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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Road Closures and Community Events**

The Balonne Shire Council has adopted a new Traffic Management Policy to provide a controlled and structured process for community events that involve road closures.

Balonne Shire Mayor, Richard Marsh, said Council approved the new measures at its meeting on Thursday 21 November to protect event organisers from potential litigation.

Cr Marsh said streets are regularly closed in local towns to hold important public celebrations and commemorations, from ANZAC Day marches to the Christmas Markets.

“Council assists community groups with the road closure process by providing letters of support to the regulatory bodies and in the past would have employees put out signage,” he said. Cr Marsh said that raises an onus of liability if the signs are put in the wrong place or erected by an unqualified individual.

“There are legislative requirements under the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Queensland Police that have to be met,” he said.

“We live in legalistic times, where we need to balance liability and risk with the great benefits these events provide for our community.”

Cr Marsh said the new measures ensure local events can continue to be run successfully, to provide a wonderful experience for residents, ratepayers and visitors.

“By making these events compliant with the relevant state and federal government regulation, we can ensure the safety of all and avoid any injury and the potential for liability.”

Cr Marsh said to protect all parties involved road closures for public events will be undertaken by qualified professionals with the correct public liability insurance.

“Event organisers will work with an independent traffic management provider to establish and implement a road closure plan for each event,” he said.

“Change can be worrying and community groups have raised concerns about the cost of the new system and their ability to meet the requirements.”

Cr Marsh said Council is here to work through those concerns with each community group and has increased its community donation budget by \$5,000.00 to fund the cost of traffic management for

local annual events.

“We have already approved funding for two upcoming events to cover traffic management costs and assist the groups through the new compliance measures.”

“I want to reassure community groups that Council is committed to supporting events in our Shire, especially those of community-based organisations whose volunteers contribute so much time, effort and energy into ensuring they are successful.”

Cr Marsh said the new Traffic Management Policy guarantees all regulatory obligations are met and sets a structure that will allow public events to grow into the future.

For more information;

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