



# Ordinary Meeting of Council

## SUPPLEMENTARY

### AGENDA

#### ITEM 7.1

26 March 2025

**Presentations for items listed on the Agenda can be made in writing, via Zoom or in person. A live stream of the meeting can be viewed at: <http://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au/>**

#### **Statement of Ethical Obligations**

The Mayor and Councillors are reminded that they remain bound by the Oath/Affirmation of Office made at the start of the council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act, to the best of their skill and judgement.

The Mayor and Councillors are also reminded of the requirement for disclosure of conflicts of interest in relation to items listed for consideration on the Agenda or which are considered at this meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice.

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS**

7.1 Kočani Nightclub Fire Tragedy .....2

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

**Open Attachments**

*Nil*

**Closed Attachments**

*Nil*

7.1 Kočani Nightclub Fire Tragedy (Ref: ; Author: Winchester/Winchester)

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File Reference: 52.5.1

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**Recommendation**

**That Council:**

- 1. Expresses its deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones of the victims of the tragic nightclub fire in Kočani, North Macedonia;**
  - 2. Extends its support to the local Macedonian community during this difficult time; and**
  - 3. Writes to Her Excellency Ms Biljana Stefanovska-Sekovska, Ambassador of the Republic of North Macedonia to Australia, to convey Council's condolences on behalf of our community.**
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**Report**

On Saturday 16 March 2025, a fire broke out in a nightclub in Kočani, a city in eastern North Macedonia. The tragedy claimed the lives of 59 people. A further 155 people were injured, many of whom sustained severe burns, respiratory complications, and life-altering injuries. Many remain in hospital. Survivors now face long and difficult recoveries, both physically and emotionally, as they work to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of this catastrophe.

In response to the immense loss, the Government of North Macedonia has declared a seven-day period of national mourning. Burials have been held in several cities and towns, with a main funeral service held on Thursday 20 March to honour the lives lost. This has deeply affected Macedonian communities around the world, including here in Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.

Queanbeyan city and surrounds is home to a proud and longstanding Macedonian community, many of whom have strong family, cultural and emotional ties to North Macedonia. At times of great sorrow, it is important that we come together to show empathy, unity and support for those affected - both directly and from afar.

This Mayoral minute seeks to formally acknowledge the tragedy, express Council's sincere condolences to the families and victims, and offer our thoughts and support to the local Macedonian community during this time of mourning. The scale of this loss is deeply confronting, and our hearts go out to those who are suffering.

Recognising this tragedy in our Council meeting reaffirms our values of compassion and inclusivity. It honours the memory of those who have died and offers our sympathy to those in our community who are mourning.

**Attachments**

Nil