

# Public Comment to the Media Policy

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# Contents

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1. Objective	3
2. Policy Statement	3

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## 1. Objective

The policy objective of the Public Comment to the Media Policy is to ensure that comment made to the public through the media is consistently accurate and in the best interests of Council.

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## 2. Policy Statement

1. That the Mayor shall at all times be the official spokesperson for the Council. On matters of Council policy or operations, the General Manager, Communications Manager and Communications Coordinator shall be the official spokespeople. This policy shall not be construed to inhibit the right of individual Councillors to express their own views to the media at any time.
2. Council Directors, Managers and specialist staff may comment or provide information on matters of fact and other matters not involving opinion, interpretation of Council policy or making predictions as to future Council actions, only with the prior approval of the General Manager. If necessary to improve timeliness, the General Manager will ensure that appropriate arrangements are made to ensure that a prompt and timely response can be made by the Manager Communications.
3. That, in any case where a Councillor of the Council provides to the media any information, item or paid advertisement relating to a decision of the Council, the Councillor concerned be required to outline the decision in its full context and, where necessary, supply a summary of the reasons given by Council for that decision. It will be accepted that the spirit of this clause has been addressed if the Councillor takes appropriate steps to ensure that the recipient of the media information is aware of the full resolution of Council.

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