

# Local Government in your Community



# COUNCIL STRUCTURE

- **Principal Member (Mayor or Chairperson)**
- **Councillors (from 6 – 21 depending on size/population of Council)**  
**Elections every 4 years**
- **Elected Council only exercises power as group**

# MAYOR / CHAIRPERSON



**The Council's "first citizen"**

**Councils have either a Mayor or Chairperson**

**Mayor - Elected by all voters**

**Takes control of Council meetings**

# COUNCILLORS

**Councillors represent all people in the Council**

**Vote at Council Meetings on policy, rules and big issues**

**Provide leadership and reflect views of the communities they serve**



# COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Held at least once every month**

**Elected members are required to attend**

**The public can attend Council meetings**

**Council meetings are where issues are discussed and decisions made**

# COUNCIL

(elected members)

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### Human Services

- Recreation
- Community Services
- Cultural Development
- Research

### Environmental Services

- Planning
- Building/Health
- Operations
- Property & Technical Services

### Corporate Services

- Technology
- Information Management
- Public Relations
- Human Resources

### City Management

- Project Management
- Mayoral Functions

# SERVICES AND FACILITIES

**Playgrounds**

**Holiday programs**

**Libraries**

**Recreation centres,  
sporting grounds  
and swimming pools**

**Roads & footpaths**

**Immunisation**

**Recycling services**

**Environmental  
management**

**Tourism information**

**Youth programs**

**Home assistance for  
aged and disabled**

# IF THERE WAS NO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

...There would be less  
money for many  
services





# IF THERE WAS NO LOCAL GOVERNMENT



...There would be no Parks **FOR CHILDREN**  
**TO PLAY IN**

# IF THERE WAS NO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

“Cockroaches  
could be in your  
food”



...There would be **NO FOOD STANDARD  
INSPECTIONS**

# IF THERE WAS NO LOCAL GOVERNMENT



**...There would be NO DOG CONTROL**

# COMMUNITY ISSUES

Councils are concerned with what is happening in their community. This means taking an interest in:

**public transport**

**schools**

**main roads**

**hospitals**

**development**

**environment**

**safety and security**

**Aboriginal affairs**

**Councils work closely with State and Federal Governments.**

# **DIFFERENCES MEAN ...**

**A developing Council may need to spend a large amount of their funds on new roads and services.**

**More established Councils may be able to provide more community-orientated services.**

# ***HELPING THE COMMUNITY***

***Councils are important in assisting the activities of community groups in the area***

***Councils sometimes help with:***

***funding***

***providing facilities***

***training***

# PLAYING YOUR PART

**Contact your Council to find out what's happening in your area**

**If you would like to see different activities in your area, let Council know**

**Inform Council whether their programs suit your needs**

**Report any graffiti or vandalism to the police, this costs your family and community thousands of dollars**

**Communities can work with their Council to influence what happens in their area**

# ELECTIONS



**People over the age of 18 can vote**

**Voting is important because elected members decide the future of the area and the services that will be provided**

**Candidates will often have different views on what is best for the area**