

City of Hobart

Policy

Title: Property Developer Contact Register

Category: Corporate Governance

Date Last Adopted: 24 April 2023

1. Objectives

The objective of this policy is to provide transparency and accountability in relation to elected members' interaction with property developers in order to avoid the risk of reputational damage to the City of Hobart and its elected members.

2. Background

This policy has been developed following the adoption of a notice of motion in December 2022. This policy has been based on arrangements in other jurisdictions, along with considerations raised by the Council during the debate of the notice of motion. It attempts to balance the above objective with the practicalities of disclosing the information and the certainty required in defining the nature of the interests.

3. Policy

General

- 1) Elected members will report their prescribed contact with property developers on a monthly basis to a council officer as delegated by the Chief Executive Officer and will include:
 - a) who the contact was with;
 - b) when the contact occurred;
 - c) the type of contact (eg. text, email, phone call, in person etc);
 - d) any specific development/property discussed and the nature of that discussion; and Elected member response.
- 2) The Register be:
 - a) published online always and made accessible to the public on request in other forms.

4. Legislation, Terminology and References

Local Government Act 1993

Definitions

Developer – means an individual, body corporate or company engaged in a business that:

- (a) regularly involves the making of relevant planning applications in connection with the residential or commercial development of land, with the ultimate purpose of the sale or lease of the land for profit; and
- (b) includes any consultant, lobbyist, advisor, agent, representative or person closely associated with a Developer and who is appointed to promote or advocate for the Developer's interests or proposal, except when they are representing someone who is not regularly involved in the making of relevant planning applications or the development of land.

Contact – means any communication or conversation between a Council Member and Developer, regardless of whether it is foreseen, planned, solicited or reciprocated, and includes but is not limited to the following methods of communication – telephone, electronic mail (e-mail), short message service (SMS), multimedia messaging service (MMS), facsimile, web-based networking platform, written mail, face to face and the like.

Prescribed Contact means any contact relating to a planning or development proposal, including proposals in a preliminary stage, for which the developer is a proponent, excluding any exempt contact.

Exempt Contact means any contact which:

- (a) is in the form of a public statement made at a Council Forum, Council Briefing or Council Meeting; or
- (b) does not involve the Council Member engaging in any discussion or communication with the developer on the planning or development proposal where routine information only is conveyed.



City of **HOBART**

Routine Information means advising a Developer where to access information on the planning or development process or to contact the City of Hobart administration or State Government regarding their planning or development proposal.

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| Responsible Officer: | Director City Enablers |
| Policy first adopted by the Council: | 24 April 2023 |
| History | |
| Amended by Council | Not applicable |
| Next Review Date: | 24 April 2024 |
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