

6.2 Notices of Motion

6.2.1 Amendment to Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy

LISTED BY CR PAUL CAVALIER TO 5 FEBRUARY 2014 COUNCIL MEETING

Amendment to Payment of Expenses Policy

GOV400022, GOV400038

MOTION

That Council amend the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy - Part 2 - Payment of Expenses - b) Categories of Payment / Reimbursement (iii) Accommodation - to read as follows;

"Council may by resolution in advance of the event approve to meet all reasonable accommodation costs on the evening of the meeting for a Councillor when, in the opinion of the Council, travelling home would introduce undue risk to that Councillor. Accommodation will generally be booked by Council staff.

On "one off" occasions where in the opinion of the Mayor it would be impractical or introduce undue risk for the Councillor to travel home after the meeting, accommodation will be provided at Councils expense. If the Mayor is required to approve such expenses then that is to be reported to the Council in open meeting at the next Council meeting".

This amendment to the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities of Councillors Policy be placed on public consultation for 28 days.

BACKGROUND

From time to time, it is reasonable to expect that Council meetings will run very late into the evening and travel by some Councillors to their homes late into the night after long meetings could introduce undue risk for a Councillor. The Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facility to Councillors Policy addresses this matter but not in an open and transparent manner. Under the current policy, the decision is simply left with the Mayor and/or General Manager.

Within the Policy -

Payment of Expenses - b) Categories of Payment / Reimbursement (iii) Accommodation it reads

"In those circumstances where, in the opinion of the Mayor or General Manager, because of the timing of the meeting, it would be impractical or introduce undue risk for the Councillor to travel home after the meeting, Council will meet reasonable accommodation costs (including sustenance and telephone calls) on the evening of the meeting for the Councillor. Accommodation will generally be booked by Council staff."

The amendment in this notice of motion proposes that Council makes

the decision or at a minimum Council is notified of the Mayors decision at the next available meeting. The intention of the amendment is simply to provide transparency to other Councillors and the community on expenses incurred by Councillors. Nothing else should be read into this proposed amendment.