



# **AGENDA**

**Additional Items**

**General Meeting**

**13 December 2023**

## Order Of Business

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## 10 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

### 10.3 2024 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Doc Id:** 1182159

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**Attachments:**

1. Confidential - 2024 Australia Day Awards Panel Recommendations.docx [1183501] (under separate cover)
2. Confidential - Australia Day Awards Panel Meeting Minutes - 111223.docx [1183575] (under separate cover)

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to confirm by resolution the 2024 Australia Day Award recipients.

#### CORPORATE PLANN

**OUR VISION:** A prosperous future for generations built on a solid foundation of customer focused, efficient and effective service delivery.

#### OUR PRIORITY AREAS:

2. *Sustainable Communities – to retain population and attract investment*

#### OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the Regional Australia Day Award recipients on the recommendation of the 2024 Australia Day Awards Selection Panel as per Attachment 1.
2. Endorse the Local Legend Award recipients on the recommendation of the 2024 Australia Day Awards Selection Panel as per Attachment 1.

#### REPORT

##### Background

Local government and community organisations play a vital role in delivering Australia Day events.

On 26 January each year, Australians come together throughout the country to reflect, respect and celebrate with their communities. It is a day to reflect on what it means to be Australian and to celebrate all the things we love about our country — our home, our history and our people.

At the General Meeting of Council held on 26 October 2022, the following Resolution was passed:

#### RESOLUTION 2022/155

That Council endorses:

1. a) Facilitates one (1) Regional Citizenship Ceremony and a Regional Australia Day Awards Presentation ceremony in one (1) location on 26 January each year rotated across the region with no local events delivered by Council;
2. b) North Burnett Regional Awards only with one (1) "Local Legend" Award issued for each community of Biggenden, Gayndah, Mount Perry, Mundubbera, Eidsvold and Monto;
3. Endorse a change in the number of award categories from nine (9) to seven (7), with awards being: 1. Citizen of the Year, 2. Young Citizen of the Year, 3. Volunteer of the Year, 4. Sportsperson of the Year, 5. Cultural Award, 6. Service to Sport, and 7. Community Organisation of the Year.
4. Endorse the addition of the Local Legend Award.

As per the above resolution from 2023 forward, Council will facilitate one (1) Regional Citizenship Ceremony and a Regional Australia Day Awards Presentation ceremony in one (1) location on 26 January each year rotated across the region with no local events delivered by Council. The Regional Australia Day celebration for 2024 will be held in Biggenden.

### **Nominations for Australia Day Awards**

Nominations for the Australia Day Awards opened on 9 October 2023 and closed on 22 November 2023 for the following award categories:

- Regional Australia Day Award – Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year, Service to Sport Award, Cultural Award, Community Organisation of the Year
- Local Legend Awards for each town – Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto, Mundubbera, Mt Perry

A total of 31 nominations were submitted across the above categories with the nomination process being conducted online through SmartyGrants.

### **Australia Day Awards Selection Panel (Panel)**

At the General Meeting of Council held on 25 October 2023, the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLUTION 2023/186**

Moved: Cr Melinda Jones  
Seconded: Cr Dael Giddins

That Council:

1. Endorse the following Australia Day Awards Selection Panel Model from 2023, with a process review to be undertaken in 2028:
  - a) The Mayor (or delegate), the Regional Citizen of the Year and six (6) community representatives being the local legends award recipients from each town, or the divisional Councillor will be the representative if previous recipients are unavailable. Elected members to endorse panel recommendations at a confidential discussion at December General Meeting noting that the Mayors role is to Chair the Australia Day Awards Committee Meeting as a nonvoting member.
2. Adopt the Administrative Directive – Australia Day with appropriate amendments to the Australia Day Awards Selection Panel Membership.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Melinda Jones, Dael Giddins and Kingsley Mesner  
Against: Crs Robert Radel, Susan Payne and Michael Dingle.

**CARRIED 4/3**

The 2023 Regional Citizen of the Year and Local Legend Award Recipients for each town were invited to be part of the Panel. The following prior award recipients accepted the invitation:

- The 2023 Regional Citizen of the Year.
- Two of the six 2023 local legend recipients.

Where the local legend recipient was unavailable, the relevant Divisional Councillors were invited to be part of the Panel. This included Cr Dael Giddins (Gayndah), Cr Michael Dingle (Mt Perry) and Cr Robbie Radel (Biggenden).

Councillor Melinda Jones was the recipient of the 2023 Monto Local Legend Award. Cr Jones chose to withdraw from the Panel due to a conflict of interest. In accordance with Resolution 2023/186, there was no replacement for Cr Jones.

## **Australia Day Awards Selection Process**

Panel members individually completed a full assessment of the 2024 Australia Day Award nominations against set award criteria for each category. The Mayor did not undertake an assessment of nominations as per Resolution 2023/186.

Individual assessments were collated and presented at the Panel Meeting held on Monday 11 December 2023. The Panel assessed nominations in line with award criteria and considered members' individual assessments, collective scoring outcomes and comments as part of determining award recipients. Reasoning for the recommendation/s of the Panel are detailed in the meeting minutes (Attachment 2).

Mayor Les Hotz chaired the Panel Meeting, with voting panel members Estelle Hawkins, Geoff Price, Doug McIver OAM, Cr Giddins and Cr Radel in attendance. Cr Dingle was an apology for the Panel meeting. In accordance with Resolution 2023/186 the Mayor did not vote when the Panel determined award recipients.

## **CONSULTATION**

All assessments and recommendations were made in accordance with the Australia Day Awards Criteria and 3401 Australia Day Administrative Directive (Administrative Directive).

## **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

### **Reputation / Political**

The management of the Australia Day Awards Program is conducted in line with the Administrative Directive and voting members of the Panel were selected as per Council resolution (2023/186). Panel members are expected to serve the interests of the region by:

1. Assessing all nominations against set criteria.
2. Reviewing collective scoring outcomes and commentary.
3. Recommending award winners using a collaborative and consensus driven decision-making process.

Conflicts of interest were declared as required by the Administrative Directive. Details are included in the meeting minutes (Attachment 2).

### **Occupational Health & Safety (WHS)**

Not Applicable.

### **Financial Impact**

Not Applicable.

### **Legal & Regulatory**

Not Applicable.

### **Environmental**

Not Applicable.

### **Property & Infrastructure**

Not Applicable.

### **Human Resources**

Australia Day Award ceremonies and events are one of Council's flagship events for the year along with Citizenship Ceremonies. The human resources contribution to organise award nominations, the award selection panels and events is a significant investment over a three-to-four-month period.

### **Information Communications Technology**

Not Applicable.

**Service Delivery**

An Administrative Directive has been developed to ensure Council's management of Australia Day Awards and Events can be achieved in an efficient, effective, consistent, and timely manner.

**Climate**

Not Applicable.

**KEY MESSAGE**

Local government and community organisations play a vital role in delivering Australia Day events. On 26 January, Australians come together at more than 500 events across Australia hosted by councils and local community groups to reflect, respect and celebrate with their communities.

Award recipients will be announced at the Regional Australia Day celebration in Biggenden on the 26 January 2024.