

AMENDED ITEM

Item No: 1.3
Title: Notice of Intention to Deal with Matters in Confidential Session
Department: Governance



24 February 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2019/00041-003 - D13779430

Summary

It is necessary for the Council to adopt a resolution to formalise its intention to deal with certain matters in a closed and confidential Session. The report is incorporated in the "Confidential" business paper which has been circulated.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires the Chief Executive Officer to identify those matters listed on the business paper which may be categorised as confidential in terms of section 10A of the *Local Government Act 1993*. It is then a matter for Council to determine whether those matters will indeed be categorised as confidential.

Recommendation

That Council resolve that the following matters be dealt with in closed session, pursuant to s. 10A(2)(f) of the Local Government Act 1993 for the following reasons:

Item 7.1 – Council Meetings

Reason for considering in closed session:

2(f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property,

That Council resolve, pursuant to s10A(2)(f) of the Local Government Act 1993, that this report remain confidential as it contains information affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff and Council property, and because consideration of the matter in open Council would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest as it may compromise the ability to ensure the safety of those attending Council Meetings.

Context

Section 10A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) states that a Council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises:

2(a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors),

1.3 Notice of Intention to Deal with Matters in Confidential Session (contd)

- 2(b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,*
- 2(c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,*
- 2(d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:*
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or*
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or*
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret,*
- 2(e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,*
- 2(f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property,*
- 2(g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege,*
- 2(h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.*

It is noted that with regard to those matters relating to all but 2(a), 2(b) and 2(d)(iii) it is necessary to also give consideration to whether closing the meeting to the public is, on balance, in the public interest.

Further, the Act provides that Council may also close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (section 10A(3)).

As provided in the Office of Local Government Meetings Practice Note August 2009, it is a matter for the Council to decide whether a matter is to be discussed during the closed part of a meeting. The Council would be guided by whether the item is in a confidential business paper, however the Council can disagree with this assessment and discuss the matter in an open part of the meeting.

Attachments

Nil