



## MAYORAL REPORT

13<sup>th</sup> June 2006

**MM3**

**CONFERENCE REPORTING**

**FILE: 424**

**JACH**

**{ Folio No. \* }**

### **SUMMARY:**

To recommend a means of reporting costs associated with the attainment of professional development and learning of Councillors and staff.



### **DESCRIPTION:**

Those members of the community that attended the public meeting on the Management Plan on Tuesday, 30th May 2006 made a number of pertinent points and they are being followed up. I have already contacted a number of attendees to obtain additional information and background.

There is obvious community concern that they are unable to obtain information on how their rate dollar is being expended in some instances and in particular in relation to the attendance of conferences and seminars by individual Councillors, the General Manager and other staff and the use of credit cards to pay those expenses.

Council has been advised by the Department of Local Government that it is not allowed to provide creditor payment information to the public and I quote from the Director General, Department of Local Government letter dated 27th May 2005, "As advised in the Department circular 04/51, Council should be mindful of its obligations under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PIIP Act). Councils must not make the cheque warrant a public document and, as such, the supply of a copy of the warrant must be for a legitimate reason in terms of the PIIP Act."

I share the communities concerns, and I have in the past actively advocated that the warrant should continue to be reported to Council and the community through the monthly Council business paper as was previously the case.

I have discussed the issue with the General Manager and we believe that the community's concerns could be overcome by reporting monthly to Council on the conferences and seminars attended and the cost of those individual conferences and seminars.

It has been suggested that the corporate credit cards issued to myself and the General Manager should only be used to pay the expenses of the card holder. Currently the General Manager's and my credit card are used to pay the expenses of Councillors and the General Manager's card is also used to pay other staff expenses. All the credit cards belong to the one corporate account. If further credit cards are obtained to pay Councillor expenses only, or other staff expenses only, they too would belong to the same corporate account. There is only one payment made to MasterCard. There is no community advantage in having multiple credit cards. As the individual card statements are not publicly available.

I believe by reporting the costs of attendance at conferences and seminars the community's desire to be informed will be achieved.

**REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- *Environmental*

*Nil*

- *Social*

***Reporting on conferences attended and the costs of attendance will fulfil governance and probity issues with the community.***

- *Economic (Financial)*

*Nil*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*Nil*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That a monthly report be submitted to Council outlining conferences / seminars attended by the Mayor, Councillors, General manager and staff during the preceding monthly period and the cost of those conferences / seminars.**

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**J A C Hayes  
MAYOR**