

22. CLOSED COUNCIL

MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION

Section 10A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, empowers Council and Committees of which all the members are Councillors to close a part of a meeting in certain circumstances in accordance with the requirements of the Act, and relevant Regulations and Guidelines.

Subject to the provisions of Section 10 of the Act, so much of a meeting may be closed as comprises certain information as outlined in Section 10A(2).

However, the Act also contains the following provisions qualifying the use of Section 10A(2).

Section 10B

1. *[Time spent closed to be minimised]* A meeting is not to remain closed during the discussion of anything referred to in section 10A(2):
 - a. Except for so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security, and
 - b. If the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret-unless the council or committee concerned is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
2. *[Qualification of 10A(2)(g)]* A meeting is not to be closed during the receipt and consideration of information or advice referred to in section 10A(2)(g) unless the advice concerns legal matters that:
 - a. are substantial issues relating to a matter in which the council or committee is involved, and
 - b. are clearly identified in the advice, and
 - d. are fully discussed in that advice.
3. *[Qualification of 10A(3)]* If a meeting is closed during the discussion of a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (as referred to in section 10A(3)), the consideration of the motion must not include any consideration of the matter or information to be discussed in that other part of the meeting (other than consideration of whether the matter concerned is a matter referred to in section 10A(2)).
4. *[Irrelevant matters]* For the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:
 - a. a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or
 - b. the discussion of the matter may:
 - (i) cause embarrassment to the council or committee concerned, or to Councillors or to employees of the council, or
 - (ii) cause a loss of confidence in the council or committee.

Attention is also drawn to provisions contained in Part 7 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

Director General's Guidelines

The Director General of the Department of Local Government has issued guidelines concerning the use of Section 10 of the Act. A copy of the Director General's guidelines has been sent to all Councillors. Section 10B(5) of the Act requires that council have regard to these guidelines when considering resolving into Closed Session.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **THAT** Council moves into Closed Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* as addressed below to consider the following reports that are confidential for the reasons specified below:

- 22.1 Acquisition of Property, 107 Kangaloon Road Bowral

Relevant Legal Provisions

This report is referred to Closed Committee in accordance with s10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993, under clause 10A(2)(c) as it contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and the Council considers that it would be on balance contrary to the public interest to consider this information in Open Council.

Brief description

This purpose of this report is to confirm that the property at 107 Kangaloon Road Bowral was purchased by Council at Auction on Saturday 15 July 2017. The report also seeks Council approval to formally classify the property purchased, pursuant to Section 25 of the Local Government Act 1993.

- 22.2 Legal Matter

Relevant Legal Provisions

This report is referred to Closed Committee in accordance with s10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993, under clause 10A(2)(e) as it contains information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law and under clause 10A(2)(g) as it contains advice concerning litigation, or advice as comprises a discussion of this matter, that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege and the Council considers that it would be on balance contrary to the public interest to consider this information in Open Council.

Brief description

The purpose of this report is to confirm Council's position in relation to a legal matter involving a dispute regarding a property where encapsulated material may contain small amounts of asbestos.

- 22.3 Legal Report - Closed Council

Relevant Legal Provisions

This report is referred to Closed Committee in accordance with s10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993, under clause 10A(2)(g) as it contains advice concerning litigation, or advice as comprises a discussion of this matter, that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege and the Council considers that it would be on balance contrary to the public interest to consider this information in Open Council.

AGENDA FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Wednesday 26 July 2017

CLOSED COUNCIL



Brief description

Updating the report on the status of legal proceedings reported to Council at the meeting on 28 June 2017.

2. **THAT** the minutes of the Closed Council part of the meeting (being the Council's resolution) be made public.

Ann Prendergast
General Manager

Friday 21 July 2017