

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 27 August 2024
CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item: 19.1

Responsible Officer: Zoë Gill
Governance and Risk Coordinator
Office of the Chief Executive

Subject: Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom Question on Notice – Cost of Mayor’s Use of the Mayor Seeking Legal Advice Policy

For: Information

1. Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom Question on Notice – Cost of Mayor’s Use of the Mayor Seeking Legal Advice Policy – Exclusion of the Public

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except:

- Chief Executive Officer, Greg Georgopoulos
- Director Environment & Infrastructure, David Waters
- Director Corporate Services, Gary Lewis
- Acting Director Community & Development, Jess Charlton
- Governance and Risk Coordinator, Zoe Gill
- Minute Secretary, Rebekah Lyons
- IT Support, Tom Portas

be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 10.3: (Cost for Mayor’s Use of the Mayor Seeking Legal Advice Policy) in confidence.

The Council is satisfied that it is necessary that the public, with the exception of Council staff in attendance as specified above, be excluded to enable Council to consider the report at the meeting on the following grounds:

Section 90(3)(a) and (h) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is:

(a) Information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead);

(h) legal advice;

Accordingly, on this basis the principle that meetings of the Council should be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information and discussion confidential.

2. Cost for Mayor’s Use of the Mayor Seeking Legal Advice Policy – Confidential Item

QUESTION

How much has the Inquiry into 'Mayor Seeking Legal Advice' cost so far and what is the expected final cost?

BACKGROUND

Given our recent workshop regarding our financial position, personnel and other expenditures are going to be critical. Two areas that have had a lot of changes in the past year are staffing and elected member complaint numbers. The chamber needs to be fully informed as to how we are travelling with these challenges especially since this financial year is an enterprise agreement negotiation year.

OFFICER’S RESPONSE – Zoë Gill

Question: How much has the Inquiry into 'Mayor Seeking Legal Advice' cost so far and what is the expected final cost?

Administration is currently negotiating the cost for the Independent Inquiry into the Mayor’s Use of the Mayor Seeking Legal Advice. The total amount will exceed the original estimated cost primarily due to the complexity of the matter and procedural fairness requirements.

APPENDIX

Nil

3. Cost for Mayor’s Use of the Mayor Seeking Legal Advice Policy – Duration of Confidentiality

Subject to the CEO, or his delegate, disclosing information or any document (in whole or in part) for the purpose of implementing Council’s decision(s) in this matter in the performance of the duties and responsibilities of office, Council, having considered Agenda Item 10.3 in confidence under sections 90(2) and 90(3)(a) and (h) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, resolves that an order be made under the provisions of sections 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* to retain the Items in confidence as detailed in the Duration of Confidentiality Table below:

Item	Duration of Confidentiality NB: Item to be reviewed every 12 months if not released
Report	Until Further Order
Related Attachments	Until Further Order
Minutes	Until Further Order
Other (presentation, documents, or similar)	Until Further Order

Pursuant to section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Council delegates the power to revoke the confidentiality order either partially or in full to the Chief Executive Officer.