



AGENDA FOR EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 14th September 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to clause 7 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice that the Ordinary Council Meeting of Walgett Shire Council will be held on **14 September 2023** commencing at **9:00am** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Please Note: The Council Meetings are recorded

Hugh Percy
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

What is a “Conflict of Interests” – A conflict of interests can be two types:

Pecuniary – an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person or another person with whom the person is associated.

Non-Pecuniary – a private or personal interest that a Council official has that does not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in the Local government Act (eg. A friendship, membership of an association, society or trade union or involvement or interest in an activity and may include an interest of a financial nature.)

Remoteness

A person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to a matter or if the interest is of a kind specified in Section 448 of the Local Government Act.

Who has a Pecuniary Interest? – A person has a pecuniary interest in a matter if the pecuniary interest is the interest of:

- The person, or
- Another person with whom the person is associated (see below)

Relatives, Partners

A person is taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter if:

- The person’s spouse or de facto partner or a relative of the person has a pecuniary interest in the matter, or
- The person, or a nominee, partners or employer of the person, is a member of a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter

N.B. “Relative”, in relation to a person means any of the following:

- (a) the parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descends or adopted child of the person or of the person’s spouse.
- (b) the spouse or de facto partners of the person or of a person referred to in paragraph (a)

No Interest in the Matter

However, a person is not taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter:

- If the person is unaware of the relevant pecuniary interest of the spouse, de facto partner, relative or company of other body, or
- Just because the person is a member of, or is employed by, the Council
- Just because the person is a member of, or a delegate of the Council to, a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter provided that the person has no beneficial interest in any shares of the company or body.

Disclosure and participation in meetings

- A Councillor or a member of a Council Committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Council is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Council or Committee at which the matter is being considered must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.
- The Councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the Council or Committee:
 - (a) At any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the Council or Committee, or
 - (b) At any time during which the Council or Committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

No Knowledge – A person does not breach this Clause if the person did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

Non-Pecuniary Interest – Must be disclosed in meetings.

There are a broad range of options available for managing conflicts & the option chosen will depend on an assessment of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the significance of the issue being dealt with. Non-Pecuniary conflicts of interest must be dealt with in at least one of the following ways:

- It may be appropriate that no action be taken where the potential for conflict is minimal. However, Councillors should consider providing an explanation of why they consider a conflict does not exist.
- Limit involvement if practical (eg. Participate in discussion but not in decision making or vice versa). Care needs to be taken when exercising this option.
- Remove the source of the conflict (eg. Relinquishing or divesting the personal interest that creates the conflict)
- Have no involvement by absenting yourself from and not taking part in any debate or voting on the issue as if the provisions in S451 of the Local Government Act apply (particularly if you have a significant non-pecuniary interest)

Disclosure to be Recorded (S453 Act)

A disclosure (and the reason/s for the disclosure) made at a meeting of the Council or Council Committee or Sub-Committee must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

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## **Local Government Act 1993**

### **Chapter 3 section 8A**

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR COUNCILS**

##### **(1) Exercise of functions generally**

*The following general principles apply to the exercise of functions by councils:*

- (a) Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.*
- (b) Councils should carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.*
- (c) Councils should plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.*
- (d) Councils should apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.*
- (e) Councils should work co-operatively with other councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.*
- (f) Councils should manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.*
- (g) Councils should work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.*
- (h) Councils should act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.*
- (i) Councils should be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.*

##### **(2) Decision-making**

*The following principles apply to decision-making by councils (subject to any other applicable law):*

- (a) Councils should recognise diverse local community needs and interests.*
- (b) Councils should consider social justice principles.*
- (c) Councils should consider the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations.*
- (d) Councils should consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development.*
- (e) Council decision-making should be transparent and decision-makers are to be accountable for decisions and omissions.*

##### **(3) Community participation**

*Councils should actively engage with their local communities, through the use of the integrated planning and reporting framework and other measures.*

## Table of Contents

|                                                                                                      |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| PUBLIC FORUM PRESENTATIONS .....                                                                     | 5  |
| 1. OPENING OF MEETING .....                                                                          | 7  |
| 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS.....                                                        | 7  |
| 3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....                                                                            | 7  |
| 4. ELECTION OF MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR.....                                                               | 8  |
| 4.1 DETERMINATION OF METHOD OF VOTING FOR ELECTION OF MAYOR AND<br>DEPUTY MAYOR BY COUNCILLORS ..... | 8  |
| 4.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR ENSURING ONE (1) YEAR.....                                                 | 10 |
| 5.3 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR.....                                                                    | 12 |
| 6. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY/NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS .....                                            | 13 |

