



1. COUNCIL POLICIES

1.2 OTHER COUNCIL ISSUES

1.2.1 Press Release – Council Spokespersons

1. In accordance with Section 2.8(d) of the Local Government Act 1995, the Shire President be the authorised spokesperson of the Council.
2. In accordance with Section 5.41(f) of the Local Government Act, the Chief Executive Officer also be the spokesperson of the Council if the President agrees.
3. If the President is not available or unable to be the spokesperson (Section 5.34 of the Local Government Act) and the Chief Executive Officer is not available or unable to be the spokesperson, then the Deputy President may perform this function.
4. With the authority from the Shire President, individual Councillors may be authorised to make statements to the press on specific items relating to that Councillor's responsibility (ie Committee Chairman) and the Chief Executive Officer may delegate authority to other officers to be the spokesperson in accordance with the Act (Section 5.44(1)).
5. If a Councillor or staff member is approached by the press to answer questions or make a comment on Council business, that, unless specifically authorised by the President if a Councillor, or the Chief Executive Officer if an officer, that member of the press be referred to the authorised spokespersons of the Council for a response.
6. That this policy in no way diminishes the basic rights to freedom of speech, but a disclaimer must accompany any personal statements made by Councillors.

**REVIEWED AND ADOPTED 13 JUNE 2002
NEXT DUE FOR REVIEW JUNE 2006**

The Administration of this Policy is by Corporate Division.