

# Decision Making in the Public Interest Policy



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# 1. Purpose

## 1.1 Overview

The purpose of this policy is to guide Logan City Council's approach to decision making in the public interest, ensuring all decisions promote the welfare and well-being of the community. It establishes a framework for councillors to make robust, lawful, and community-focused decisions that uphold the principles of good governance, transparency, and accountability. Through evidence-based processes, community engagement, and strategic planning, the policy aims to ensure that Council decisions serve the current and future interests of the Logan community.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

This policy is embedded within a statutory framework of the following Queensland legislation:

- *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld)
- *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld).

# 2. Principles

Council applies a consistent, principles-based approach to decision making, guided by the following principles:

## 2.1 Open and Impartial Mind

Councillors must approach every decision with an open and impartial mind, free from bias or pre-judgement, and be prepared to consider all relevant views and options.

## 2.2 Lawfulness

Decisions must be made within the bounds of legislative authority, ensuring compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

## 2.3 Informed Decision Making

Councillors must ensure all relevant materials and facts are available, and decisions are based on accurate, complete, and impartial information.

## 2.4 Reasonableness and Evidence

Decisions should be reasonable, proportionate, and supported by clear evidence.

## 2.5 Community Impact

The immediate, medium, and long-term impacts on the community must be considered, balancing competing interests and upholding human rights.

## 2.6 Financial Responsibility

Decisions must be financially sound, represent value for money, and align with Council's long-term financial planning.

## 2.7 Strategic Alignment

Decisions should align with Council's strategic vision, corporate plan, and long-term direction for the city.

# 3. Our Approach to Decision Making

## 3.1 Decision Making Framework

Council's Decision Making Framework provides practical guidance for councillors, including:

- Identifying the type of decision (strategic or administrative)
- Understanding the source and limits of decision-making powers
- Seeking and evaluating information from the administration
- Engaging with stakeholders and the community
- Applying the 7 key decision making principles

## 3.2 Decision Making Support

Good decision-making by Councillors is supported by the organisation through the provision of strong communication, collaboration, and accurate and timely information to enable informed decisions that serve the community. Councillors are encouraged to seek briefings and request information as required to enhance their decision making capability.

### 3.3 Transparency and Accountability

All decisions are made at Council meetings, with records maintained and made publicly available in accordance with Council's transparency and reporting obligations.

## 4. Continuous Improvement

Council is committed to the continuous improvement of its decision making processes. Regular evaluation of decision outcomes, stakeholder feedback, legislative changes, and emerging best practice will inform policy review and refinement.

## 5. Definitions

**Decision Making Framework:** The structured approach and supporting resources provided to councillors to guide robust, lawful, and community-focused decision making.

**Strategic Decision:** Broad policy, commercial, contractual, or political decisions with general application.

**Administrative Decision:** Decisions affecting the rights and interests of individuals or businesses, made within a legislative framework.

**Public Interest:** The welfare or well-being of the general public, considered as a guiding principle in decision making.

## 6. Document Control

Version Control	File Number	Document Number	Council Min No.	Description of Change	Effective Date
1.0	1163782-1	13362669	187/2019	Creation.	04/12/2019
2.0	1163782-1	13362669	27/2026	Updated policy adopted by Council.	10/04/2026