

Casting Vote Policy v2

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1. Legislation

Section 95(6) of the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT) requires Council to maintain a policy that allows the chairperson to exercise a casting vote:

- (a) May only be established by resolution of *the Council* passed at its first meeting to be held after a general election.
- (b) Cannot be altered or revoked during the term of *the Council*.
- (c) Lapses at the conclusion of the next general election.

2. Definitions

Council means the MacDonnell Regional Council's administration.

The Council means the Councillors, President and Deputy President.

Chairperson is the principal member, deputy principal member, the acting principal member; or a member chosen, by resolution, by the members present at the meeting to chair the meeting.

Member is any person sitting on *the Council* or a committee or local authority that it has established.

3. Statement

This policy provides the principles to:

- Ensure that if there is an equality of votes (i.e., a tie) on a question arising for decision at a meeting, the chairperson has a casting vote.
- Provide direction to the chairperson in determining decisions where votes are equal.

4. Policy

4.1 Principles

4.1.1 Respect for the Role

Casting votes are exercised in a way that allows Council to conduct its business with integrity, honesty and fairness.

4.1.2 Ensuring Legal Compliance

Decisions in meetings follow process to ensure members operate in a way that aligns with legislation and regulation.

4.2 Chairperson has a Casting Vote

Each member at a meeting, must exercise one vote on a question arising for decision. If there is an equality of votes on a question arising for decision, the chairperson has a casting vote.

4.3 Use of Casting Vote

4.3.1 A casting vote is to be exercised by the chairperson when there are equal votes on a question arising for decision at a 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.

4.3.2 If there are unequal votes, the chairperson cannot exercise a casting vote.

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5. Breaches and Consequences

Action or behaviour that does not comply with any element of this policy can be found to have breached the Code of Conduct. Such action or behaviour must be referred to as 'suspected misconduct' until a decision is made that the action or behaviour amounts to a breach of the Code by a person appointed in accordance with procedure.

6. Authority

The Council, 19 December 2025

7. Owner

Office of the CEO, Governance and Strategy

8. Review Date

31 December 2028

9. Related Documents

Meetings Policy
Council Meetings Procedure