

Date: Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 2.00PM  
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

To hear and consider submissions to the Draft Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy.

### Present

The Deputy Mayor M McKay (the Chairperson), the District Mayor N C Volzke, Councillors: S J Beck, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, A K Harris, E E Hall, V R Jones, W J Sandford, C M Tongaawhikau and M J Watt.

### In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Environmental Health Manager – Ms R Otter, one member of the media (Stratford Press).

#### 1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, staff, and the media.

The Deputy Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

#### 2. Apologies

A leave of absence was approved for Councillor G W Boyde

#### Recommendation

THAT the apology be received.

DUDLEY/HARRIS  
Carried  
P&S/24/50

#### 3. Announcements

The Chairman reinforced to Councillors that the purpose of this meeting is to hear submissions on the Draft Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy.

#### 4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no conflicts of interest.

#### 5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings, including Hearings, was attached.

## 6. Acknowledgement of Submissions

Submissions – Pages 18-19

The two submissions received were attached to the agenda.

### Recommendations

1. THAT the submissions to the draft Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy be received.
2. THAT the submitters be advised of the outcome of their submission and notified that the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting, and subsequent meetings, will be available on Council's website.

HALL/DUDLEY  
Carried  
P&S/24/51

### Recommended Reason

So that each submission is formally received and the submitter provided with information on decisions made.

## 7. Submitters To Be Heard

There were no submitters wishing to speak.

## 8. Decision Report – Draft Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy

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Council needs to consider submissions as part of the consultation process.

### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

TONGAAWHIKAU/SANDFORD  
Carried  
P&S/24/52

### Recommended Reason

The *draft* Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy has gone through the public consultation process, required by Sections 82 and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. Two submissions were received as a result of the public consultation process. The committee is now required to consider these submissions.

The Environmental Health Manager noted the following points:

- There were two submissions received, one for and one in opposition to Easter Sunday trading.
- It was considered that this policy could generate some controversy but did not raise significant concern or support from the community.
- Easter Sunday is not one of the 12 legal public holidays enjoyed nationally but is considered a trading day for the purpose of this Act only.
- This policy does not impact on council's capacity to deliver or perform in any way other than the administration to maintain the policy.
- MBIE are responsible for employment matters under the Act.
- The current policy allows equality, fair trade and the opportunity for a business in the Stratford district to choose whether or not they trade.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Beck questioned how many shops trade on Easter Sunday. Ms Otter noted there were no statistics available as to many how many shops open.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Beck noted he agreed with Submission 2. This is a religious holiday and it is something that as a nation we have always held with high regard. He would like to support Option 3 to revoke the policy.
- The District Mayor noted that the submitter also makes a point that Easter Sunday is likely to be the only day off in as year, other than Christmas, that shops are shut. He disagreed as the shop does not have to be shut to have a day off, and shops are not obliged to open every day. He noted the inference here was if the shops were shut then everyone gets a day off which is untrue.

**Recommendation**

THAT the committee revoke the *draft* Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy (Option3) that allows Easter Sunday trading in the Stratford District.

BECK/No seconder  
Motion lapsed.  
P&S/24/54

- Councillor Hall noted New Zealand was a country of diverse people with diverse beliefs and she supported the idea of allowing people to practice those but not enforcing them. She supported allowing the option to trade on Easter Sunday.
- The District Mayor noted that while Easter Sunday is not a public holiday it is recognised as a day of significance. Many businesses operate and work on that Sunday and every other Sunday, such as farmers, medical and health workers, police and dozens of other areas. This policy specifically relates to shops. He noted many businesses choose to operate on Sundays and others do not. He felt it should always be the owners choice and council should not restrict them from earning an income.
- Councillor Beck voted against the motion.

**Recommendations**

2. THAT the committee considers submissions received as part of the public consultation process of the *draft* Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy  
VOLZKE/HARRIS  
Carried  
P&S/24/53
3. THAT the committee adopt the *draft* Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy (Option1) that allows Easter Sunday trading in the Stratford District.
4. THAT the commencement date of the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy be Wednesday 13 March 2024.

DUDLEY/HALL  
Carried  
1 against  
P&S/24/54

**Recommended Reason**

The *draft* Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy has gone through the public consultation process, required by Sections 82 and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. Two submissions were received as a result of the public consultation process. The committee is now required to consider these submissions.

9. Closing Karakia

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The closing karakia was read.

*The meeting closed at 2.14pm*

M McKay  
**Chairman**

Confirmed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

N C Volzke  
**District Mayor**