

## G/6.1. COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT 2023 RAIL TRAILS AUSTRALIA FORUM

**Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance & Risk**

**Council Meeting Date: 7 March 2022**

**File Ref: CM6.1**

**Purpose:**

To seek approval for Councillor Desley O'Grady's attendance at the 2023 Rail Trails Australia Forum.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council approve Councillor Desley O'Grady's attendance at the 2023 Rail Trails Australia Forum.

**Background:**

By resolution at the General Meeting of 15 December 2020, Council approved Councillor Desley O'Grady's nomination as Central Queensland Regional Representative of Rail Trails Australia Inc.

Rail Trails Australia Inc is a predominately volunteer, not-for-profit organisation supporting the development and promotion of rail trails across Australia.

In her capacity as Central Queensland Regional Representative of Rail Trails Australia Inc, Cr O'Grady has received an invitation to present as a keynote speaker at the 2023 Rail Trails Australia Forum, hosted by Rail Trails Australia Inc on Friday 24 March 2023. The 2023 Rail Trails Australia Forum brings together representatives from rail trail committees to share learnings and discuss future opportunities for rail trail development.

The forum will be followed by a community celebration of the opening of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail (Tweed Section).

**Options, Risk and Opportunity Analysis:**

The proposed conference offers an opportunity for Cr O'Grady to learn about new practices, network with regional and interstate colleagues and represent the interests of the Gladstone Region. Cr O'Grady will be able to share learnings from the Rail Trails Australia Forum with the Gladstone Region's own Boyne Burnett Inland Rail Trail presenting tourism opportunities for the region.

The Officer's Recommendation is for Council to approve Cr O'Grady's attendance at the 2023 Rail Trails Australia Forum however Council may also elect not to approve Cr O'Grady's attendance.

**Communication and Consultation:**

Nil.

**Legal Strategy and Policy Implications:**

In accordance with Council's *Councillor Expenses Reimbursement and Provision of Facilities Policy P-2021-18*, where a councillor seeks reimbursement for attendance at a conference that was held outside of Queensland, the attendance must be supported by a resolution of Council.

## **GENERAL MEETING AGENDA 7 MARCH 2023**

Should Council elect not to approve Cr O'Grady's attendance, Council's Councillor Expenses Reimbursement and Provision of Facilities Policy P-2021-18 would prevent Cr O'Grady from receiving any reimbursement of costs associated with Cr O'Grady's attendance.

Section 6.1.2 of Council's *Council Meetings Procedures Policy P-2020-19* provides that a leave of absence is automatically granted to a Councillor where Council passes a formal resolution for a Councillor to attend a conference or the Councillor is nominated to represent Council at another event.

### **Financial and Resource Implications:**

The costs associated with Cr O'Grady's attendance at the 2023 Rail Trails Australia Forum is estimated to be no greater than \$500.

### **Summary:**

Nil.

### **Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:**

24 March 2023

### **Attachments:**

Nil.

### **Tabled Items:**

Nil.

**Report Prepared by:** Manager Governance & Risk