

Name:	Political Involvement in Council Events		
Type:	Council Policy		
Owner:	Chief Executive Officer		
Responsible Officer:	Director Finance and Governance		
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### 1 PURPOSE

This Policy sets out the manner and protocols in which Commonwealth and Northern Territory politicians participate in Council events.

### 2 PRINCIPLES

- Council events, festivals, ceremonies and celebratory events are an important part of community life. They create a sense of pride and belonging within Palmerston, showcase the talents and cultures of the community to a wider audience and bring people of different backgrounds together in celebration.
- They also present an opportunity for Council to develop collaborative partnerships with other levels of government to assist in advocating for investment and to raise awareness of infrastructure and service requirements.
- Council will seek to ensure it is apolitical, particularly during Commonwealth and Northern Territory and election periods.

### 3 DEFINITIONS

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

Term	Definition
Politician	Elected Members of the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Parliaments or their representatives. This does not include candidates seeking election.

### 4 POLICY STATEMENT

- 4.1 Where the event is wholly or partially funded by the Commonwealth or Northern Territory Government.
- 4.1.1 Politicians are invited to attend, and when appropriate to the event, seating is provided.
- 4.1.2 The presence of politicians is recognised at the beginning of the event by the Master of Ceremonies where appropriate.
- 4.1.3 Politicians are thanked and recognised for the funding they have provided for the event.
- 4.1.4 Where appropriate, the relevant politician will be invited to make a short speech that will not expressly or implicitly promote or denigrate a political party or group or solicit membership to a party or group.
- 4.1.5 Politicians are invited when it is commensurate with the nature of the event to erect a stall, however no material soliciting membership of a political party is permitted.

- 4.2 **Where the event is not funded by the Commonwealth or Northern Territory Government.**
  - 4.2.1 Politicians will be welcome to attend and discuss information or services that are of direct benefit and relevance to the local community, however no material soliciting membership of a political party is permitted. This may include setting up a stall when it is commensurate with the nature of the event.
  - 4.2.2 The presence of politicians is recognised at the beginning of the event by the Master of Ceremonies.
- 4.3 **Conduct During Commonwealth or Northern Territory Elections**

When writs have been issued for a Commonwealth or Northern Territory election, local politicians at that level of government will not be specifically invited to attend or participate in Council events, unless there is a pre-existing obligation such as requirements of a funding agreement or it is a civic event and it is protocol to invite them, such as a Citizenship Ceremony.

## 5 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

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## 6 REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

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