Item 6:   Notices of Motion or Rescission

6.1   Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy

NOTICE OF MOTION LISTED BY CR PETER SHELLEY
TO 19 APRIL 2023 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400103, GOV400022

MOTION

That Council amends the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy to the following;

Where its states on Page 3, under Policy subheading: "Councillors must provide claims for reimbursement within three months of an expense being incurred. Claims made after this time cannot be approved". This to be amended to state "Councillors must provide claims for reimbursement within six months of an expense being incurred. Claims made after this time cannot be approved".

Background

This motion is simply an administration change. Changing the time frame from 3 months to 6, in effect assisting Councillors to comply with Council's policy whilst not being disadvantaged because of it.

Officer's comments

The Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy was last before Council in April 2022. The policy that was adopted by Council included a change whereby claims for expenses needed to be made within three months. This was consistent with the recommendations from the Office of Local Government. However, this was a change from the previous version of the policy.

Normally, the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy is required to be placed on public exhibition prior to amendment or adoption and this process would be included as part of the recommendation. However, Clause 253(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 provides circumstance for a change to be made without public exhibition if "the council is of the opinion that the proposed amendment is not substantial". This proposed change may well fit within that clause. However, it is recommended that Council include in its resolution reference to consideration of clause 253(3). For instance, the recommendation could include the following:

That Council:
    1. …….
    2. *note that the proposed change is not substantial as per clause 253(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 and therefore no public exhibition period is required.*