



AGENDA FOR EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 8th February 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to clause 7 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice that the Extraordinary Council Meeting of Walgett Shire Council will be held on **8 February 2022** commencing at **11:00am** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Please Note: The Council Meetings are recorded

Michael Urquhart
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.*

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## **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

#### Recommendation:

That the leave of absence received from \_\_\_\_\_ is accepted and leave of absence granted.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

## 4. MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

### Move into closed session

**Time:** .....

That the public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Sections 10A (2) (a) (c) & (d) of the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the items deal with:

- (a) Personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)
- (c) That information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting business (or proposed to conduct business)
- (d) That the matter and information is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

## 5. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS/CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING

## 6. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

### Return to open session

**Recommendation:**

That Council return to open session.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

## 7. ADOPTION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

### Adoption of closed session reports

**Recommendation:**

That Council adopt the recommendations of the Closed Committee Reports

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

## 8. CLOSE OF MEETING

**Time:** .....