## **PUBLIC FORUM PRESENTATIONS**

*The Council may hold a public forum prior to each Ordinary Meeting of the Council for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting (listed on the Agenda).*

*Public forums may also be held prior to Extraordinary Council Meetings and meetings of committees of the Council. Public forums are to be chaired by the mayor or their nominee.*

*The General Manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such material to be presented. A person may apply to speak on no more than 2 items of business on the agenda of the Council Meeting.*

*The General Manager or their delegate may refuse an application to speak at a public forum. No more than three (3) speakers are to be permitted to speak 'for' or 'against' each item of business on the agenda for the Council Meeting. If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may, in consultation with the mayor or the mayor's nominated chairperson, increase the number of speakers permitted to speak on an item of business, where they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so to allow the council to hear a fuller range of views on the relevant item of business.*

*Each speaker will be allowed five (5) minutes to address the Council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the Chairperson. The Chairperson of the meeting can grant one extension of up to a maximum of three (3) minutes, should further information, be considered to be important to the Council. This is solely at the discretion of the Chair.*

*Speakers at public forums must not digress from their nominated item on the agenda. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the Chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.*

*A councillor (including the chairperson) may, through the chairperson, ask questions of a speaker following their address at a Public Forum. Questions put to a speaker must be direct, succinct and without argument. Debate will not be permitted by the speaker, Councillors or staff. Speakers are under no obligation to answer a question. Answers by the speaker, to each question are to be limited to three (3) minutes. Speakers at public forums cannot ask questions of the Council, Councillors or Council staff.*

*The general manager or their nominee may, with the concurrence of the chairperson, address the council for up to 5 minutes in response to an address to the council at a public forum after the address and any subsequent questions and answers have been finalised.*

| SPEAKER    | TOPIC      |
|------------|------------|
| <b>Nil</b> | <b>nil</b> |

## 1. OPENING OF MEETING

Proceedings of the meeting commenced at \_\_\_\_\_am

## 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

*I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands within the Walgett Shire and I would also like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this Shire.*

## 3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

| Leave of Absence                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That the leave of absence received from _____ is accepted and leave of absence granted.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b></p> <p><b>Seconded:</b></p> |

## 4. ELECTION OF MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR

### 4.1 DETERMINATION OF METHOD OF VOTING FOR ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR BY COUNCILLORS

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive - Governance  
**AUTHOR:** Acting General Manager

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#### Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

**Recommendation:**

The method for the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor be selected on the day.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

This report is prepared to allow Council to determine the Method of Voting for the Election of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor by Councillors.

**Discussion (including issues and background):**

Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 sets out the process to be followed for the election of a Mayor and Deputy Mayor by Councillors, including the methods of voting that may be determined by a resolution of Council. The methods of voting for the election of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, that Council may adopt are summarised below:-

- Open Voting – this is by show of hands or similar means
- Preferential Ballot – as per its normal interpretation the ballot papers are to contain names of all candidates and Councillors mark their votes 1, 2, 3 and so on against the various names, so as to indicate their order of preference for all of the candidates.
- Ordinary ballot – this is the usual method adopted in New South Wales. Ballots are secret with only one (1) candidate's name written on a ballot paper.

Where there are two (2) candidates, the person with the most votes is elected. If the ballots for the two (2) candidates are tied, the one to be elected is to be chosen by lots, with the first name out being declared elected.

Where there are three (3) or more candidates, the person with the lowest number of votes is eliminated and the process started again until there are only two (2) candidates. The determination of the election would then proceed as if the two (2) were the only candidates. In the case of three (3) or more candidates where a tie occurs the one (1) to be excluded will be chose by lot.

- Choosing by Lot – to choose a candidate by lot, the names of the candidates who have equal numbers of votes are written on similar slips of paper by the Returning Officer, the slips are folded by the Returning Officer so as to prevent the names being seen,



the slips are mixed and one is drawn at random by the Returning Officer and the candidate whose name is on the drawn slip is chosen, on the basis detailed above.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Covid-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Act 2020 came into force. This Act subsequently amended a number of Acts, including the Local Government Act 1993.

