



City of Perth

# Special Council Meeting

**MINUTES**

15 September 2020, 1.30pm | Council Chamber, Level 9,  
27 St Georges Terrace, Perth



**Minutes to be confirmed at the next Ordinary Council Meeting**

These minutes are hereby certified as confirmed

Presiding member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# *Vibrant, Connected, Progressive.*

This is the community's vision for Perth and the City of Perth.





## Order of Business

### Item

1. Prayer/Acknowledgement of country
2. Declaration of opening
3. Apologies
4. Question time for the public and notification of deputations
5. Disclosures of members interests
6. Matters for which the meeting may be closed
7. Reports

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7.1	The City's Response to the Inquiry Report	6

8. Closure

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of the City of Perth held in the Council Chamber, Level 9, St Georges Terrace, Perth on Tuesday, 15 September 2020.

**Members in attendance**

Chair Commissioner Andrew Hammond      Presiding Member  
Deputy Chair Commissioner Gaye McMath  
Commissioner Len Kosova

**Officers in attendance**

Ms Michelle Reynolds      Chief Executive Officer  
Mr Bill Parker      General Manager Corporate Services  
Mr Chris Noble      Acting Project Director Corporate Recovery  
Ms Danielle Uniza      Alliance Manager Governance  
Ms Ashlee Rutigliano      Governance Officer

**Observers**

One member of staff

**1. Acknowledgment of Country/Prayer**

The Presiding Member read the Acknowledgement of Country.

The Chief Executive Officer read the prayer.

**2. Declaration of opening**

**1.32pm**      The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

**3. Apologies**

Nil

**4. Question time for the public and notification of deputations**

4.1 Question time for the public

Nil

4.2 Notification of deputations

Nil

**5. Disclosures of members interests**

Nil

**6. Matters for which the meeting may be closed**

Nil

## Reports

### Item 7.1 – The City’s Response to the Inquiry Report

<b>File reference</b>	P1038672
<b>Report author</b>	Michelle Reynolds, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Other contributors</b>	Chris Noble, Acting Project Director Corporate Recovery
<b>Reporting Service Unit and Alliance</b>	CEO Alliance
<b>Report author disclosure of interest</b>	Nil
<b>Date of report</b>	11 September 2020
<b>Nature of Council’s role</b>	Legislative
<b>Voting requirement</b>	Simple Majority
<b>Attachment/s</b>	Attachment 7.1A – The City of Perth’s Response to the Inquiry Report

### Purpose

To seek Council’s approval of the ‘City’s Response to the Inquiry Report’ (Attachment 7.1A) for submission to the Minister for Local Government in accordance with *Section 8.23(4) of the Local Government Act 1995*, detailing the things it has done or proposes to do to give effect to the recommendations in the Inquiry Report.

### Background

On Friday, 2 March 2018, the Minister for Local Government suspended the City of Perth Council and appointed three Commissioners to perform the duties of Council. As a result, the Minister announced a formal Inquiry into the City of Perth (the City), under Section 8.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*. The inquiry period examined government at the City between the period 1 October 2015 to 1 March 2018.

The final report of the Inquiry (the report) was tabled at State Parliament on 11 August 2020. The report detailed findings representing failings of good government and operations, which were suggested to be rooted in two causes, poor behaviour and poor decision-making. These were exacerbated by poor culture and poor governance practices at the time. The report included recommendations that have implications for both the City of Perth as well as the broader local government sector.

### Details

In accordance with Section 5.23(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the City is required to, within 35 days after receiving the report, provide the Minister for Local Government a written response

setting out the things it has done or proposes to do to give effect to the recommendations provided.

The City’s written response titled ‘City’s Response to the Inquiry Report’ is provided in Attachment 7.1A.

Summary

The City is committed to re-establishing itself as an exemplar local government and building a solid foundation of good governance for the City of Perth.

Attachment 7.1A details the City’s acceptance of the findings and provides details as to the actions that have been completed, or are in the process of being delivered, in relation to the recommendations.

Next Steps

*Implementation Plan*

Following formal submission of Attachment 7.1A, the City will develop an implementation plan, by December 2020, that aims to address the recommendations. It is expected that this will include input from the newly elected Council.

The City recognises that critical improvements are needed, spanning across a range of activities. Therefore, an implementation plan will ensure a structured and planned approach to a significant body of work, which will be balanced with the City’s existing ‘business-as-usual ’operations.

*Oversight and Reporting*

The City intends to establish a committee consisting of independent oversight representatives, to monitor progress of the implementation plan and provide support and input where necessary. These ongoing progress reports will be provided to Council and the community.

**Stakeholder engagement**

There is no stakeholder engagement related to this report.

**Strategic alignment**

Strategic Community Plan

This item addresses the community’s vision for the future and its implications on the Strategic Community Plan 2019 – 2029, Corporate Business Plan 2020/21 – 2023/24 and relevant Issue or Area Specific Strategies or Plans.

<b>Aspiration:</b>	Performance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	5.6 – Decision-making that is ethical, informed and inclusive.

The City’s response to the Inquiry is aligned to the Strategic Community Plan objective of

‘Decision-making that is ethical, informed and inclusive.

**Legal and statutory implications**

Section 5.23(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*

**Risk implications**

Impact of decision	
Organisation	Low
Community	Medium

Risk domain	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk rating
Reputation and External Stakeholders	Minor	Possible	Medium
Legal and Regulatory/Ethical	Insignificant	Rare	Low

There are minimal legal risk implications surrounding the recommendation of this report. The City’s response to the Inquiry Report is likely to generate media interest, however, given the efforts already undertaken, it is likely that this will only be of a medium risk rating.

**Approval implications**

Should the recommendation not be supported, the City will be non-compliant with Section 5.23(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

**Financial implications**

There are no direct financial implications related to this report.

**Policy references**

There are no policy references related to this report.

**Comments**

It is requested that Council approve the City’s written response titled ‘City’s Response to the Inquiry Report’, as provided in Attachment 7.1A, for formal submission to Minister for Local Government.

Following formal submission, the City will continue its improvement journey, taking guidance from the recommendations, focussing on re-establishing the organisation as an exemplar local government based on a solid foundation of good governance.



It is now time for the City of Perth to move forward with a new Council, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Leadership Team and deliver the best outcomes to its community and stakeholders.

**Recommendation and Council Resolution**

**Moved:** Commissioner McMath  
**Seconded:** Commissioner Kosova

That Council APPROVE the 'City's Response to the Inquiry Report' (Attachment 7.1A) for submission to the Minister for Local Government in accordance with *Section 8.23(4) of the Local Government Act 1995*, which details the things it has done or proposes to do give effect to the recommendations in the Inquiry Report.

**CARRIED 3 / 0**

**For:**  
Commissioner Hammond  
Commissioner McMath  
Commissioner Kosova

**Against:**  
Nil

**7. Closure**

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 1.33pm.