



Agenda Briefing Forum

December 2023



City of
Melville



Officer Presentation

UP23/28 – Neighbour Dispute Mediation Policy

Mr P Varelis, Director Planning

UP23/28 – Neighbour Dispute Mediation Policy

Purpose/background:

On 15 August 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council (OMC), a Notice of Motion was presented and passed by Council requesting the City prepare a report to Council on the benefits and implications of establishing a Neighbour Dispute Mediation Policy.

Notice of Motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION (15.1)

At 8:09pm Cr G Barber moved, seconded Cr T Fitzgerald

That the Council:

- 1. Request the Chief Executive Officer prepare a report for Council's consideration, by December 2023, on the benefits and implications of establishing a Neighbour Dispute Mediation Policy.**
- 2. Note that the scope of investigations should include but not be limited to:**
 - (a) Policy purpose/statement.**
 - (b) Details of matters for consideration.**
 - (c) Governance considerations including an implementation framework, decisions, outcomes, and reporting.**
 - (d) Include research on other established policies within a local government context.**

CARRIED (12/1)

Details:

1. The report includes information on:
 - a) Policy purpose/statement
 - b) Details of matters for consideration (including cost)
 - c) Governance considerations including an implementation framework, decisions, outcomes and reporting
 - d) Include research on other established policies within a local government context.
2. Details applicable circumstances both civil and City related.
3. Note that financial contributions from the City are only recommended for matters relevant to the City.
4. The potential policy content was workshopped with Council for input and guidance at a recent Elected Member Engagement Session.

Considerations:

1. Mediation is for willing participants.
2. The City's role is facilitative (bookings etc.) with professional external mediators conducting mediation.
3. Varying Local Governments have differing approaches with some establishing formal policies and providing financial contributions.
4. The potential policy content is not intended to provide an avenue for the City to separate itself from statutory compliance responsibilities.
5. The content provides a voluntary option for alternative dispute resolution with the City facilitating amicable and mutually beneficial outcomes.
6. Embedded review period every 6 months for 24 months.

Recommendation:

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council requests the Chief Executive Officer prepare a Neighbour Mediation Council Policy in accordance with the recommendations outlined in this report.



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