

11.2

CR N CRANSTON - ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY - QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

FILE NO: 11.00004

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolve to:

- a) Establish the inclusion of a "Questions Taken on Notice" report as a standard agenda item for all subsequent Ordinary Meetings of Bathurst Regional Council.
- b) Require this report to encompass:
 - 1) A complete register of all questions "taken on notice" during the preceding Ordinary and Policy Meetings, clearly identifying the questioner (public or Councillor) and the date the question was raised.
 - 2) Comprehensive and timely responses to each question, supported by relevant documentation or data where applicable.
- c) Ensure the "Questions Taken on Notice" report is published as an integral part of the official meeting agenda and minutes, readily accessible to the public on the Bathurst Regional Council website.

REPORT:

This motion aims to significantly enhance the accountability and transparency of Bathurst Regional Council by establishing a robust and publicly accessible process for addressing "questions taken on notice."

Recently, a register of these questions was added to the Councillor Portal as an interim measure, following a request for this information. However, this register is currently restricted to Councillors, limiting its potential to improve public transparency. This lack of public access may undermine public trust and limit the community's ability to engage with Council proceedings. This motion proposes the next step, ensuring this information is fully accessible to the public.

By implementing this motion, Bathurst Regional Council will:

- **Demonstrate a commitment to open governance:** By making responses to all questions, regardless of origin, publicly available.
- **Foster informed community participation:** By providing clear and accessible information, empowering residents to understand Council's decision-making processes.
- **Improve efficiency and responsiveness:** By establishing a standardized reporting mechanism, ensuring timely and thorough responses.
- **Strengthen public trust and confidence:** By demonstrating a commitment to transparency and accountability.

This initiative reinforces Bathurst Regional Council's dedication to serving the community by ensuring that all inquiries are addressed with diligence and that the resulting information is readily accessible to all.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil