

4.8 Public Relations – Press Releases

Objective

To ensure Council meets its obligations under the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Policy

1. The Shire President is the official spokesperson for the Council. If approached by the media for formal comment on any issue, Councillors and staff suggest that the media make direct contact with the Shire President as the Council's official spokesperson.
2. When the media does not make direct contact with the Shire President and a member of staff is asked to respond/comment to the media, the enquiry shall be directed to the Chief Executive Officer who will liaise with the Shire President to determine who will respond/comment and the nature of the response/comment. If the Shire President or person acting in the capacity of Shire President is unable to be contacted, the Chief Executive Officer will determine who is to respond and the nature of the response.
3. Without express authority from the Shire President, staff and Councillors are not to offer a Council view, attitude, stance, etc. on any issue, this clearly being the function of the Shire President.
4. A Councillor's or staff member's right to express a personal opinion on any issue of public interest is recognised.

Authorisation Details

References:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>		
Authorised by:	Council		
Date:	27 June 2003	Item No.	9.1.3
Review/Amendment Date		Item No.	
Next Review			
Responsible Directorate	Chief Executive Officer		
Responsible Officer	Manager Governance, Risk and Procurement		
File No.			