

Exclusion of the Public

Friday, 6 October 2023
Audit and Risk Committee

Program Contact:
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Governance

Public

Approving Officer:
Clare Mockler, Chief Executive
Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)* (the Act), states that a Council Committee may order that the public be excluded from attendance at a meeting if the Council Committee considers it to be necessary and appropriate to act in a meeting closed to the public to receive, discuss or consider in confidence any information or matter listed in section 90(3) of the Act.

It is the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer that the public be excluded from this Audit and Risk Committee meeting for the consideration of information and matters contained in the Agenda.

12.1 Confidential Meeting with External Auditors [section 90(3) (b) of the Act]

The Order to Exclude for Items 12.1

1. Identifies the information and matters (grounds) from section 90(3) of the Act utilised to request consideration in confidence.
2. Identifies the basis – how the information falls within the grounds identified and why it is necessary and appropriate to act in a meeting closed to the public.
3. In addition, identifies for the following grounds – section 90(3) (b), (d) or (j) of the Act - how information open to the public would be contrary to the public interest.

ORDER TO EXCLUDE FOR ITEM 12.1

THAT THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

1. Having taken into account the relevant consideration contained in section 90(3) (b) and section 90(2) & (7) of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*, this meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee dated 6 October 2023 resolves that it is necessary and appropriate to act in a meeting closed to the public as the consideration of Item 12.1 [Confidential Meeting with External Auditors] listed on the Agenda in a meeting open to the public would on balance be contrary to the public interest.

Grounds and Basis

Under Section 3.3.3 of the Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference, the Audit and Risk Committee is required to meet with Council's external auditors, at least annually, without management being present to discuss issues arising from the External Audit.

The disclosure of information in this report may result in the release of information that would breach the Audit and Risk Committee's Terms of Reference and may adversely impact the commercial position of the Council.

Public Interest

The Audit and Risk Committee is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the disclosure of this information may result in the release of information of a commercial advantage that may adversely impact the Council and would breach the Terms of Reference of the Audit and Risk Committee.

2. Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)* (the Act), this meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee dated 6 October 2023 orders that the public (with the exception of members of Corporation staff and any person permitted to remain) be excluded from this meeting to enable this meeting to receive, discuss or consider in confidence Item 12.1 [Confidential Meeting with External Auditors] listed in the Agenda, on the grounds that such item of business, contains information and matters of a kind referred to in section 90(3) (b) of the Act.
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DISCUSSION

1. Section 90(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)* (the Act), directs that a meeting of a Council Committee must be conducted in a place open to the public.
2. Section 90(2) of the Act, states that a Council Committee may order that the public be excluded from attendance at a meeting if the Council Committee considers it to be necessary and appropriate to act in a meeting closed to the public to receive, discuss or consider in confidence any information or matter listed in section 90(3) of the Act.
3. Section 90(3) of the Act prescribes the information and matters that a Council may order that the public be excluded from.
4. Section 90(4) of the Act, advises that in considering whether an order should be made to exclude the public under section 90(2) of the Act, it is irrelevant that discussion of a matter in public may -
 - (a) *cause embarrassment to the council or council committee concerned, or to members or employees of the council; or*
 - (b) *cause a loss of confidence in the council or council committee; or*
 - (c) *involve discussion of a matter that is controversial within the council area; or*
 - (d) *make the council susceptible to adverse criticism.*
5. Section 90(7) of the Act requires that an order to exclude the public:
 - 5.1 Identify the information and matters (grounds) from section 90(3) of the Act utilised to request consideration in confidence.
 - 5.2 Identify the basis – how the information falls within the grounds identified and why it is necessary and appropriate to act in a meeting closed to the public.
 - 5.3 In addition identify for the following grounds – section 90(3) (b), (d) or (j) of the Act - how information open to the public would be contrary to the public interest.
6. Section 87(10) of the Act has been utilised to identify in the Agenda and on the Report for the meeting, that the following matters are submitted seeking consideration in confidence.
 - 6.1 Information contained in Item 12.1 – Confidential Meeting with External Auditors
 - 6.1.1 Is not subject to an Existing Confidentiality Order.
 - 6.1.2 The grounds utilised to request consideration in confidence is section 90(3) (b) of the Act
 - (b) *information the disclosure of which—*
 - (i) *could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council, and*
 - (ii) *would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.*

ATTACHMENTS

Nil