

GOV01	Casting Vote Policy (Elected Members)
<b>Approval Date:</b>	17/03/2022
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<b>Policy Type:</b>	Governance
<b>Policy Custodian:</b>	Chief People and Strategy Officer
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<b>Version (Revision Number):</b>	2.0

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to allow the Chairperson of a Council Meeting to cast a second vote (casting vote) on a question arising for decision at a Council Meeting in the event of an equality of votes.

## Scope

This policy establishes the use of a casting vote by the Chairperson of Council and applies to all meetings of the West Daly Regional Council during the term of the present Council. This policy will lapse at the conclusion of the next general election for the Council.

## Policy Statement

### 1. Policy Principles

- 1.1. Council is committed to enacting good governance through clarity of roles and responsibilities, including in the exercising of decision making.
- 1.2. Council effectiveness is supported through appropriate structures and processes that are compliant with the requirements of the Local Government Act.

### 2. Requirement for a Casting Vote

- 2.1. Pursuant to the Local Government Act, the Chair of a Council Meeting must exercise a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.
- 2.2. In accordance with the Local Government Act, a casting vote is to be exercised by the Chairperson when there are equal votes on a question arising for decision at a Council meeting. During such an occurrence, the casting vote will determine the vote. The Chairperson must exercise the casting vote either in favour or against the motion.

### 3. Policy Application

- 3.1. Pursuant to the Local Government Act, this policy cannot be altered or revoked for the term of the present Council.
- 3.2. This policy lapses at the end of the conclusion of the next general election.

#### 4. Responsibilities

- 4.1. It is the responsibility of the Chairperson of a Council Meeting to understand the circumstances under which a casting vote applies and to exercise that duty.

#### References

*Local Government Act 2019 (NT) s.95(1), s.95 (6)*

#### Definitions

In the context of this policy the following definitions apply:

A **casting vote** means a second vote cast by the Chairperson where there is an equal number of votes for and against a motion. The casting vote is cast by the Chairperson to break the tie.

The **Chairperson** of a Council Meeting is:

- the Mayor if present; or
- the Deputy Mayor in the absence of the Mayor; or
- in the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the Acting Mayor; or
- in the absence of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and an Acting Mayor, a Member chosen by resolution by the Members present at the meeting to chair the meeting.

#### Related Documents

Code of Meeting Practice

Conduct of Council Meetings (Elected, Local Authority and Council Committee) Policy.

For more information, contact the Policy Custodian.

<b>Signature of Endorsement:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>	Chief Executive Officer