



## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

9th August 2005

**GM4 EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY**  
**FILE: \* AVB {Folio No. \*}**

### SUMMARY:

To advise Council of recent amendments to the Local Government Act affecting Councils Expenses and Facilities Policy.



### DESCRIPTION:

Recent amendments to the Local Government Act requires Councils to adopt a policy concerning the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors within five months after the end of each financial year.

Councils will be required to give public notice of an intention to adopt or amend such a policy. Public notice will not be required where an amendment is not substantial.

Once public notice has been given and submissions received and the policy adopted, the Council must provide the Department of Local Government with a copy of the policy and a summary of the submissions received.

The policy adopted by the Council must comply with guidelines to be issued by the Director General under section 23A of the Act. These Guidelines will be issued in the near future following consultation with the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW.

The primary aim of the Guidelines is to clarify issues in regard to the scope and extent of the expenses that may be claimed by, and the equipment and facilities provided to, Mayor and Councillors.

The Guidelines will assist Councils with the making of their expenses and facilities policies, set out certain principles and discuss relevant issues. They will not provide model clauses for

inclusion in policies. However a suggested outline structure or format for the policies will be included and Councils will be encouraged to use this format and adapt it where necessary to suit their needs.

This will replace the current requirement that before adopting or amending a policy for the payment of expenses or provision of facilities the Council must give at least 28 days public notice of the proposal.

As soon as the guidelines are issued a further report will be presented to Council.

**REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

***Nil***

- ***Social***

***Nil***

- ***Economic (Financial)***

***Nil***

- ***Policy or Statutory***

***Nil***

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the information be noted.**

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**A V Burgess**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**