



Council Policy
1.2
Communication with the Media

Purpose

To ensure that clear guidance is provided to the organisation when dealing with media responses.

Policy Measures

1. In accordance with s.2.8(d) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Shire President be the authorised spokesperson of the Shire of Northampton.
2. In accordance with s.5.41(f) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Deputy Shire President or the Chief Executive Officer may be the spokesperson of the Council if the Shire President agrees.
3. If the Shire President is not available or unable to be the spokesperson and the Deputy Shire President is not available or unable to be the spokesperson, then the Chief Executive Officer may perform this function in accordance with s5.34 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
4. With the authority from the Shire President, individual Councillors may be authorised to make statements to the media on specific items relating to that Councillor's responsibility (e.g. Committee Chairperson) and the Chief Executive Officer may delegate authority to other employees to be the spokesperson in accordance with the s5.44(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
5. If a Councillor or employee is approached by the media to answer questions or make a comment on Shire of Northampton business, that, unless specifically authorised by the President (if a Councillor), or the Chief Executive Officer (if an employee), that member of the media be referred to the authorised spokespersons of the Council for a response.
6. This policy in no way diminishes the basic rights to freedom of speech, but a disclaimer must accompany any personal statements made by Councillors or employees to the media.

Administration

This policy will be administered by the Office of the CEO.

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Adoption and Date Due for Revision

**ADOPTED 20 JUNE 2024
REVIEWED N/A**

NEXT DUE FOR REVIEW 20 JUNE 2029

The Administration of this Policy is by Office of the CEO.