.
2. Council staff develop an appropriate plan and logistics to accept the waste at the Waste Management Facility.
3. Based on commencement of the flood assistance by the NSW Government, Council review this decision on a regular basis.
4. An appropriate adjustment be made in the March 2021 Quarterly Budget Review.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 NSW Government Flood Assistance.



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#### AT - 1 NSW Government Flood Assistance



nsw.gov.au

# Flood Assistance

**Service NSW** are providing a one stop shop for people and businesses to access all available recovery services. People can call 13 77 88 or visit [service.nsw.gov.au](https://service.nsw.gov.au) to access the following information:

- Accommodation advice
- Relevant charitable services
- Mental health and wellbeing services
- Support for businesses
- Financial assistance
- Insurance and legal support
- Replacing lost ID

#### **CLEAN UP IS COMMENCING**

All flood-impacted households and businesses will receive clean-up assistance - including the removal of debris, mud and green waste - regardless of insurance status.

The priority will be ensuring roads are accessible, making places safe for people to return, assisting with washout and clean up and removing bulk waste to provide initial relief

Skip bins and dump trucks will start appearing on streets. Please follow the directions of where to put your waste.

Where skip bins or dump trucks are not yet deployed, separation on kerbside will assist. Separate waste into the following groups:

- food waste (use your red lid bin first. If the bin is full put food waste in a container on the curb side)
- hard bulk waste (furniture, carpets, mattresses)
- green waste (vegetation)
- scrap metal (whitegoods and e-waste)
- hazardous materials (gas bottles, paint, pool chemicals, unlabelled drums)

There will be a phased response to community recovery. As impacts become clearer, packages will be developed to support flood impacted industries, including primary producers, as well as rebuilding damaged infrastructure to be more resilient to future events.

**Please see over for advice on how to stay safe during clean up.**

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nsw.gov.au

# Clean Up Advice



Do not enter a damaged building or structure, unless deemed safe to do so by authorities.



Contact your insurance company directly and take plenty of photos of any property and contents damage before removing and disposing of items.



If your house was built before 1987, it is likely to contain asbestos. Find out what asbestos looks like and where it could be at [asbestos.nsw.gov.au](http://asbestos.nsw.gov.au). Keep asbestos waste separated from other waste you are removing, and do not put it in red bins or skip bins.



If removing/moving waste, remember to practice basic hygiene and use appropriate personal protective equipment, including dust mask, gloves, covered shoes/boots and full-length clothing cover for arms and legs.



If using disinfectants and/or other cleaners, follow safety advice on labels and do not touch eyes and face.



Be alert to snakes, spiders, rats and other wildlife that may have taken refuge in the building, structure or furniture.



Wall and floor cavities should be checked for mud, debris and floodwater. If items are not completely dry mould or mildew may develop.



When collecting and removing rotting material such as spoiled food or vegetation, always wear a nose and mouth guard or dust mask.

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end of  
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This business paper has  
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