

6.2.7 Request For Leave of Absence - Cr Owen

Responsible GM: Debbie Tyson
Author: Doug Evans

Recommendation(s)

That Council note the request received from Cr Brett Owen for a leave of absence for the period 9 November to 26 November and retrospectively approve this request and further note that Cr Owen has requested that he not receive his Councillor allowance during this period of leave.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

Cr Brett Owen has lodged a request for a leave of absence from his councillor duties as he will be nominating as a candidate at the forthcoming State Election.

Background

The Local Government Act 2020 contains provisions regarding a Councillor requesting leave from the Council and stipulates that any reasonable request for such leave must be granted.

Cr Owen has publicly advised of his intention to nominate as an independent candidate at the State Election being held on 26 November. It is Cr Owen's intention to lodge his nomination for the election on Wednesday 9 November.

Although there is no requirement in the Local Government Act for a Councillor to take a leave of absence if they nominate as a candidate at a State or Federal Election the Guidelines issued by the Municipal Association of Victoria suggest that for transparency purposes a Councillor should take a leave of absence from their councillor duties.

In regard to Councillor Allowances a Councillor can elect to not receive all or part of the Councillor allowance and Cr Owen has chosen to not receive his allowance for the period of his leave.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications regarding this matter.

Relevance to Council Plan

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

5.1.5 Champion the collective values of the community through the Councillors' governance of the shire.

Climate Emergency Consideration

There are no climate emergency considerations associated with this matter

Consultation/Communication

Nil

Financial and Resource Implications

Cr Owen has requested that his councillor allowance for November be adjusted so that he does not receive an allowance for the period of his leave

Conclusion

It is appropriate to approve of the request for a leave of absence received from Cr Owen for the period of 9-26 November.