

15 REPORTS FROM OFFICERS – GENERAL MANAGER

15.1 MARK MCDONALD'S CONTRIBUTION TO WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: DEBRA JUST – GENERAL MANAGER

CITY STRATEGY LINK: 6.3.3 COUNCIL HAS AN APPROPRIATELY TRAINED, SKILLED AND SUPPORTED WORK FORCE

MEETING DATE: 13 JUNE 2017

Purpose of Report

To inform Council of the passing of Mark McDonald and to note his contribution to Willoughby City Council.

Discussion

Mark McDonald passed away last Wednesday, 7 June 2017. In his four years at Council Mark touched the lives of many people through his roles, capacities and personal qualities.

Mark started with Willoughby Council on 16 September 2013 as the Financial Services Manager. On 6 July 2015 he became the Chief Financial Officer.

Mark was a highly skilled finance professional who soundly guided Council's finances. He has built a lasting legacy through his professionalism and strong work ethic that is evident in the regard his colleagues have for him and in the healthy state of Council finances.

Mark was always a willing contributor to efforts for solving vexing issues. As an Acting Director on several occasions for the Customer & Corporate Directorate, he readily extended his support across a number of teams. He was a boss who looked after his team. He cared about Willoughby Council.

Mark was also a contagious personality at those times when celebration and acknowledgment of others was fitting. His wicked sense of humour helped make everyone more at ease, whether in a tense meeting or at a social function. Many colleagues knew Mark as a dedicated family man and father of two daughters, and as a friend.

Mark stepped down from work at the end of October 2016 following the onset of illness. He returned part-time in 2017 for several weeks. As recently as the start of May he briefed Councillors on Council's forthcoming budget.

Prior to joining Willoughby, Mark worked with Mosman Council from 1993 as a Financial Accountant and then Manager Finance. He started his career with Waverley Council in 1987 as an Accounts Payable Clerk, Accounts Receivable Clerk and Senior Finance Officer.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the passing of Mark McDonald, Council's Chief Financial Officer, on 7 June 2017 and send a letter of condolence to Mark's wife Cath and their family.