

Council policy increases transparency

Council demonstrated its commitment to increasing transparency in Council decision-making by adopting a policy supporting the live streaming of Council meetings.

The Live Streaming of Council Meetings Policy provides guidelines as to the live streaming, recording and publishing of Council meetings, which provides the community with greater access to Council decisions and debate.

It also eliminates geographic and time barriers which may prevent the public from attending meetings in person.

Live-streaming is aimed at building community confidence in the integrity and accountability of the decision making process, according to Acting Director Corporate and Community Services, Vanessa Adams.

Ordinary and Special Meetings held in the Council Chamber, Leongatha, will be streamed live, recorded and published in accordance with this Policy. If Council is required to conduct a Council Meeting other than in the Council Chambers, Leongatha, it will endeavour to live stream the meeting. Ordinary and Special Meetings held in the Council Chamber, Leongatha will be accessible from Council's website.

Any parts of Council's meetings that are closed to members of the public under s.89(2) of the Act are regarded as confidential and will not be recorded.

"The Chair and/or the Chief Executive Officer have the discretion and authority at any time to direct the termination or interruption of live streaming," Mrs Adams explained.

"It's important for people planning on attending a public meeting of Council in the future to remember that simply by attending they are consenting to their image, voice and comments being recorded."

The meetings will be recorded in such a way to minimise the risk of publishing misleading, defamatory and libellous content. Attendees are advised that they may be subject to legal action if their actions result in inappropriate and/or unacceptable behaviour and/or comments.

PR2015 22/3/17