



**NORTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, 13 DECEMBER 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 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 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 THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, 13 DECEMBER 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
8 DECEMBER 2021

1 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

In Attendance:

APOLOGIES



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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 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

A welcome and opening address by Mayor Knowles.

5 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.*
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6 PROCEDURAL

6.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held at the Council Chambers, Longford on Monday, 15 March 2021 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.



6.2 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS: ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report for the 2020/2021 financial year was circulated by the General Manager.

The notice of the Annual General Meeting together with the Annual Report was advertised in the Examiner Newspaper on Saturday, 27 November 2021 and Wednesday, 1 December 2021. The community were invited to submit comments on the Annual Report for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.



6.3 QUESTIONS

6.3.1 Questions On Notice

No questions on notice have been received.

6.3.2 Questions Without Notice

Questions not on notice welcomed by Mayor Knowles, to be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- 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 (Chair) 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 as soon as possible.
 - 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 speaker is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.
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7 CLOSURE