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**Condolence motion for Mrs Elizabeth Jordan****Ordinary Council 3-22 | 24 March 2022**

I move that Council express its condolences on behalf of the city to the family of Mrs Elizabeth Jordan.

Mrs Jordan, formerly of Ebbw Vale and later Brassall, was the city's, and among the nation's, oldest residents when she passed away at the grand age of 110 earlier this month.

I spoke earlier this year on Mrs Jordan when she turned 110.

I'd like to share a story with you I have with Mrs Jordan.

Last year at the official opening of the Ipswich Show. Mrs Jordan and I were to speak along with local politicians and show society leaders. Before I gave my speech, Mrs Jordan leaned over and said, "I hope your speech will be short".

I was not going to disappoint Mrs Jordan ... I said welcome to our 148<sup>th</sup> show hope everyone has fun and sat back down!

It's advice I cherish today.

In that spirit, and in her memory, I pass on the city's condolences to her children Peter and Valerie, her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and her extended family.

Mrs Jordan loved baking and crafts, was known for her competitive spirit, and was very active in her church community. She will be remembered for her love of socialising, especially with her grand- and great-grandchildren.

She will be dearly missed.



**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST | 2022 Flood Event****Ordinary Council 3-22 | 24 March 2022**

As 2021 wound down, and we looked forward to 2022, many of us were looking forward to a fresh start.

But, as predictions for a La Nina weather event were realised in January and through February, and the rain started coming down, and down, and down, and down, the rivers, creeks, and streams started coming up and up.

Our last Ordinary meeting was on Thursday, 25 February, with the first emergency alerts for the city issued the next day, and the Local Disaster Management Group began 24 hour operations.

The evacuation centre opened the next day, and it was very clear that our city was in for a flood with levels that we had not seen since 2013.

To give you a sense of the volume of rain that fell over those few days, rain gauges at Mt Glorious recorded 1,776 mm of water – 1.77 METERS of rain – in the week or so around the 27<sup>th</sup> of February.

This is nearly three times the rain that fell in 2011, and more rain than in 1974.

Rain fell, and fell, and didn't stop: it has been described as a rain bomb, and that's a good description for the volume of rain that constantly fell for days on end.

As the rain fell, the rivers came up. Some observed river heights in the city included 6.83 meters at Rosewood, 16.72 meters in central Ipswich, and 14.2 meters at Moggill.

During the emergency response, Council housed more than 400 people in the evacuation centre, served over 3,800 meals, distributed around 30,000 sandbags, and received 1 million-plus views on critical disaster information on our online Disaster Dashboard.

I am very grateful that our city avoided any fatalities during this flooding event and appears to have avoided any major injuries to residents as well. We kept each other safe. Our community kept us safe.

The resulting inundation yet again caused massive damage and devastation in our community, to many who have now rebuilt their lives at least once in the last decade, and now face the prospect of starting again, again.

Rapid damage assessments from the Queensland Fire and Rescue Emergency Service indicate at least 890 houses or properties in the city have been impacted by flood waters, with 450 in the severe to moderate impact category.

So far, more than 4,200 tonnes of waste has been deposited in Council landfills as a direct result of flood waste.

Each one of these houses, each ton of waste, is someone's home, someone's business, someone's everything.

And while we didn't lose people - livelihoods, homes, and memories have been coated in mud.

After the waters went down, I was extremely proud of the way our community responded: neighbours checked in with hot food, a cold beer, and a shoulder to lean on, with gloves, mops, shovels, and gernies to clean, and dug deep to help.

The Australian Defence Force arrived as well, the green and blue angels, bringing heavy machinery and a willingness to help their fellow Australians in their time of need.

We are still cleaning up, and there is still much to do to recover, and in time, a review and a conversation about what we do now that we've had once in a century floods twice in this century already.

I want to place on record my thanks to the Council officers and staff who worked tirelessly, literally around the clock, to manage disaster alerts, organise evacuation centres, the crews who filled sandbags and diverted traffic, the SES who responded, and the Council staff who volunteered to serve in the evacuation centre.

I want to acknowledge our emergency services – the police, swift water technicians, QFES staff, ambulance officers, and the Australian Defence Force, for your professionalism and expert management.

I also want to acknowledge my elected representative colleagues in the State and Federal Governments, plus the hundreds of State and Federal public servants who have been deployed to assist.

It has been a team effort, and it wouldn't have been possible without all three levels of government working together.

I want to thank – again – the Ipswich community, and my fellow Councillors, for the way in which we have pulled together to make sure that we can get through this challenge.

I know that each of our councillors, including myself, have been door knocking flood impacted residents in Goodna, Bundamba, North Booval, Basin Pocket, Barellan Pt and Karalee. They have been long hard days supporting people who are highly traumatised. I remind my colleagues to practice self-care during these times. Council has provided a counselling service with for us and our teams to have face to face sessions, to assist with the trauma we are seeing on a daily basis. I had a session with the counsellor last Thursday just to help me unpack what I have seen and heard. Our community are relying on us to lead

during challenging times, we need to ensure we are practicing self-care so that our judgement and our leadership is not impaired.

I want to thank each of the councillors for their many hours of tireless work during the flood and during the clean up and the recovery work we are doing now. People won't see your work on FB or in media. I want to thank you and recognise the work you are currently doing 7 days a week supporting our residents.

Finally, I ask that our community be kind to each other. Thousands of people in our community have just been through one of the most extreme circumstances they will endure in their lifetime. They are feeling traumatised, exhausted and overwhelmed. Let's wrap our arms around them.

We still have much to do to get back on our feet, and conversations to have about what we do next, and I'm determined to make sure that our city build back better than before, and that we look after everyone who needs a helping hand.



