

CASTING VOTE

COUNCIL POLICY

PURPOSE

To allow the Chairperson of a Council Meeting to exercise a casting vote (second vote) for decision at a Council Meeting in the event of an equality of votes.

PRINCIPLES

Council is committed to clear and transparent decision making, actively pursuing the communities trust through being open and accountable.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

TERM	DEFINITION
Chairperson	Pursuant to section 95(1) of the Local Government Act.
Casting Vote	Means an extra vote given by a Chairperson to decide on a matter when the votes on each side are equal.
Council Meeting	Means Ordinary Council Meeting and Special Council Meeting.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Chairperson has a Casting Vote

- 1.1. If there is an equality of votes on a question arising for a decision at a Council Meeting, the Chairperson has a casting vote.

2. Use of a Casting Vote

- 2.1. A casting vote is to be exercised by the Chairperson when there are equal votes for a decision at a Council Meeting. During such an occurrence, the casting vote will determine the vote.
- 2.2. The Chairperson must exercise the casting vote either in favour or against the motion.
- 2.3. If there are unequal votes, the Chairperson cannot exercise a casting vote.

This policy cannot be altered or revoked for the term of the present Council and lapses at the conclusion of the next general election.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Breach of Code of Conduct by Elected Member
- City of Palmerston Community Plan

REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act
- Palmerston (Procedures for Meetings) By-Laws

POLICY DETAILS

OWNER	CEO	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Governance and Strategy Manager
APPROVAL DATE	21 September 2021	NEXT REVIEW DUE	11th Council Term
RECORDS NUMBER	474230	COUNCIL DECISION	10/6
LEGISLATION REFERENCE	Section 95(6) Local Government Act 2019		

