**1.8 Government Relations and Advocacy Policy**

# **STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES**

3.1 To provide advice and advocacy on issues affecting Perth’s Eastern Region.

3.2 To manage partnerships and relationships with stakeholders.

# **PURPOSE**

To provide policy support for the implementation of the Regional Advocacy Strategy and Council-approved recommendations on advocacy campaigns.

# **LEGISLATION**

Nil

# **POLICY STATEMENT**

**Definitions:**

For the purposes of this policy:

***Government relations*** is the transparent, legally valid and ethically sound engagement with government employees and ministers to secure, for residents and Councils of Perth’s Eastern Region, the highest quality of government services that they are entitled to expect.

***Advocacy*** is the activity aimed at correcting and influencing the political, social, economic and environmental perceptions and opinions of government, non-government organisations and community leaders to align them with the EMRC and member Councils’ views.

**REGIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY**

The Regional Advocacy Strategy is the guiding document for government relations and advocacy activities of the EMRC. The Strategy seeks to attract an increased share of investment in Perth’s Eastern Region by implementation of a framework that facilitates consistent, professional and effective advocacy.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY OUTCOMES**

Regional advocacy is undertaken for the benefit of the Region as a whole and requires activity across a range of issues and priorities of regional significance designed to create positive benefits and long term sustainability for Perth’s Eastern Region.

An annual review of the regional advocacy actions will be undertaken and any revised actions will be presented to Council.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL-ENDORSED GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY MEASURES**

1. The Chief Executive Officer of the EMRC, in consultation with the Chairman of the EMRC when required, will sanction the implementation and related activities being pursued.
2. At the appropriate time, the Chief Executive Officer will propose, and the EMRC Council may endorse, additions to this policy to guide the implementation of the government relations and advocacy measures in specific areas such as, protocol, ceremonial and correspondence matters etc.

Notwithstanding Council Policies 6.1and 6.2 where urgent interstate or other travel related expenses are required to pursue urgent government relations and advocacy issues, authority for approval is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Chairman.

# **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

An amount will be provided in each annual budget to meet costs associated with pursuing government relations and advocacy initiatives.

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| Adopted/Reviewed by Council | 1. 20 July 2006 2. 18 September 2008 3. 23 September 2010 4. 18 September 2014 5. 06 December 2018 |
| Next Review | Following the Ordinary Elections in 2021 |
| Responsible Directorate | Regional Services |