



WHAT MAKES AN EFFECTIVE PETITION?

From time to time, the Council receives requests from Electors 'petitioning' the Council to do a certain thing or not do a certain thing.

However, to be effective, a petition needs to satisfy some minimum criteria. For example, a petition must be addressed to the Shire President and it must be made by electors of the district. Also, the request made in the petition must be on each and every page of the petition. Names, addresses and signatures of the electors making the request must also be provided along with the date that each signature was placed on the petition. Importantly, the petition must have the name of the person upon whom, and an address at which, notice to the petitioners can be given.

If these minimum criteria are met, the matter must be presented to the Council and each Council meeting has a specific item set aside for receiving petitions. However, if these minimum criteria are not met the CEO is entitled to handle the matter administratively which may or may not generate a report to the Council.

Of course, any communication to the Council is taken seriously. However, there is possibly a misunderstanding in the community that a list of names and addresses on a piece of paper will generate a specific and formal response. This may not necessarily be the case if the petition does not meet the minimum criteria as set out above.

The formalities regarding petitions are set out in the Council's Standing Orders Local Law.

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