

**11.22 COUNCILLOR INDUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Place the draft Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy, contained at Attachment A, on public exhibition for 28 days.
2. Receive a further report following the public exhibition period, or if no submissions are received, adopt the draft Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy as exhibited.

**BACKGROUND**

Section 232 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (“the Act”) provides that all Councillors have a responsibility “to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a Councillor”. Under Part 8A of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (“the Regulation”), the General Manager has a statutory duty to ensure the delivery of:

- An induction program for newly elected and returning Councillors and a specialised supplementary induction program for the Mayor within six months of their election; and
- An ongoing professional development program for the Mayor and each Councillor over the term of the Council to assist them to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform their roles.

On 18 December 2018, the OLG published the *Councillor Induction and Professional Development Guidelines* (“the Guidelines”) pursuant to section 23A(1) of the Act, which provides guidance to councils on how they should develop and deliver their pre-election information sessions, Councillor induction programs and ongoing Councillor professional development programs. The Guidelines include at Appendix C a Model Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy (“the Model Policy”).

**ISSUE/DISCUSSION**

The draft Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy (“the draft Policy”), contained at Attachment A, has been adapted from the Model Policy and seeks to embed Council’s commitment to ongoing professional development for the Mayor and Councillors and develop a structured approach for realising this commitment in practice.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

- Outcome 5.3 – Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If adopted, the draft policy requires Council to provide an annual budget allocation to support the induction and professional development activities undertaken by the Mayor and Councillors. In accordance with the Guidelines, the budget will be set by Council in its Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy and be monitored and reported on quarterly, as well as in Council’s Annual Report.

**LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS***Local Government Act 1993*

- Section 232 – The role of a councillor

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*

- Clause 183 – Induction training courses for councillors
- Clause 184 – Supplementary induction training courses for mayors
- Clause 185 – Ongoing professional development program for councillors and mayors
- Clause 186 – Information about induction training and ongoing professional development to be included in annual report

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. **Attachment A - Draft Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy**