

OFFICERS REPORT**COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMANITARIAN CAUSES**

Submitting Councillor: Councillor Josh Fergeus

MOTION

That Council:

- 1 *Notes that Local Government Victoria's Good Governance Guide states that good governance is transparent, and that "people should be able to follow and understand the decision-making process. This means that they will be able to clearly see how and why a decision was made"¹;*
- 2 *Commits to adopting parameters to guide future decisions of Council with regards to financial contributions to humanitarian causes and disaster relief efforts;*
- 3 *That any draft of such parameters should clearly detail the criteria by which future proposals to donate Council funds to such causes will be judged;*
- 4 *That any parameters, once adopted by Council, should be made publicly available;*
- 5 *Directs Officers to draft such parameters for Council consideration no later than February 2019*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The development of parameters can be delivered within Council's existing budget through existing officer time. Future decisions guided by the development of parameters may have budget implications.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

The development of parameters will be managed by existing staff resources.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This motion relates to the Council Plan strategic objective "Responsive and efficient services - People can have a say in, and are at the centre of, our decisions. We will deliver affordable, respectful, responsive, reliable and high quality services." Financial contributions to humanitarian causes and disaster relief efforts motions by Councillors are made in response to community concern about a humanitarian cause or disaster and an expectation that Council respond to what is important to the community.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

This Notice of Motion does not relate to work that has already been undertaken by officers or Council committees.

¹ Municipal Association of Victoria, Victorian Local Governance Association, Local Government Victoria, and Local Government Professionals (2012). *Good Governance Guide*.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Other issues for consideration in the development of a policy may include:

- the budget source and impact of any contributions;
- guidance over what types of organisations contributions could be made to, to ensure fiscal integrity;
- other methods of responding to community concern about humanitarian causes or disasters.