

## **ITEM WITHOUT NOTICE**

### **PRIVATE USE OF MAYORAL MOTOR VEHICLE**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item without notice be accepted and referred to the May 2023 meeting of Council, as it requires resolution before the next scheduled meeting.

## PRIVATE USE OF MAYORAL MOTOR VEHICLE

Council Meeting:	23 April 2023
Report Date:	18 May 2023
Author:	General Manager
File #:	SC218
Approval:	General Manager

### BACKGROUND

To seek approval for the Mayor's husband to use the Mayoral vehicle for private use for a fee, while Cr McRae attends the National General Assembly in Canberra.

### RECOMMENDATION

That

1. **Council approve Dr Des McRae as an authorised person to drive the Mayoral vehicle while accompanying Mayor Ruth McRae to the National General Assembly in Canberra, 12-16 June 2023, and that the fee for use be set at \$0.30km.**
2. **The General Manager be directed to develop a policy on this matter.**

### OFFICERS COMMENTS

The Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy states:

*Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under this policy.*

It also provides the Mayor with a Mayoral vehicle:

*10.1. Council will provide to the Mayor a maintained vehicle to a similar standard of other Council vehicles, with a fuel card. The vehicle will be supplied for use on business, professional development and attendance at the Mayor's office. Incidental private use may be permitted at the discretion of the General Manager.*

It also provides for the Mayor or Councillor to be reimbursed for use of their private vehicle on Council business, the current rate is \$0.91km.

Council's Motor Vehicle Policy allows those with private use of the motor vehicle to permit others to operate without their presence.

*For Groups 1 - 3 - employees are entitled to grant permission to other persons to drive the Council vehicle whilst on private use and without the employee being present, provided such person(s) are fully licensed and are related to the employee (immediate family i.e. parents, partner, children and siblings). When*

*the employee is present in the vehicle any competent, fully licensed driver may drive the vehicle.*

In addition, Council also has dry hired our equipment for a fee.

The Mayor could take her own vehicle to Canberra and be reimbursed circa \$819 (900km @ \$0.91).

The Mayor could take Council's vehicle, with a direct cost (fuel, oil, service, tyre wear) at about \$0.26km, so \$234. (I use direct cost as most recently the sale price has been around our original purchase price, so no vehicle holding costs).

By authorising Dr Des McRae to drive the Mayoral vehicle whilst accompanying the Mayor to the National General Assembly, Council will save around \$600, plus charging at \$0.30km Council will cover the direct cost of operation, and not be providing a private benefit to the Mayor.

Council, via the Councillors' Expense and Facilities Policy, encourages our elected representatives to be accompanied by their spouse or partner, by covering various expenses such as attendance at ticketed events.

The Policy falls short on providing for the movement of the spouse or partner by providing suitable transport at a reasonable price.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

N/A

## **STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY**

Councillors' Expense and Facilities Policy

## **FINANCIAL**

Nil - if recommendation adopted.

Alternative cost is \$819.

## **INTEGRATED PLANS**

Theme 5: Our Leadership - Looking to our Future

5.1. Demonstrating Transparent Leadership through Accountability and Community Representation

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

N/A

## **CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT**

N/A

## **OPTIONS**

### Option 1 (recommendation)

That

1. Council approve Dr Des McRae as an authorised person to drive the Mayoral vehicle while accompanying Mayor Ruth McRae to the National General Assembly in Canberra, 12-16 June 2023, and that the fee for use be set at \$0.30km.
2. The General Manager be directed to develop a policy on this matter.

### Option 2

Refuse private use of Mayoral vehicle.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

NIL