

11 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

11.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR ELIZABETH RE – AMALGAMATION OF THE MINDARIE REGIONAL COUNCIL (MRC) AND THE TAMALA PARK REGIONAL COUNCIL (TPRC)

In accordance with clause 5.4 of the Mindarie Regional Council Meeting Procedures Local Law 2020, Cr Re has given notice of her intention to move the following Motion:

That Council:

1. Requests that the Mindarie Regional Council Chief Executive Officer to explore the opportunities and risks associated with the amalgamation of the MRC and the TPRC.
2. Requests the MRC Chief Executive Officer to prepare a report on this subject to be brought to the Ordinary Council meeting on 24 November 2022.

Reasons for the Notice of Motion:

Noting that two separate regional councils are employed to manage both the waste management activities (MRC) and land development activities (TPRC) on member councils' landholding at Tamala Park, I think that all member councils must review the financial sustainability of these arrangements. Arguably, the cost of running both entities is not practical and not good business sense in this current economic market and so the viability of the two organisations needs to be reviewed and assessed on a positive and negative basis as part of our due diligence.

Officer comment

To fully explore the opportunities and risks of the amalgamation of the MRC and the TPRC would require close collaboration with the TPRC to better understand what operations/resources may be applicable for consolidation or change and the implications of any potential action. However, the MRC understands that there is no parallel instruction in place for the TPRC CEO to engage with the MRC on any assessment. Without this parallel instruction, any investigation by the MRC on its own is unlikely to be thorough enough to determine with certainty what any new structure and savings would look like.

The MRC's strategic future is due to be discussed at the Strategy Workshop planned for September 10, which all MRC Councillors are invited to attend. How the MRC operates as an entity is due for inclusion in those discussions, and the potential for amalgamation is a matter which councillors will be able to discuss at that forum. Given the points highlighted above, it could be argued that the proposed exploration of opportunities at this time may be slightly premature.

Also, if an investigation is undertaken, then legal advice would be required to determine what process options are available to the MRC and the TPRC for amalgamation, as would consultation with each member council (and presumably their own internal legal advice on those matters). The costs and time required to complete this are difficult to determine, but it is unlikely that these matters would be concluded in sufficient time to provide a report to council in November 2022.

Legal compliance

Local Government Act 1960, Local Government Act 1995