

Responses to Questions on Notice

Received at the 18 October 2018
Ordinary Meeting of Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Arnold".

Mark Arnold
General Manager

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING

1. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

1.1 Cost of Processing Freedom of Information and Government Information (Public Access) Act Requests4

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

5 **Question with Notice No. 13.1** **Cost of Processing Freedom of Information and Government Information (Public Access) Act Requests**
File No: I2018/2010

At Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 18 October 2018, Kelvin Daly asked the following question which was taken on notice:

What amount of Council staff time has been spent in satisfying Matthew O'Reilly's FOI and GIPA requests in the last two years?

Response Director Corporate and Community Services:

Council has to comply with the legislative requirements of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act). The Act provides that any person can make an application to Council in respect of information. As Council has to undertake this function it does not record the amount of time undertaken to complete a request if it is an informal request. Time is only recorded to determine appropriate charges if it is a formal access request.

Any individual has the right to lodge an application and Council must respond to that application. The GIPA Act does not limit the number of applications by a particular individual whether they are either informal or formal applications.

Consequently, Council is unable to provide the amount of staff time spent on GIPA requests that may have been lodged by Mr Matthew O'Reilly over the last two years given it legislatively is not required to nor does it have the records to verify the time.

Council each year publishes a report in its annual report as to its compliance with the GIPA Act. This report details the number of formal access applications received along with statistics as to how the application was determined in accordance with the GIPA Act.

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