



1. COUNCIL POLICIES

1.2 OTHER COUNCIL ISSUES

1.2.10 Approach to Attracting and Promoting Economic Development in the District

Policy Measures

Background and Issues

The Shire of Manjimup has a core strategic focus on growing population through job creation via attraction and development of commercial economic development initiatives in the district.

Past practice has often involved the Shire President, Councillors and specified staff seeking a variety of economic development opportunities for the district and then assisting proponents with a wide range of matters including for example:

- Statutory advice;
- Identification of appropriate land uses;
- Lobbying the Commonwealth and/or State (elected members or agencies) in support of proposals;
- Technical and pragmatic advice in relation to matters such as local conditions, potential fatal flaws, statutory requirements, likely conditions if Council was to approve the proposal, local contractor resources, and consultation requirements;
- Access to the Shire's Development Control Unit to discuss proposals in detail;
- Reducing red tape to increase efficiency of the approval process;
- Letters of Support for funding purposes;
- Provision of contacts and introductions; and
- Other proposal specific matters.

There are three main issues that may arise in attempting to attract and facilitate economic development initiatives in the district:

- The need to ensure that the Shire remains independent and acts as the "assessment and approval agency";
- That commitment or false expectation is not created prior to any proposal being assessed and approved or refused under statutory processes; and
- The proponents need to often request "commercial in confidence" when discussing proposals.

Objectives

To ensure that statutory requirements are met and the Shire is not unnecessarily exposed to unacceptable financial or other risk.

Area of Application

Commercial proposals in the whole of the Shire of Manjimup district expected to exceed a total project cost of \$1,000,000. Attracting and promoting activities will cease once a statutory application for approval is received by the Shire and accepted for assessment.

Delegations to Act

That the Shire President, Councillors and staff provided with authority under this policy are permitted to encourage economic development in the district generally in accordance with the following guidance:

**1.2.10 Approach to Attracting and Promoting Economic Development
in the District**

Shire President

- Make initial contact;
- Commence preliminary discussions with proponents to determine project specifics, and the scale and scope of the project;
- Engage necessary technical, statutory or experiential expertise from CEO, Directors or Councillors to assist or undertake investigations including study tours;
- Lobby the Commonwealth and/or State (elected members or agencies) in support of, or assistance for, proposals;
- Engage the CEO or Directors to coordinate meetings or briefings as required;
- Provide relevant contacts and introductions to proponents;
- Advise Councillors, CEO and Directors on proposals other than those where “commercial in confidence” requests have been made by proponents; and
- When appropriate refer proponents to relevant Shire Departments to facilitate statutory applications.

Councillors

- Make initial contact;
- Commence preliminary discussions with proponents to determine project specifics, and the scale and scope of the potential project;
- Once relevant information is obtained, refer the proposal to the Shire President, CEO or Director; and
- If possible, assist the Shire President, CEO or Director with the proposal where requested.

CEO and Directors

- Make initial contact;
- Commence preliminary discussions with proponents to determine project specifics, and the scale and scope of the project;
- Engage necessary technical, statutory or experiential expertise from within staff, Shire President or Councillors to assist or undertake investigations including study tours;
- Advise the Shire President of the proposal;
- Lobby the Commonwealth and/or State (elected members or agencies) in support of, or assistance for, proposals;
- Coordinate meetings or briefings as required;
- Provide relevant contacts and introductions to proponents;
- Advise Councillors on proposals other than those where “commercial in confidence” requests have been made; and/or
- When appropriate refer proponents to relevant Shire Departments to facilitate statutory applications.

Staff provided with delegated authority

- Where possible refer the proposal to Director or the CEO prior to commencing preliminary discussions with proponents to determine project specifics, and the scale and scope of the project;

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- Provide technical and pragmatic advice to proponents in relation to matters such as local conditions, potential fatal flaws, statutory requirements, likely conditions if Council was to approve the proposal, local contractor resources and consultation requirements;
- Assist the CEO or Director with any proposal where requested; and/or
- When appropriate refer proponents to relevant Shire Departments to facilitate statutory applications.

General Requirements

- Any Disclosure of Interest provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* are to be adhered to when applying this policy;
- Any communication with proponents about potential projects must carry a disclaimer that any advice provided shall not be construed as an approval under any circumstances and that appropriate statutory processes will apply;
- A statement to emphasise that all decisions made by proponents on any advice provided by the Shire is at the proponents risk;
- Any communication with proponents must not commit the Shire to any funding or unreasonable use of resources;
- Any requests for “commercial in confidence” is paramount to maintain and must be respected; and
- Effective immediately from the point where a statutory application for approval is received by the Shire and accepted for assessment, all communication with proponents of potential projects impacted by this policy shall be limited to statutory matters only in order to maintain independence when undertaking the statutory assessment and approval processes.

Administration

The administration of this policy is by the Office of the CEO.

Adoption and Date Due for Revision

ADOPTED 11 DECEMBER 2014
REVIEWED 14 APRIL 2016
REVIEWED 23 JANUARY 2020

NEXT DUE FOR REVIEW JANUARY 2024

The Administration of this Policy is by the Office of the CEO.
