

# RECORD KEEPING

## Purpose

To establish a framework for the reliable and systematic management of Shire records in accordance with legislative requirements and best practice standards.

## Scope

This policy applies to all Council business and relates to both physical and electronic Council records. It applies to all Council staff, councillors, and contractors undertaking outsourced functions on behalf of the Council.

## Definitions

**Record** is any record of information, in any medium, including letters, files, emails, word processed documents, databases, photographs, file note of conversations and social media messages.

**State Record** is a record created or received by:

- a government organisation; or
- a government organisation employee in the course of the employee's work for the organisation but does not include an exempt record.

**Employee** means all people employed by the Shire of Plantagenet whether permanent, fixed term or casual contract of service, apprentice or trainee.

## Policy Statements

### 1. Policy Principles

#### 1.1. Creation of Records

Councillors and staff will create full and accurate records, in the appropriate format, of the Shire's business decisions and transactions to meet all legislative, business, administrative, financial, evidential and historical requirements.

#### 1.2. Security and Protection of Records

All records are to be categorised as to their level of sensitivity and adequately secured and protected from violation, unauthorised access or destruction, and kept in accordance with necessary retrieval, preservation and storage requirements.

#### 1.3. Access to Records

Access to the Shire's records by staff will be in accordance with designated access and security classifications. Access to the Shire's records by the general public will be in

accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* and other applicable legislation. Access to the Shire's records by Councillors will be via the Chief Executive Officer.

### 1.4. Appraisal, Retention and Disposal of Records

All records kept by the Shire will be retained and disposed of in accordance with the General Disposal Authority for Local Government Records, produced by the SRO.

### 1.5. Capture and Control of Records

All records created and received in the course of Shire business are to be captured at the point of creation, regardless of format, with required supporting data, into appropriate record keeping and business systems that are managed in accordance with sound record keeping principles.

## 2. Record Keeping Responsibilities

2.1. All Council employees and Councillors need to be aware of record keeping requirements. The record keeping obligations of Council staff and Councillors include:

- a) learning how and where records are kept;
- b) making records to support the conduct of business activities;
- c) creating records as evidence of Council operations that are otherwise not created;
- d) forwarding records to the Central Records for capture into the official Records Keeping System;
- e) not destroying Council records; and
- f) following appropriate records management procedures.

## 3. Outsourcing of Service Delivery

3.1. Contracts should provide that the contractor create records that meet the Shire's accountability requirements, in relation to the functions performed or services provided for the Shire. Such contracts should also provide that the contractor maintain those records according to standards acceptable to the Shire, for as long as the records are required and return them to the Shire when the contract expires.

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Other			
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