

City of Hobart

Policy

Title: Public Interests Register Policy

Category: Corporate Governance

Date Last Adopted: 24 April 2023

1. Objectives

The objective of this policy is to create a process for elected members to publically disclose interests they may have proactively to the community which mitigates the risk of a public perception of inappropriate decisions and reputational damage to the City of Hobart.

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) Disclosure of Elected Members' interests

That within 28 days of election to the Hobart City Council, Elected Members will provide to the CEO or delegated officer, a statement of:

- (a) the Elected Member's interests, and
- (b) the interests of which the Elected Member is aware of their spouse/partner.

(2) Interests

The statement of an Elected Member's interests to be provided by an Elected Member shall include the interests of which the Elected Member is aware and includes the following matters:



City of **HOBART**

- (a) shareholdings in public and private companies where the combined total value of the shares is more than \$10,000, indicating the name of the company or companies;
- (b) trusts that the elected member is a trustee or a beneficiary of;
- (c) land the elected member owns or has a beneficial interest in within municipal area of Hobart, excluding the elected member's primary residence;
- (d) registered directorships of companies;
- (e) personal debt over \$10,000 (excluding financial institutions);
- (f) any paid employment in the preceding 6 months where the income exceeds \$10,000 in that period;
- (g) any sponsored travel or hospitality received where the value of the sponsored travel or hospitality exceeds \$300;
- (h) unincorporated associations in which the elected member is a member and performs a leadership role;
- (i) any other interests where a conflict of interest with an Elected Member's public duties could foreseeably arise or be seen to arise; and
- (j) any election campaign donation*.

* Nothing in this Policy alters or fetters any requirements contained in the *Local Government Act 1993* regarding disclosure of interests by Elected Members.

(3) Publication

The Register of elected members' interests be is:

- (a) published online always and made accessible to the public on request in other forms;
- (b) as soon as possible, but not exceeding 28 days, after an Elected Member obtains a new interest that interest will be registered with the Office of the Chief Executive or delegated officer.

(4) Reporting

An Elected Member may be reported to the Director of Local Government if the Elected Member:

- (a) knowingly fails to provide a statement of interests in accordance with this Policy;
- (b) knowingly fails to notify any alteration of those interests to the Register of Elected Members' Interests within 28 days of the change occurring, or
- (c) knowingly provides false or misleading information.



4. Legislation, Terminology and References

Local Government Act 1993

Responsible Officer:	Director City Enablers
Policy first adopted by the Council:	24 April 2023
History	
Amended by Council	Not applicable
Next Review Date:	
File Reference:	F23/54202