

6.2 Citizenship Ceremonies

Objective

To ensure that persons who are to be conferred Australian Citizenship are provided with a memorable and dignified ceremony and to ensure that the Council fulfils the requirements of the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* (the Act) and the *Australian Citizenship Regulations 2007* (the Regulations).

Policy

A Citizenship Ceremony is the opportunity to welcome new citizens as formal members of the Australian community and the Shire of East Pilbara.

The acquisition of Australian Citizenship is a very important milestone in a person's life and as such is an occasion of celebration. The Shire of East Pilbara will conduct a meaningful, dignified and memorable ceremony to mark the occasion of the acquisition of Australian Citizenship by residents of the Shire.

Citizenship Ceremonies will be conducted twice per calendar year at the:

1. Australia Day Ceremony - 26 January (Newman Aquatic Centre); and
2. Citizenship Day – 17th September at a venue to be confirmed (depends on numbers).

Where a ceremony cannot be held in conjunction with the above dates, alternative dates may be arranged, although it is preferred that all candidates adhere to the two given dates.

All ceremonies are to be conducted by the Shire President, or in his/her absence the Deputy President or in his/her absence another Councillor, (preferably the relevant Ward member). (For the purpose of this policy this person is referred to as the Presiding Officer).

Candidates may invite up to three family members or friends, or more than three if the family group is of a greater number. The candidate is required to advise Administration before the ceremony, the number of people attending and dietary requirements.

The ceremony will be conducted in a manner outlined in the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Handbook 2008 and in accordance with the following criteria:

1. The Presiding Officer will welcome the candidates and their families and friends and introduce dignitaries present, (Councillors, Officers, and Invited Guests). Opening Address, including acknowledging the traditional owners.
2. The Presiding Officer will read aloud the message from the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship.
3. The Presiding Officer will read aloud the opening preamble.
4. The Presiding Officer will call the candidates individually or together to read the oath or affirmation.
5. The Presiding Officer will give the candidates a framed certificate and present them with an Australian gift. (The Presiding Officer is to sign all documents prior to the ceremony.)
6. The Presiding Officer will then advise the new citizens of the electoral enrolment procedure.
7. The Presiding Officer is to read aloud a brief speech congratulating the candidates and welcoming them to Australia and the Shire of East Pilbara. The Presiding Officer may call upon an invited guest to

make a small welcoming speech.

8. The Presiding Officer asks all present to stand for the Australian National Anthem.
9. The Presiding Officer concludes the ceremony with a Closing Address and invites the candidates and his/her guests to partake of Council's hospitality along with Councillors, Officers and invited guests.

To ensure that an appropriate record of the ceremony is maintained, the Council will ensure that photographs are taken of candidates in the ceremony. At the completion of the ceremony a photo of each candidate together with the Shire President and relevant Ward member/s will be taken. A copy of that photo shall be provided to the candidate free of charge.

The Shire President/Councillor is to ensure that they are appropriately attired and that the ceremony is undertaken in a dignified manner. A reasonable level of hospitality will be provided to the candidate/s.

Authorisation Details

References:	<i>Australian Citizenship Act 2007 (the Act)</i> <i>Australian Citizenship Regulations 2007 (the Regulations)</i>		
Authorised by:	Council		
Date:	8 February 2002	Item No.	9.16
Review/Amendment Date	8 December 2006	Item No.	
Review/Amendment Date	23 October 2009	Item No.	
Review/Amendment Date	7 December 2012	Item No.	
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