



AGENDA
of the
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
to be held on
WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2017
in the
ALEXANDRA COUNCIL CHAMBER
commencing at
6.00 pm

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1. PRAYER, OATH AND RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**2. APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

REF: SF/306

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

REF: SF/783

4. OFFICER REPORTS**4.1 COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT 2017**

REF: SF/137 (17/9949)

Attachments: Councillor Code of Conduct 2017 (refer *Attachment 4.1* – TRIM 16/74120)***Purpose:***

The purpose of this report is to review and adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct as required under the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Officer Recommendation:**That:**

- 1. Council adopts the Councillor Code of Conduct 2017 as shown in attachment 4.1.**
- 2. Council notes that by 22 March 2017 Councillors are required to declare in writing and witnessed by the Chief Executive Officer that they have read and will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct 2017 in accordance with Section 76C(6A) of the Local Government Act 1989.**

Background:

All Councils are required to 'develop and approve a Code of Conduct for the Council'. The Council must review, and make any necessary amendments to the Code of Conduct within four months of each Council general election.

The Code of Conduct clearly outlines the values, responsibilities and behaviours that are to be observed in keeping good faith and trust with fellow councillors, staff and the community. It is important that all Councillors understand and comply with the Councillor Code of Conduct.

Council Plan/Strategies:

The review of the Code of Conduct is consistent with the objectives of the Council Plan 2013-2017 which includes, under the Our Council Goal, the Objective that 'We will deliver quality customer outcomes by continuing to find better ways of doing things'.

Legal/Policy Issues:

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 1989* (the *Act*) to ensure that there is a Councillor Code of Conduct in place and that it is reviewed within four months of a General Election of Council. Council must ensure that the Code of Conduct meets the legislated requirements under the *Act* and that it does not contravene any other legislation.

Financial/Resources/Risk:

The review of Council policies and codes is undertaken within existing Council resources. The review and adoption of this Code of Conduct will ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Discussion:

A general election was held on 22 October 2016 in which seven Councillors were elected to represent the communities within the Murrindindi Shire. The Councillor Code of Conduct is reviewed and adopted by Council and outlines the agreed values, behaviours and commitments that each individual Councillor will uphold how the Council will govern as a collective.

The Code of Conduct also documents a commitment to uphold all legislated requirements under the *Local Government Act 1989*, and acknowledges Council's responsibility to the community to conduct themselves in a transparent and fair manner.

Following Council's adoption of the Councillor Code of Conduct 2017 each Councillor has four weeks to sign a declaration witnessed by the Chief Executive Officer that they have read and agree to abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct 2017.

Consultation:

No external consultation is required in the review of the Code of Conduct. Whilst there is no statutory obligation to consult with the community prior to the adoption of the Code of Conduct, there is a requirement that once adopted it be made available for public inspection.

The Special Meeting called for this purpose was advertised in the following papers:

Newspaper / Other	Publishing Date(s)
<u>Newspaper:</u>	
Alexandra Standard	08/02/2017 and 15/02/2017
Yea Chronicle	08/02/2017 and 15/02/2017
Marysville Triangle	03/02/2017 and 10/02/2017
North Central Review	31/01/2017, 07/02/2017 and 14/02/2017
<u>Councils Website</u>	31/01/2017

Conclusion:

The review and adoption of the Councillor Code of Conduct 2017 is a legislated requirement under the *Local Government Act 1989* but is more importantly an agreement by Councillors to conduct themselves in the best interests of the community and uphold the shared values of their fellow Councillors.