Media Statement

2 September 2024

Council clarifies important policies and practices

At the Adelaide Hills Council meeting on Tuesday 27 August 2024, elected members considered a number of matters relevant to the Mayor Seeking Legal Advice Policy, which stipulates the conditions under which a Mayor can seek legal advice without seeking Council approval.

Consideration of these matters was a result of the findings and recommendations of an Independent Inquiry Report requested by Council following questions about legal advice sought by the Mayor late last year.

Council also addressed a confidential matter of workplace, health and safety following some independent advice.

Council resolved that the Mayor step down from the Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review Panel. The Terms of Reference will be amended accordingly.

Council also resolved to appoint Deputy Mayor Melanie Selwood as the Council's principal spokesperson. This responsibility will remain with the Deputy Mayor for the term of this Council, unless Council resolves otherwise.

Deputy Mayor Selwood is currently Acting Mayor as Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom is on leave.

These matters were addressed in confidence given the constraints of legal professional privilege and the nature of some aspects of the inquiry.

"The Adelaide Hills Council considers matters of governance and workplace, health and safety to be important priorities," said Deputy Mayor Selwood.

"Council has resolved to take action and review its internal processes and policies to ensure appropriate governance moving forward. I am confident this work will provide greater clarity into the future."

"Equally, Council's confidential deliberations on the workplace, health and safety matter will sharpen our focus on the safety and well-being of all of our staff, our volunteers and our elected members," Deputy Mayor Selwood concluded.

Media Contact:
Jennifer Blake
Manager Communication, Engagement & Events
Adelaide Hills Council
p 08 8408 0430 **m** 0437 114 698
jblake@ahc.sa.gov.au

ahc.sa.gov.au
@ahcouncil

@adelhillscouncil
@adelaide-hills-council

@adelaidehillscouncil
Adelaide Hills Council official