



**NORTHERN  
MIDLANDS  
COUNCIL**

# **AGENDA**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2021**

**IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM  
VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM**

Des Jennings  
GENERAL MANAGER



## QUALIFIED PERSONS ADVICE

The *Local Government Act 1993* Section 65 provides as follows:

- (1) A general manager must ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council or a council committee is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.
- (2) A council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless –
  - (a) the general manager certifies, in writing –
    - (i) that such advice was obtained; and
    - (ii) that the general manager took the advice into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
  - (b) a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice is provided to the council or council committee with the general manager's certificate.

I therefore certify that with respect to all advice, information or recommendation provided to the Council in or with this Agenda:

- i) the advice, information or recommendation is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation; and
- ii) where any advice is directly given by a person who does not have the required qualifications or experience, that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice, the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person.

## MEETING CONDUCT

- People attending Council Meetings are expected to behave in an appropriate manner.
- The following is not acceptable:
  - Offensive or inappropriate behaviour;
  - Personal insults; and
  - Verbal abuse.
- In the case of any inappropriate outburst or derogatory behaviour, an apology from the offending party or parties will be requested. Anyone at the meeting, if they feel offended in any way by any such behaviour specified above, should immediately bring the behaviour to the notice of the Chairperson by the way of a Point of Order.
- The Chairperson has the right to evict from a meeting any person who is not behaving to an appropriate standard.

## RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

**COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 – Regulation 18** makes provision for councils to hold meetings via video conferencing platforms.

A copy of the recording of the meeting will be placed on Council's website as soon as practicable after the meeting, the Closed Council session of the meeting will be redacted.

**Regulation 33** of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* provides for the audio recording of Council meetings.

The purpose of recording meetings of Council is to assist Council officers in the preparation of minutes of proceedings.

Council's Policy includes the following provisions:

- only applies to formal Council meetings (ordinary meetings, special meetings and Annual General meetings);
- does not apply to closed sessions of Council;
- does not apply to Committees of Council;
- The recording will not replace written minutes and a transcript of the recording will not be prepared;
- The recording may be used by Council staff to assist with the preparation of the minutes and by Council during a subsequent meeting within the period that the recording is retained;
- The official copy of the recording of a Council meeting is to be retained by Council for at least a period of 6 months from the date of a meeting and deleted after that period has expired;
- Notices advising that:

A member of the public may only use an audio recorder, or any other recording and/or transmitting device, to record the proceedings of a meeting of Council with the written permission of the General Manager for the express purpose proposed. The Northern Midlands Council reserves the right to revoke such permission at any time.

Unless expressly stated otherwise, Northern Midlands Council claims copyright ownership of the content of recordings of Council meetings ("the Recordings").

Des Jennings  
GENERAL MANAGER



## GUIDELINES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

### PUBLIC ATTENDANCE DURING THE COVID-19 DISEASE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Public Attendance Meeting Guidelines during the COVID-19 Disease Emergency

The conduct of Council Meetings is currently being undertaken in accordance with the *COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020*. This has necessarily meant that public attendance at meetings has been restricted. Under these arrangements Council meetings have been undertaken remotely via online platforms.

While COVID-19 restrictions remain in place, Council is mindful of the need to ensure community safety and compliance with regard to social distancing and limitations on the number of persons who may gather. This obligation is balanced with the need to minimise disruption to the business of Council.

Council determined that limited public access to Council meetings would be permitted from the Council Meeting scheduled for 14 December 2020.

Attendance of the public will be restricted to those who wish to make representation or present a statement in person at the meeting, preference is to be given to individuals:

1. making representations to planning applications which are subject to statutory timeframes (limit of 4 persons per item); and
2. those making statements or representations on items listed in the Agenda for discussion (limited to 2 persons).

To ensure compliance with Council's COVID-19 Safety Plan, any person wishing to attend will be required to register their interest to attend, which is to be received by Council before 12noon 4 days (i.e. usually the Friday) preceding the meeting by emailing [council@nmc.tas.gov.au](mailto:council@nmc.tas.gov.au) or phoning Council on 6397 7303.

On arrival attendees will:

- be required to complete the health declaration section of their registration form to support COVID-19 tracing (in the event that it is necessary); and
- receive direction from council officers (or Council's delegate) in relation to their access to the meeting room.

Access to the Municipal Building will only be permitted prior to 5.00pm and between 6.30pm to 6.40pm. Public Question Time commences at 6.45pm.

