

16. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**16.1 Re-Configuration of Seating Arrangements in the Council Chamber**

That the Council Directs the CEO to:

- 1. Organise the re-configuration of the Council Chamber so that the Mayor and Elected Members of Council are seated at the same level in a semi-circle on a raised platform and non-elected members and support staff are seated around the perimeter of the Chamber at the standard level**
- 2. Complete the required works for the start of the 2022 Council meetings.**

Reasons as Provided by Cr Ross

1. Section 2.7 of the Local Government Act 1995 provides that the Council governs the Local Government's affairs, is responsible for the performance of the Local Government's functions and is to oversee the allocation of finances and determine the Local Government policies. Therefore, any application or depiction of the official hierarchy of the Council must be represented and located literally and figuratively at the highest level of the seating arrangement. The Council must not only govern but must be seen to govern the affairs of the Local Government/
2. The Chamber is the Council chamber not the administrative Chamber.
3. In the current configuration, the City's administrative staff outnumber the elected members on the raised platform and physically oversee all the elected members, except for the Mayor, thus contributing to the perception of the administration being the governing authority.
4. WALGA itself have apparently commented negatively about the current seating arrangement for not accurately representing Council's position as the governing body.
5. There is widespread perception across the community that the administration oversees the Council, the current configuration of seating arrangements contributes to this perception of the Council being overseen and controlled by the administration.
6. This motion means no disrespect to anyone, however should it be considered disrespectful to relocate the administration at a lower level, then by that standard it must be more disrespectful to the elected members to have been located at a lower level despite their actual position in the official hierarchy.
7. Changing the community perception will result in greater respect for the City's governance and greater community compliance and support for the City Council.