

Efficient and Effective Council

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Report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 20 November 2017

Relevance to Community Strategic Plan

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE COUNCIL

The reports contained within this section of the agenda outline actions and activities that contribute to the achievement of the outcomes as outlined in Create Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033.

EC1 – Adoption of Councillors Fees, Expenses & Facilities Policy

EC1

Adoption of Councillors Fees, Expenses & Facilities Policy

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Councillors Fees, Expenses & Facilities Policy has been updated in order to reflect the Office of Local Government (OLG) Model Better Practice Councillors Fees and Expenses Policy.
- It is recommended:
 - that the Councillors Fees, Expenses & Facilities Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days with a further 14 days for submissions.
 - that a report come to Council following the submission period for the policy to be adopted.

REPORT

The OLG released a Model Better Practice Councillors Fees and Expenses Policy on 27 June 2017. This Policy is recommended for all Councils to use and is consistent with the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (the Regulation) and the Office of Local Government's (OLG) Guidelines for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW (the Guidelines).

The terms of the Model Better Practice Policy has been adopted with only minor variations and adjustment to suit local circumstances.

New features to the Policy include:

- maximum expenditure limits for specific expenses and facilities;
- Councillor professional development arrangements; and
- revised travel reimbursement arrangements for Councillors.

CONSULTATION

Consultation was held with Executive, the Manager – Governance, Principal Governance Officer, GIS/Property & Administration Team Leader and the Manager Technology, Information & Corporate Strategy.

A Councillor workshop on the draft policy was conducted in August 2017.

An analysis of expenditure limits have been undertaken with other Councils to ensure the amounts reflect best practice.

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EC1 – Adoption of Councillors Fees, Expenses & Facilities Policy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Allocation of funding is available under the Local Democracy and Information Technology Budgets.

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE BOOKLET

1. Draft Councillors Fees, Expenses & Facilities Policy

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the amended Councillor's Fees, Expenses & Facilities policy be placed on Public Exhibition for a period of 28 days with a further 14 days for submissions.
2. That a report come to Council following the submission period for the policy to be adopted.