Members of the public who would prefer not to attend the meeting, but would like to ask a question or make a representation to the Council that would normally be heard during Public Question Time, may forward their question/representation to [council@nmc.tas.gov.au](mailto:council@nmc.tas.gov.au) which is to be received by Council before 12noon 4 days (i.e. usually the Friday) preceding the meeting.

Any questions/representations received will be circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, tabled at the meeting and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

These arrangements are subject to review based on any change in circumstance relating to the COVID-19 Disease Emergency.

Council will continue to ensure minutes and audio recordings of Council meetings are available on Council's website.

### PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Regulation 31 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* makes provision for Public Question Time during a Council meeting.

Public question time is to commence immediately after the meal break at approximately 6.45pm and is to be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- At each Council Meeting up to 20 minutes, or such longer period as Council may determine by resolution at that meeting, is to be provided for persons at the meeting to ask questions.
- A person seeking to ask a question must firstly identify himself or herself by stating their name and the town they reside in.
- If more than one person wishes to ask a question, the Mayor is to determine the order in which those questions are asked.
- Questions must be directed to the Mayor who shall answer or direct the question to the appropriate Councillor or Council Officer. A question will be answered if the information is known otherwise taken on notice and responded to in writing within 10 working days.
- Questions should preferably be in writing and provided to the General Manager 7 days prior to the Council Meeting.
- A person is entitled to ask no more than 2 questions on any specific subject. If a person has up to two questions on several subjects, the Mayor may defer those questions until other questions have been asked and refer back to that person only if time permits.
- Each submission speaker is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.

### REPRESENTATIONS ON PLANNING ITEMS

A maximum of 4 persons per item (2 for and 2 against) will be permitted to address Council on a planning item. After the representation has been made, Councillors are permitted to ask questions of the party who made the representation.

Each speaker is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.

### PETITIONS

In relation to the receipt of petitions, the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Part 6 - Petitions, polls and public meetings, S57 and S58, should be noted.



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 5.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13 SMITH STREET, LONGFORD AND VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE *COVID-19 DISEASE EMERGENCY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2020, SECTION 18* (AUTHORISATION FOR MEETINGS NOT TO BE HELD IN PERSON)

DES JENNINGS  
GENERAL MANAGER  
26 NOVEMBER 2021

## 1 ATTENDANCE

### PRESENT

In Attendance:

### APOLOGIES



## 2 TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1 ATTENDANCE .....	4
2 TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	5
3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY .....	6
4 DECLARATIONS OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST OF A COUNCILLOR OR CLOSE ASSOCIATE.....	6
5 CLOSURE .....	6
6 ITEMS FOR THE CLOSED MEETING .....	6



### 3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge Elders – past, present and emerging.

### 4 DECLARATIONS OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST OF A COUNCILLOR OR CLOSE ASSOCIATE

As per the *Local Government Act 1993, Part 5 - Pecuniary Interests, section 48*:

- (1) A councillor must not participate at any meeting of a council, council committee, special committee, controlling authority, single authority or joint authority in any discussion, nor vote on any matter, in respect of which the councillor–
  - (a) has an interest; or
  - (b) is aware or ought to be aware that a close associate has an interest.
- (2) A councillor must declare any interest that the councillor has in a matter before any discussion on that matter commences.

### 5 CLOSURE

### 6 ITEMS FOR THE CLOSED MEETING

Item	Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 Reference
Legal Issue - Planning Appeal	15(2)(i)
Legal Issue – Planning Appeal	15(2)(i)

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Part 2 - Meetings*

- (a) personnel matters, including complaints against an employee of the council and industrial relations matters;
- (b) information that, if disclosed, is likely to confer a commercial advantage or impose a commercial disadvantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposes to conduct, business;
- (c) commercial information of a confidential nature that, if disclosed, is likely to -
  - (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.
- (d) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal;
- (e) the security of -
  - (i) the council, councillors and council staff; or
  - (ii) the property of the council.
- (f) proposals for the council to acquire land or an interest in land or for the disposal of land;
- (g) information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to the council on the condition it is kept confidential;
- (h) applications by councillors for a leave of absence;



- (i) *matters relating to actual or possible litigation taken, or to be taken, by or involving the council or an employee of the council;*
- (j) *the personal hardship of any person who is a resident in, or is a ratepayer in, the relevant municipal area.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council move into the "Closed Meeting" with the General Manager, Corporate Services Manager, Works Manager, Senior Planner and Executive Assistant to discuss Closed Council Items.