

POLICY NO.	M.5
POLICY SUBJECT	Public Relations – Press Releases
ADOPTION DATE	17 December 1998
LAST REVIEW DATE	26 November 2020 (C.05/1120)

1. The Local Government Act 1995 provides that the role of the Shire President is to speak on behalf of the Local Government and accordingly, the Shire President is the official spokesperson for the Council. If approached by the media for formal comment on any issue, Councillors and Staff are in the first instance, to suggest that the media make direct contact with the Shire President as the Council's official spokesperson.
2. When the media does not make direct contact with the Shire President and a member of staff is asked to respond/comment to the media, the staff member will direct the enquiry to the Chief Executive Officer who will liaise with the Shire President to determine who will respond/comment and the nature of the response/comment. If the Shire President or person acting in the capacity of Shire President is unable to be contacted, the Chief Executive Officer only will determine who is to respond and the nature of the response.
3. Without express authority from the Shire President, staff and Councillors are not to offer a Council view, attitude, stance, etc on any issue, this clearly being the function of the Shire President.
4. A Councillor's right to express a personal opinion on any issue of public interest is recognised.
5. It is acknowledged that the Chief Executive Officer and senior employees will, when appropriate, be required to comment to the media regarding operational issues. When doing so, these staff shall not offer a Council view, attitude, stance, etc on any issue that has not been resolved by Council, this clearly being the function of the Shire President.