

8.2. Councillor Pecuniary Interest Returns

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ATTACHMENTS: Nil

PURPOSE:

To report on the submission of Returns of Interest by Councillors following the 2021 Local Government Elections as required under the Code of Conduct.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Under the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (Model Code of Conduct) all councillors, members of county councils and voting representatives of the boards of joint organisations must lodge a written return of interests with the general manager (or the executive officer in the case of joint organisations) within three months of their election (i.e. **23 March 2022**) or appointment unless they have submitted a return within the previous three months.

All councillors elected at the 2021 Local Government elections have fulfilled their obligations in this matter and have submitted returns by the due date.

Following this meeting, the Returns submitted by councillors following the election will be made available on the Council website.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report be received and Council note the tabling of Returns as required under the Model Code of Conduct.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

5. Our Civic Leadership

5.2 Council is well governed and customer focused

BACKGROUND

Among other things, councillors and others who are required to complete returns of interests must disclose the following types of interests in their returns:

- interests in real property
- gifts
- contributions to travel
- interests and positions in corporations
- whether they are a property developer or a close associate of a property developer
- positions in trade unions and professional or business associations
- dispositions of real property
- sources of income, and
- debts.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is not required.

DETAIL

Under the Model Code of Conduct, general managers must maintain a register of returns of interests and returns must be tabled at the first meeting of the council after they are required to be lodged, i.e. three months from the declaration of the 2021 Local Government election result (23 December 2021).

These Returns are now formally tabled as required.

Returns of interests must also be made publicly available free of charge on councils' websites, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information contained in them or to do so would impose unreasonable additional costs on the council or joint organisation.

All councillors elected at the 2021 Local Government elections have fulfilled their obligations in this matter and did so by the due date.

Returns of interests submitted by North Sydney Councillors and designated officers have been made available on Council's website since 2020 in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Information and Privacy Commission. Following this meeting, the Returns submitted by councillors following the election will be made available on the Council website.

The next reporting period for returns by councillors and designated persons is for 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 with returns due to be tabled at the first Ordinary Council Meeting after 30 September 2022.