



**Brighton
Council**

Media Release

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Council sells software business

Brighton Council has agreed to sell its software business Microwise Australia.

Brighton Council General Manager James Dryburgh said the sale was a good outcome for Council, the local community and for Microwise's clients.

The business has been purchased by Dornier Digital. It will continue to be based in Brighton with all staff transferring across to the new owner.

"Now is the right time to sell the business. It has reached a critical point in its evolution and requires significant investment to take it to the next level to grow its national operations," Mr Dryburgh said.

"Microwise has been a successful Council-owned business since it was established more than 20 years ago to service the local government market. It has returned profits to Council through its lifetime. Everyone involved can be proud of its achievements and this outcome."

Mr Dryburgh said the sale was recommended by KPMG – one of the world's biggest accounting organisations – following a full review of the Microwise business and its future.

"The company has now developed to a scale and complexity that will have the best prospects for success in the private sector.

"Microwise has reached a critical point in its development, where it now needs to scale up to operate at optimum efficiency, maintain its growth and achieve success in a highly competitive market.

"The KPMG report assessed all options and then provided a strong rationale for the divestment of the company. This was ultimately accepted by Council and the sale successfully negotiated.

"As a result of the sale, Brighton will be even better placed to focus on core business and building a brighter future for the community," Mr Dryburgh said.

Dornier Digital Director, Ben Dornier, said he was committed to keeping the company in Brighton.

"There is a lot of talent and capability in Brighton, and we will continue to tap into this into the future," he said.

"Microwise is a real success story and we look forward to working with existing and future clients to build on this success."

Mr Dryburgh said importantly, the local business and the local jobs will remain in Brighton.



“Brighton Council retains a meaningful connection to a company that it could rightfully be proud of having established and grown.

“Council’s main considerations throughout the negotiations was to protect the interests of staff, secure Brighton’s interests, as well as realise past profits and safeguard the Council from future risk. We are proud to have achieved this,” he said.

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