

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTED MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION (WA) INC.

That:

1. In accordance with section 5.98(4) of the Local Government Act 1995, Council APPROVES the reimbursement of annual membership fees to the Local Government Elected Members Association (Inc) for each Elected Member of the [local govt].
2. Council instructs the CEO to share legal advice obtained on matters common to all local governments with LGEMA. The legal advice should be de-identified and should not refer to the particular local government, and should clearly state the issue on which legal advice was obtained.

**REASONS:**

### **Membership of LGEMA for all Elected Members in WA**

LGEMA was incorporated 7 August 2019. LGEMA is dedicated to supporting Elected Members achieving the best possible community outcomes on behalf of their constituents and to streamline the work of elected members to ensure effective use of their time.

LGEMA membership is open to current and former elected members pooling collective skills and knowledge to provide resources, mentoring and networking to all local government elected members throughout WA to assist them to achieve the best outcomes, guided by the principles of openness, accountability, transparency and sustainability.

LGEMA's first event "Congratulations on being elected to Council!" heard from other elected members about what they wished they had known before they started on council. The next event will be "Getting Stuff Done". LGEMA intends to travel to regional locations and would welcome the invitation to speak to regional local governments about its work.

LGEMA will provide pivotal case studies on good governance.

LGEMA hopes to build capacity through governance templates accessible to its members. Membership of the Local Government Elected Members Association (Inc) is determined to:

1. Support the general functions of the local government;
2. Equip Elected Members with knowledge and experience, and the necessary skills and abilities to promote good governance; and
3. Be in the best interests for Elected Members of the district of the [local govt].

### **Reduce Legal Costs for Ratepayers by sharing your generic legal advice**

LGEMA will share legal advice provided to it by local governments on issues that are common to all local governments, which was a recommendation of a Department Inquiry into the City of Joondalup.

City of Joondalup Inquiry 2005

*Recommendation 21: Local authorities and the DLGRD should co-operate to keep a central register of legal advices which may be of general assistance to local governments, in so far as that may occur without impacting on the need to preserve legal professional privilege.*