

**MM-1                    MAYORAL MINUTE MAJORS BAY ROAD SHOPS FIRE  
DAMAGE**

**Department      Executive**

**Author Initials: AT**

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**REPORT**

On Saturday evening fire broke out in the Major Bay Shopping precinct and affected the shops between Wellbank Street and Marinellos on the western side of Majors Bay Road. In particular numbers 84, 86, 88 and 90 Majors Bay Road.

Council officers attended the scene on Sunday and were handed control of the footpath both pedestrian and footpath dining areas when police completed their investigation.

A number of shops were seriously damaged and structures in the public domain also suffered major damage.

This damage caused included;

1. A number of shop awnings have been seriously affected by the heat, and will require engineering assessment for safety
  - a. The awnings fronting 4 shops will require the ceilings to be removed due to varying amounts of surface damage
  - b. At least 2 awnings may have suffered structural damage due to the intense heat, and will require removal
2. Damage to Council infrastructure appears to be limited to, pavers, resulting from both heat, water and residue from the burning material that would have impregnated the porous paver surface.
3. Outdoor dining shelters have been heat affected and charred.

Council staff met on site today with building owners, business owners, representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and Police to discuss action that needed to be taken to expedite the rectification works.

Notices were issued for the demolition and removal of four awnings including main awnings and footpath dining awnings that have been severely affected by the fire (numbers 84, 86, 88 and 90, Majors Bay Road) and numbers 80 and 82 have been requested to supply structural adequacy certificates for their awnings.

Insurance forensic investigators were on site today, together with consulting structural engineers to evaluate the damage to the buildings and awnings.

Advanced Buildings is the company that has been engaged by the insurers of 86 and 88 Majors Bay Road, and were also on site preparing to start work on the clean-up and removal of all charred material that is currently on the footpath area. They will also undertake the removal of the awnings as a matter of urgency on Thursday and Friday this week.

Councils concern focussed on public safety and addressing issues that would enable the opening of the strip and support business to continue to trade where possible.

There will be no requirement to lodge a development application where awnings that are damaged are removed and replaced with similar form.

An amnesty on footpath dining fees has been implemented for a 3 month period initially.

Footpath repairs will be assessed when all the rubbish and debris is removed later this week. The timing of any work, if necessary will be undertaken in consultation with business owners.

Shade structures in footpath dining areas have been damaged and the Chamber of Commerce, building owners and building operators would like to explore alternatives that would provide an improved look for the Majors Bay strip, before any decisions are made to replace like for like. Council Officers will work with the affected owners and lessees to review the current structures.

Also I believe that we must support all those businesses in Majors Bay Road that will be affected by the detrimental flow-on effects that the fire has caused. In an effort to address this it is critical that there is a positive public relations strategy that promotes the Majors Bay shopping precinct as continuing to function as a vibrant village despite this setback.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Additional costs (\$3,000) may be incurred in supporting the Majors Bay Road business community through a promotion campaign.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. THAT the report be received and noted
2. THAT Council Officers continue to liaise with the business community on Majors Bay Road and undertake action necessary to re-establish the public domain and reopen the footpath area for pedestrian traffic and footpath dining.