

## **EM 9 – Professional Development for Elected Members Policy**

### **Objective**

Pursuant to Section 5.128 of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI), the Shire will ensure that all Elected Members meet and comply with the professional development required for Elected Members under the Act.

The Shire shall encourage Elected Members to undertake other professional development opportunities related to their roles as Elected Members under the Act.

### **POLICY SCOPE:**

This policy applies to all Elected Members.

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

1. The Local Government Act 1995 requires all Elected Members to undertake compulsory training within 12 months of being elected. The Shire is required under the Local Government Act 1995 to adopt and report on compulsory training, and additionally, continuing development for Elected Members of the Shire.

It is policy that Elected Members undertake and successfully complete the following prescribed professional development training modules titled “*Council Member Essentials*” within the period of 12 months from the day the council member was elected, unless a prescribed exemption applies:

- Understanding Local Government;
- Serving on Council;
- Meeting Procedures;
- Conflicts of Interest; and
- Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets.

All units and associated costs will be paid for by the Shire and completed within the 12 months following election. Under the Act presently training is valid for 5 years; if this changes the Shire will fund refresher training as necessary for Elected Members who require it.

Pursuant with Section 5.127(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI), the Shire will publish on the Shire’s website training undertaken by all Elected Members within one month after the end of the financial year.

## 2. Training Delivery for Council Member Essentials

The Shire of Christmas Island shall engage the WA Local Government Association's online platform to deliver the training required for "*Council Member Essentials*."

## 3. Ongoing Professional Development

Ongoing professional development opportunities arise throughout the year from the Department of Local Government and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI), the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

Elected Members are encouraged to participate in conferences, seminars and other learning opportunities as presented by WALGA, DLGSCI and ALGA from time to time.

The Shire shall make available to Elected Members the video-conferencing or phone-conferencing resources during Council's opening hours to attend.

Requests for WALGA Elected Member training units beyond the "*Council Member Essentials*" shall be supported by the Shire via the WALGA online platform or other WALGA distance education resources.

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