

6. Anzac day events

Information on the difficulties that organisers of the Anzac Day events face in complying with State event guidelines.

Group Manager, Infrastructure Waste & Water

BACKGROUND

The NSW Police have in the past assisted with some of the Anzac Day events in the Bega Valley. Advice has now been received from the Police that they are no longer in a position to provide the same level of assistance. The effect is that the events which have an on road aspect have now been classified as class 2 rather than class 4 in terms of the State Government Special Events Guidelines. Class 4 events can be run under direct Police supervision and do not require traffic control plans. Class 2 events require traffic control plans which put significantly more responsibility on the event organisers.

To assist the organisers Council staff have prepared or offered to prepare traffic control plans for the following ten events:-

- Bega – two – dawn service and march – both impact on the Princes Highway
- Tathra – two – dawn service and march
- Bemboka – march including the Snowy Mountains Highway
- Cobargo – march which has traditionally included the Princes Highway
- Pambula – march including the Princes Highway
- Merimbula – march
- Eden – march including Imlay Street
- Candelo – march
- Wolumla – march.

Where the event includes an impact on a State highway then the organiser is also required to obtain a road occupancy license from the RTA.

Some arrangements have in the past been ad hoc with assistance from various local groups such as RFS and SES. These arrangements do not comply with the class 2 requirements and put the organisers and road users at risk if they continue to be followed.

ISSUES

Legal

Council has no legal responsibility for these events but the organisers place themselves at risk legally if the State guidelines are not followed.

Policy

No impact on policy.

Asset

40 Council and the RTA are both offering to provide signs to assist the organisers but it is unlikely that there would be sufficient signs within the two organisations to comply fully with the requirements of all the traffic control plans.

Social / Cultural

The Anzac day ceremonies and marches have an important place in Australian history and tradition and should be supported to the extent that it is possible for Council to do so.

Consultation

There has been communication with most of the RSL clubs involved about the requirements of a class 2 event but it is likely that not all understand the full impact of complying with those requirements.

Financial

50 There are some costs already for the preparation of plans and there will be more if signs are provided. These costs can be absorbed but meeting the costs of traffic controllers on a public holiday, cannot.

Resources (including staff)

Council drawing office staff have spent considerable time preparing plans and these costs have been absorbed in the engineering salary vote. There has been an impact on other work.

60 There are not enough qualified Council staff to provide traffic controllers for all the events and Council is not in a position to fund the wages of those who might be available on the day. The organisers would need to make the necessary arrangements for traffic control if the prepared plans were to be followed.

CONCLUSION

The available resources of the Police, Council and RTA are not able to provide sufficient assistance to the organisers of the Anzac day events to ensure compliance with the State guidelines for class 2 events. Staff will continue to discuss the events

with organisers, the Police and the RTA to ensure that assistance is provided to the extent that it is possible.

RECOMMENDATION

That the traffic control issues faced by organisers of Anzac Day events be noted and the intention of staff to assist where possible be supported.