(1) For the prescribed period—

(a) a requirement in the Act or the regulations that members of a council or other persons attend a meeting is satisfied if the meeting is held in whole or in part—

(i) remotely using audio visual links, or

(ii) in any other manner approved by the Minister but only if audio visual links are not reasonably available, and

(b) a requirement in the Act or the regulations that a meeting be open to members of the public is satisfied if—

(i) a webcast of the meeting is made public, or

(ii) members of the public are informed of what occurred at the meeting in any other manner approved by the Minister but only if a webcast is not practicable in the circumstances.

(2) The regulations may prescribe that subsection (1) does not apply to—

(a) a particular council, or

(b) a particular class of meeting.

(3) In this section— prescribed period means the period—

(a) starting on the commencement of this section, and

(b) ending on—

(i) the day that is 6 months after the commencement, or

(ii) the later day, not more than 12 months after the commencement, prescribed by the regulations.

Should a Councillor wish to attend the meeting remotely using an audio visual link, the number of methods available shall be limited to just the **“Open Voting – this is by show of hands or similar means”**.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

Schedule 7 “Election of Mayor by Councillors” of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005.

**Stakeholders:**

Councillors

**Attachments:**

Nil

## 4.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR ENSURING ONE (1) YEAR

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive - Governance  
**AUTHOR:** Acting General Manager

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### Election of Mayor for Ensuring One (1) Year

**Recommendation:**

That the report be received and noted and the election for the position of Mayor be held today.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

Section 225 of the Local Government Act 1993 states that each Local Government area must have a Mayor elected in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

**Discussion (including issues and background):**

The role of Mayor is defined as follows:

- To exercise, in case of necessity, the policy-making functions of the governing body of Council between meetings of the Council;
- To exercise such other functions of the Council as the Council determines;
- To preside at meetings of Council;
- To carry of the civic and ceremonial functions of the Mayoral office.

The Mayor for Walgett Shire Council is elected by the Councillors from among their own number.

The procedures for election of Mayor by Councillors under Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 are summarised below:

- The General Manager (or a person appointed by the General Manager) is the Returning Officer.
- A Councillor may be nominated without notice for election as Mayor or Deputy Mayor.
- The nomination is to be made in writing by two (2) or more Councillors (one of whom may be the nominee). The nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.
- The nomination is to be delivered or sent to the Returning Officer.
- The Returning Officer is to announce the names of the nominees at the Council meeting at which the election is to be held.
- Nomination papers have been enclosed with the business paper and may be delivered or sent to the Returning Officer either prior to or at the commencement of the Ordinary meeting.
- If only one (1) Councillor is nominated, that Councillor is elected.
- If more than one (1) Councillor is nominated then the election will proceed in accordance with the method of voting determined by Council, at this meeting.
- The election is to be held at the Council meeting at which the Council resolves on the method of voting.

Nomination forms are circulated under separate cover with this report.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

Local Government Act 1993

**Stakeholders:**

Councillors

**Attachments:**

Nomination Form circulated separately.

## 5.3 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive - Governance  
**AUTHOR:** General Manager

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### Election of Deputy Mayor

**Recommendation:**

That the report be received and noted and the election for the position of Deputy Mayor be held today for the period of one (1) year.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

Section 231 of the Local Government Act 1993 sets out the provisions of the Act for election of the Deputy Mayor. The person may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.

**Discussion (including issues and background):**

Section 231 of the Local Government Act 1993 states that:-

- The Councillors may elect a person from among their number, to be the Deputy Mayor.
- The person will be elected for the Mayoral term.
- The Deputy Mayor may exercise any function of the Mayor at the request of the Mayor or if the Mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function or if there is a casual vacancy in the office of the Mayor.
- The Councillors may elect a person from among their number to act as Deputy Mayor if the Deputy Mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising a function under this section, or if no Deputy Mayor has been elected.

Procedures for Nominations and the Election of Deputy Mayor are the same as set out for the election of Mayor.

The person will be elected for the mayoral term.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

Local Government Act 1993

**Stakeholders:**

Councillors

**Attachments:**

Nomination Form circulated separately.

## 6. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY/NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

*Councillors and senior staff are reminded of their obligation to declare their interest in any matters listed before them.*

*In considering your interest you are reminded to include pecuniary, non-pecuniary and conflicts of interest as well as any other interest you perceive or may be perceived of you.*

*Councillors may declare an interest at the commencement of the meeting, or alternatively at any time during the meeting should any issue progress or arise that would warrant a declaration.*

*Councillors must state their reasons in declaring any type of interest.*

| Councillor | Item No. | Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary | Reason |
|------------|----------|-------------------------|--------|
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8. CLOSE OF MEETING

**Time:** .....