

10 Notices Of Motion

10.1 Notice of Motion 1082 - Cr Cameron

Motion

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Council meeting to be held at 7.00pm on Monday 18th September, 2023:

That Council:

1. Implement a “Developer Contact Register” from 1st October 2023. The register will enable all Councillors to list ALL CONTACT (phone, email, text, messaging applications, written mail, face to face and the like) with developers within Cardinia Shire, in relation to any proposed, current or future PLANNING APPLICATIONS.
2. Makes the Developer Contact Register compulsory for all Councillors.
3. Requires that the Developer Contact Register be updated monthly and appear on the Council Website under the Governance and Integrity page.
4. Establishes the Developer Contact Register to be in the format as per Attachment 1.
5. Amends the Councillor Code of Conduct to make the Developer Contact Register compulsory.
6. Updates Council policy to include the Decision Making Connection Disclosure (as per Attachment 2) in all Council decisions from 1st October 2023.
7. Includes the following definition of “Developer” means an individual, body corporate or company engaged in a business that:
 - a. Regularly involves the making of relevant planning applications with the exclusion of single dwelling residential developments in connection with the residential or commercial development of land, with the ultimate purpose of the sale or lease of the land for profit; and
 - b. Includes any consultant, lobbyist, advisor, agent, representative or person closely associated with a Developer and who is appointed to promote or advocate for the Developer’s interests or proposal, except when they are representing someone who is not regularly involved in the making of relevant planning applications or the development of land.
8. Asks Council officers to develop guidelines on the recording of any contact between Councillors and Developers relating to a planning or development proposal, including proposals in a preliminary stage, for which the Developer is a proponent.

REGISTER – COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT WITH DEVELOPERS

	Council Member	Developer's name	Date & Time of contact	Type/method of contact	Related property/ies	Nature of the issue covered	Council Member response

Attachment 2

DEVELOPER CONTACT REGISTER & TRANSPERANCY

PURPOSE

To ensure that all contact between Developers and Councillors is recorded, tracked and published to maintain the highest level of transparency to our community.

BACKGROUND

Strong lobbying by both proponents as well as opponents to planning and development initiatives is a well-known occurrence and has seen increasing media attention both within Victoria and elsewhere in Australia.

Relevant revelations from IBAC "Operation Sandon" have shown severe risks of corruption and malfeasance in the planning process.

The development of a best-practice model of a **Developer Contact Register** would give greater confidence in the public domain of perceptions of bias or undue influence being avoided in the decision making process.

Planning decisions have the power to change our communities, they are not made lightly. We must mandate that all interactions with developers are publicly disclosed to ensure the community can have the highest confidence in the integrity of council decision making processes.

DISCUSSION

There has been media and community discussion around the issue of developers allegedly influencing councillors and decision making across the state. Our residents deserve more transparency around this issue, so as a council we have decided to develop a contact register to track and disclose all contact with developers.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Cardinia Shire Council deals with developers on a daily basis. This policy would require councillors to update a central register of all contact (phone, email, text, messaging applications, written mail, face to face and the like) with developers in relation to any development or issue within Cardinia Shire.

FINANCIAL AND RESCOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The implementation would require some policy updates within the organisation, but would not incur any additional resources or costs, this would be implemented by council officers within current budgetary approvals.