

ORDINARY COUNCIL

Thursday 21 March 2024

Ordinary Council Meeting

Thursday, 21 March 2024

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1 Leadership and Governance

What we are trying to achieve

A community that works together in decision making that is defined as ethically, socially and environmentally responsible.

What the result will be

We will have:

- A community that has the opportunity to be involved in decision making
- Open, easy, meaningful, regular and diverse communication between the community and decision makers
- Partnerships and collaborative projects, that meet the community's expectations, needs and challenges
- Knowledgeable, skilled and connected community leaders
- Strong corporate management that is transparent

How we will get there

- 1.1 Inform and engage with the community about what Council does using varied communication channels
- 1.2 Maintain strong partnerships between all stakeholders - local, state and federal — so that they are affective advocates for the community
- 1.3 Demonstrate leadership
- 1.4 Use innovative, efficient and sustainable practices
- 1.5 Ensure strong corporate and financial management that is transparent and accountable

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL COUNCILS IN NSW

A GUIDE TO COMPLETING RETURNS OF INTEREST

Introduction

Under the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* (the Model Code of Conduct), certain council officials are required to disclose their personal interests in publicly available returns of interests.

These operate as a key transparency mechanism for promoting community confidence in council decision making, whether by councillors or by staff or others under delegation.

You must complete and lodge your return of interests in accordance with the requirements in the Model Code of Conduct.

You must not lodge a return that you know or ought to know is false or misleading in a material particular.

Complaints about breaches of these requirements are to be referred to the Office of Local Government (OLG) and may result in disciplinary action by the council, the Departmental Chief Executive, or the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Important information

Who must submit a return of interests?

You must complete and lodge a return of interests if you are a councillor or designated person.

Designated persons include:

- the general manager
- senior staff, and
- staff, delegates of councils or members of committees who the council identify as

exercising functions that could give rise to a conflict of interest.

When must I submit a written return of interests?

You must submit a return of interests within three months of being elected or becoming a designated person and submit a new return annually (within three months of the start of each financial year).

You do not need to submit a return of interests if you have already submitted a return in the three months preceding 30 June, or if you ceased to be a councillor or designated person in the three months preceding 30 June.

If, at any time, you become aware of any new interests that need to be disclosed, you must submit a new return within three months of becoming aware of the interests.

Who must I lodge my return of interests with?

All returns of interests are to be lodged with the council's general manager.

A return lodged within 3 months of 30 June must be tabled at the first council meeting after the last day the return was required to be lodged.

A return lodged at any other time must be tabled at the first council meeting after the return was lodged.

2 Your Community Life

What we are trying to achieve

A healthy, inclusive and vibrant community.

What the result will be

We will have:

- Community hubs that provide access to services and social connections
- A safe, caring and connected community
- A healthy and active community that is supported by recreational infrastructure
- A strong community that is able to identify and address social issues
- Community participation in events, programs, festivals and activities

How we will get there

- 2.1 Create a community that feels safe
- 2.2 Advocate for social inclusion and fairness
- 2.3 Provide quality programs, community facilities and public spaces, for example, community halls, parks and vibrant town centres
- 2.4 Empower the community through encouraging active involvement in projects, volunteering and events
- 2.5 Promote a creative and culturally rich community

3 Your Business and Industry

What we are trying to achieve

A region that is a successful place that has vibrant, diversified and resilient regional economy that provides opportunities for people to live, learn, work, play and invest.

What the result will be

We will have:

- A strong economy that fosters a culture supportive of business and ensures economic development of the region
- Townships, villages and business precincts that are vibrant commercial, cultural, tourism, recreational and/or community hubs
- A region that attracts investment to create jobs
- Partnerships that maximise economic return and create an efficient and effective business environment

How we will get there

- 3.1 Embrace business and a stronger economy
- 3.2 Create vibrant and desirable places
- 3.3 Embrace opportunity and attract investment to support the wealth and growth of the community
- 3.4 Partner for success with key stakeholders in business, industry, government, education and the community

4 Your Natural and Built Environment

What we are trying to achieve

A connected, sustainable, accessible community and environment that is protected now and into the future.

What the result will be

We will have:

- Effective management and maintenance of essential water, waste and sewer infrastructure
- A community that is prepared for natural events and climate change
- Sustainable and environmentally sensitive development outcomes that consider the impact on the natural environment
- Accessible transport network for our communities
- Infrastructure provision and maintenance that meets community expectations and needs
- Well planned communities that are linked to encourage and manage growth
- Accessible and protected waterways, foreshores, beaches and bushlands
- An environment that is protected and conserved for future generations
- Renewable energy options that are understood and accessible by the community

How we will get there

- 4.1 Provide (appropriate) infrastructure and services including water cycle management, waste management, and sewer management
- 4.2 Aim to minimise the impact of natural events and climate change, for example, floods, bushfires and coastal erosion
- 4.3 Facilitate development that is compatible with the natural and built environment
- 4.4 Plan for integrated transport systems that help people get around and link our communities
- 4.5 Plan for integrated and connected communities across the Port Macquarie-Hastings area
- 4.6 Restore and protect natural areas
- 4.7 Provide leadership in the development of renewable energy opportunities
- 4.8 Increase awareness of issues affecting our environment, including the preservation of flora and fauna

