

Policy Number:	ADM 12
Policy Type:	Administration Policy
Policy Name:	Elected Members Records
Policy Owner:	Chief Executive Officer
Authority:	Shire of Nannup

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to assist elected members to manage the official records created or received by them in the course of their role as an elected member. It also aims to assist elected members to comply with their responsibilities under the State Records Act 2000.

DEFINITIONS

Government organisation employee:

- A person who, whether or not an employee, alone or with others governs, controls or manages a government organisation;
- A person who, under the Public Sector Management Act 1994, is a public service officer of a government organisation; or
- A person who is engaged by a government organisation, whether under a contract for services or otherwise.

It includes, in the case of a government organisation referred to in item 5 or 6 of Schedule 1 of the State Records Act 2000, a ministerial officer (as defined in the Public Sector Management Act 1994) assisting the organisation. (State Records Act 2000)

Government record:

A record created or received by or for a government organisation or a Government Organisation Employee in the course of the work for the organisation. (State Records Act 2000)

Record:

A record of information, however recorded, including:

- anything on which there is writing or Braille;
- a map, plan, diagram or graph;
- a drawing, pictorial or graphic work, or photograph;
- anything on which there are figures, marks, perforations, or symbols, having a meaning for persons qualified to interpret them;
- anything from which images, sounds or writings can be reproduced with or without the aid of anything else; and
- anything on which information has been stored or recorded, either mechanically, magnetically, or electronically. (State Records Act 2000)

POLICY

1. The value of records received or created can be divided into two broad categories - those of continuing value and those of temporary value. It is the responsibility of the elected member to identify the value of the records they create or receive. The two broad categories are described as follows:

Records of Continuing Value:

Records which contain information that is of administrative, legal, evidential, fiscal or historical value to the local government. These records may be referred to for many purposes, including the need to:

- document elected members' decisions, directives, reasons and actions;
- check an interpretation of the local government policy or the rationale behind it;
- check the facts on a particular case or provide information;
- monitor progress and coordination of responses to issues; and
- document formal communications.

Records of Temporary Value:

Records which have no continuing value or used for a short time only, for example, a few hours or a few days.

2. To assist elected members to handle the records created and/or received, the following descriptions and actions relate to some common records with which they may deal.

Correspondence – Correspondence may be received by elected members either addressed to the Shire or their private residence. It may be in the form of a letter, fax or email.

- Correspondence received at or sent from an elected member's private residence may be of continuing value and at the elected member's discretion may be forwarded to the Shire offices for retention.
- Correspondence received at the Shire offices addressed to an elected member will be opened and processed with the mail. If the CEO deems the record as being of continuing value it will be recorded in the record keeping system, filed and a copy sent to the elected member.
- Correspondence received at the Shire offices addressed to an elected member and marked "Private/Confidential" will not be opened and will be directly forwarded to the elected member. The elected member is to determine the document's value at their discretion and if of continuing value the elected member will forward the document to the Shire offices for retention.

Confidential Records – If an elected member forwards documents to be incorporated into the Shire's recordkeeping system that are of a confidential or highly sensitive nature, they should advise the Chief

Executive Officer of this and the information will be treated as confidential and access to the records will be restricted.

Diaries, appointment books and calendars - Elected member's diaries, appointment books and calendars that are used to record information such as dates and times of meetings and appointments or to record notes and messages have no continuing value and may be destroyed when reference to them ceases. However, it is a matter of discretion to be judged by the elected member based on whether the information is relevant and worthy of retention.

Telephone and other verbal conversations - Conversations generally have no continuing value and need not be recorded. However, conversations relating to local government business transactions, or policy/procedure implications or otherwise significant to the conduct of the Shire's business may have continuing value and at the discretion of the elected member, shall be recorded and forwarded to the Shire office for retention.

Lobbying – Refers to documents produced through the process of members of the community or elected members attempting to influence Council. Correspondence and petitions may have continuing value and at the discretion of the elected member, these documents shall be forwarded to the Shire office for retention.

Election Material – Records created or received by an elected member in regard to electioneering are private records of the elected member and have no continuing value to the Shire.

Destruction of Records – Elected members records that are of no continuing value to the Shire should be destroyed completely so that no information can be retrieved.

Related Policies	Record keeping Policy
Related Procedures/Documents	Record Keeping Plan Record Keeping Procedures
Delegated Level	
Adopted	OM 24 March 2005
Reviewed	OM 25 January 2018