



9. GOVERNANCE

Policy 9.10

COUNCIL WORKSHOPS AND BRIEFING SESSIONS

Version 3

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OBJECTIVE:

To allow the mayor, elected councillors and senior management staff to:

- Exchange information (sometimes confidential) on proposals that are being worked on by staff or proposals that councillors would like to see investigated.
- Provide a forum for discussion on proposed staff initiatives and discuss options for engaging the community in determining Council's strategic corporate direction.
- Assist councillors/executive staff in team building.
- Help develop trust and understanding between those who attend the workshops.

LEGISLATION

The following legislation is applicable to this policy:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009
- Freedom of Information Act, 1982 (Federal)
- Lithgow City Council Code of Conduct
- Code of Meeting Practice
- State Records Act 1998

COUNCIL POLICIES

The following Council policies should be referred to in conjunction with this policy:

- Policy 4.10 Community Engagement and Communications

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

This policy supports the sentiments expressed by the community during the preparation of the *Community Strategic Plan ~ Our Place, Our Future* that "Council focuses on strong civic leadership, organisational development and effective governance with an engaged community actively participating in decision making processes affecting their future".

- GL3 We are all valued citizens
 - GL3.1 we provide prompt, knowledgeable, friendly and helpful advice.

POLICY:

The Council has resolved to hold regular workshops and briefing sessions to ensure effective communications and information flow between staff and councillors.

Under the Local Government Act 1993, a council can hold a workshop (or sometimes called a briefing session) under its general powers as a body corporate. Workshops are informal gatherings and can provide useful background information to councillors on the business of council. Workshops may involve councillors, council staff and invited participants.

DECISIONS

Under the terms of the NSW Local Government Act 1993 and the Meetings Practice Guidelines issued by the Department of Local Government, workshops or briefing sessions CANNOT make a decision or issue a direction to staff or councillors.

FORMAT

- The workshops are to be chaired in rotation and in alphabetical order by councillors.
- There will be no standing orders or formal meeting procedures.
- Those attending the workshop should be respectful and show courtesy for the person that is talking.

The General Manager, Directors and other staff will provide a brief update on their responsibility area(s).

REPORT

A report shall be kept of matters discussed.

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