



# Council Policy 1.8

## Government Relations and Advocacy

### Strategic Plan Objective

To report against the revised 10 Year Strategic Plan 2017-2027 and the Sustainability Strategy 2022/2023 – 2026/2027 objectives.

### Purpose

To provide support for the implementation of 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 EMRC's Region, the highest quality of government services that they are entitled to expect.

**Advocacy** is the activity aimed at 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.

#### Government Relations and Advocacy Outcomes

Advocacy is undertaken for the benefit of the Region and requires advocacy across a range of issues and priorities of significance designed to create positive benefits and long-term sustainability for EMRC's Region.

#### Implementation of Council-Endorsed Government Relations and Advocacy Measures

1. The Chief Executive Officer of the EMRC, in consultation with the Chairperson of the EMRC when required, will sanction the implementation of 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 6.1 and 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 Chairperson.



## **Financial Considerations**

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

## **Adopted/Reviewed by Executive Leadership Team**

20 July 2006

18 September 2008

23 September 2010

18 September 2014

06 December 2018

25 August 2022

26 March 2026

## **Next Review**

Following the Ordinary elections in 2027

## **Responsible Unit**

Office of the Chief Executive Officer