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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Best practice approach to managing conflicts of interest**

A new policy that sets out how Council as whole will manage conflicts of interest was tabled at last night's meeting.

Acting Mayor Sally Doyle said the Management of Conflicts of Interest Policy is part of improving governance processes across all areas of Council and ensuring a best practice approach to the management of conflicts of interest.

“While this policy came out of the concerns raised about the robustness of the General Manager recruitment process, there are many occasions where there is personal or financial interest that gives rise to a conflict,” Cr Doyle said.

“One of our priorities these past few months has been to review our governance processes.”

The Council engaged WLF Accounting and Advisory to undertake management of conflict-of-interest training with Councillors and to prepare a policy and guideline in response to the Edge Legal recommendation.

Councillor training was completed on 1 February this year.

“We have been working very closely with WLF Accounting and Advisory. The training was thorough and confidence building for all Councillors” Cr Doyle said.

“Having a robust process to respond to conflicts of interest is paramount to helping us rebuild trust with the community.”

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Acting Mayor Doyle said the policy goes beyond the minimum requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Code of Conduct for Councillors* and identifies best practice for the Council.

The policy applies to any person associated with decision making of the Council including the councillors, general manager, directors, managers, employees, suppliers, and consultants.

The policy will be available to the public on the Council's website and at the Customer Service Centre.

**For more information: Acting Mayor Sally Doyle (03) 6264 0300**