



Hawkesbury City Council

ordinary
meeting
supplementary
business
paper

date of meeting: 31 October 2017
location: council chambers
time: 6:30 p.m.

ORDINARY MEETING

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Meeting Date: 31 October 2017

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SECTION 5 - Notices of Motion

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

NM3 **Changes to Rail Timetable - (79351, 105109, 138882)**

Submitted by: Councillor Wheeler

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That:

1. The Mayor and General Manager write to the Minister for Transport, The Hon. Andrew Constance and the Member for Hawkesbury, The Hon. Dominic Perrottet, requesting a meeting to explain the impact of changes to rail timetables on commuters and local tourism and business, and asking for a return to the previous timetable as a minimum, short-term solution.
2. Where revised bus timetables result in longer wait times for commuters, the Mayor and General Manager meet with local bus companies to request further changes to services to reduce wait times and ensure better services.
3. Council staff investigate the provision of flexible work spaces for residents who can work at satellite locations and report back to Council.

Background

Transport for NSW's proposed new timetables will see Hawkesbury commuters worse off, with reduced services, no express services, longer travel times and all Hawkesbury commuters having to change at Parramatta in the evening. Bus timetables have also changed and the impact of these changes is still unknown.

The new timetable can be viewed here: <https://transportnsw.info/documents/timetables/T1-Western-Line-20171126.pdf>

The 2011 (the most recent available data) census identified that 1298 people in the Hawkesbury LGA travelled to work via train, 4.2% of the population.

Source: <http://profile.id.com.au/hawkesbury/travel-to-work>

These changes severely impact on commuters who work in the city as there will be no express services, increasing travel times. Some residents will now spend 13 hours out of the house, with four hours commuting, including wait times. This severely impacts on the social, physical and emotional wellbeing of residents with reduced times for time with family, recreation and exercise.

Cuts to direct trains after hours between Richmond and Central will expose commuters to safety risks as they wait on Parramatta or Blacktown Stations, increase travel times and reduce train use. This will increase car use and traffic and may result in reduced business and tourism trade. Some examples of service cuts include:

- last direct train from city Sunday or public holiday – 6:06pm arrive 7:30pm
- last direct train from city Saturday – 8:36pm arrive 10pm
- last direct train from city weekdays- 9:34pm – 10:53pm.

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Council is calling for increased rail infrastructure through the City Deals project, and the recently released Greater Sydney Commission's Metropolitan Strategy refers to a '30 minute city'. The State Government's changes to train timetables condemn Hawkesbury commuters to a '120 minute city'. This is a retrograde step.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF NOTICE OF MOTION Oooo

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Notices of Motion

NM4

National Parks Funding - (79351, 105109, 138882)

Submitted by: Councillor Wheeler

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That:

1. Council write to the Minister for the Environment, The Hon. Gabrielle Upton, and the Member for Hawkesbury, The Hon. Dominic Perrottet, expressing Councils' concern at cuts to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and seeking further information about how the State Government and NP&WS plan to ameliorate the impacts of these cuts on the Hawkesbury LGA.
2. Council staff prepare a report for Council detailing the impact of these cuts, and the operational and budgetary implications for Council
3. Council contact relevant local authorities, including the Hawkesbury River County Council, RFS, SES and WIRES to ensure that they are aware of these implications and, where possible, impacts are minimised.

Background

More than 70% of the Hawkesbury LGA is contained within National Parks, including Scheyville, Wollemi, Yengo and the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park.

The management of these valuable assets has suffered with the continuous restructuring of the NP&Ws over the past 10 years. New cuts, unveiled last month, will further cut operational services, including Area Managers, Pest Management Officers and Fire Management Officers.

National Parks in the Hawkesbury, and the State Conservation Areas they abut, will be heavily impacted by these cuts and these impacts will affect not only protected flora and fauna, but residents as well.

In cuts totalling \$121million, the Berijiklian Government is overseeing the scrapping of 13 highly experienced Area Managers who have a critical role in bushfire management. In recent years NPWS has downsized from 66 areas across the state to what will be just 37 under this latest restructure.

Due to the current restructure, Pest Management Officers and Fire Management Officers have been slashed across the State with the new structure containing just eight PMOs.

These cuts to specialist roles mean fewer conservation programs, reduced maintenance of facilities and fire hazard reduction, less focus on dealing with pests and weeds, and the increasing problem of wild dogs, goats and deer.

Administartion support has been downgraded across the State resulting in loss of crucial regional jobs and in many cases, massive wage reductions. With wage growth at all time lows, the impact of this restructure will be felt hardest in regional areas.

Hawkesbury's public amenity, recreational space and tourism potential relies heavily on National Parks. Our residents value them as part of our local identity. In an era of climate instability, high extinction rates and decreasing green-space, National Parks provide vital refuge and buffer zones and should be enhanced, not eroded.

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ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF NOTICE OF MOTION Oooo

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end of
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