**Matter of Public Interest | SEQ City Deal****Ordinary Council 3-22 | 24 March 2022**

I'm delighted to report to Council that our city has secured a significant injection of funding with this week's signing of the \$1.8 billion SEQ City Deal.

I was excited to join Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, and my fellow SEQ mayors to herald in a new era of our governments working together to ensure the future liveability and prosperity of Ipswich and South East Queensland.

The SEQ City Deal is a transformative agreement between three levels of government that will reshape our region for the next 20 years.

For our city, it means a joint commitment of \$10 million to complete the Ipswich to Springfield Central Public Transport Corridor options analysis and business case, making the project shovel ready.

The first round of funding in this 20-year Deal will deliver a direct boost to Ipswich of \$28 million and give our city access to a regional funding pool of \$400 million.

While this Deal has been many years in the making, I am hopeful it will be well worth the wait.

This week marks the start of two decades of investment in our city and our region - and a significant boost to jobs, connectivity and economic growth for Ipswich.





IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL

## Media and Corporate Communications Policy

<b>Version Control and Objective ID</b>		
<b>Approved by Council on</b>		
<b>Date of Review</b>		

### 1. Statement

Ipswich City Council (Council) is committed to providing timely, accurate, relevant and consistent information to the community via Council’s media channels and external media organisations.

### 2. Purpose and Principles

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure the community is aware of Council’s Corporate Plan, strategies, policies, services, activities, and decisions.
- Ensure the timely, accurate, relevant and consistent provision of information to the community via Council’s external communication networks including Council’s media channels and external media organisations.
- Ensure an overall positive image and reputation of Council is maintained through our external communication networks.
- Provide clear direction on the responsibilities of Councillors, Council employees, and contractors in relation to official media comment.
- Encourage the sharing of Council’s successes with the community.
- Ensure Council media resources are utilised effectively, efficiently and economically.
- Ensure Councillors, as elected representatives of the community, are aware of emerging media issues.
- Ensure Councillors have fair and equitable opportunity to engage with the community about divisional, committee and other community matters through Council’s external communication networks, recognising the citywide role and responsibilities of all Councillors under section 12 of the Local Government Act 2009.
- Provide clarity with media statements and other external communications.

### 3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan theme/s:

- A Trusted and Leading Organisation

### 4. Regulatory Authority

- Local Government Act 2009
- Local Government Regulation 2012
- Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland

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- Employee Code of Conduct
- Media and Communications Procedure.

**5. Human Rights Commitment**

Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)*.

**6. Scope**

This policy applies to all Councillors, Council staff and contractors of Ipswich City Council when responding to media enquiries or when seeking to make comment on behalf of Council or otherwise by a Councillor on a particular matter.

This policy specifies who is authorised to act as a Designated or Lead Spokespersons and the procedures to be followed for issuing of any proactive or reactive media statement or publication of any public facing document.

This policy applies to the preparation and issuing of any media statement which purports to represent a position or policy of Council.

This policy applies to all external communications undertaken by Council departments, branches and sections.

This policy enables information dissemination and discussion of topics relevant to Council's strategic and operational activities and objectives for the city.

This policy does not preclude Councillors from making their own statements or comments which may conflict with Council's position, or on matters that are not current Council programs or initiatives. In these scenarios, Councillors must be aware of their Code of Conduct obligations by ensuring that their comments are not portrayed by them as the official view of Council.

Nothing in the policy shall be interpreted as affecting the right of individual Councillors to raise or comment on issues of public importance or significance to them and to speak about such matters as elected representatives of the local community or in some other capacity.

**7. Media Statements**

Communications and Engagement Branch will manage proactive and reactive media statements to ensure a positive image and reputation is maintained through the Council's external communications.

During election caretaker periods, all parties must be mindful of the restrictions outlined in Section 10 of this policy.

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**IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL | External Communications Policy****7.1 Proactive Media Statements**

Proactive media statements provide Council with an opportunity to share its successes with the community and to inform the community of issues, events and activities.

The Mayor, Councillors and authorised Council staff and contractors may seek advice and assistance regarding proactive media statements from Communications and Engagement Branch.

Council staff are encouraged to consider instances where their activities and achievements, and those of their team, branch and department could be shared with the community. Staff may raise these instances through normal operational processes for consideration by Communications and Engagement Branch.

**7.2 Reactive Media Statements**

Reactive media statements are prepared and issued in response to media enquiries or emerging community issues.

The Manager, Media, Communications and Engagement is responsible for ensuring media enquiries are responded to within a prompt timeframe.

Communications and Engagement Branch will manage the response to any media enquiry in accordance with this policy.

Communications and Engagement Branch will promptly advise the Office of the Mayor and any relevant General Managers, Committee Chairpersons, Deputy Committee Chairpersons and Councillors of all media enquiries regarding major matters.

Communications and Engagement Branch will also advise relevant Divisional Councillor(s) of any media enquiry regarding a matter in relation their division by email and SMS as soon as reasonably practicable.

Communications and Engagement Branch will promptly advise Councillors by email and SMS who are the subject of any media enquiry.

**7.3 Roles and Responsibilities**

The following roles and responsibilities relate only to the preparation and issuing of media statements.

**7.3.1 Designated Spokesperson**

A Designated Spokesperson is a person authorised by this policy to make comment on behalf of Council on a particular matter.

The appropriate Designated Spokesperson(s) for a particular matter will be determined in accordance with this policy.

Media statements may include comments or quotes from one or more Designated Spokespersons in accordance with this policy.

Each Designated Spokesperson will be offered an opportunity to comment on a particular matter in a media statement.

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**IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL | External Communications Policy**

A Designated Spokesperson may decline to provide a comment or quote on a particular matter.

All parties will be mindful of deadlines and endeavour to respond in a prompt manner to enquires made.

All parties will be mindful that a key purpose of this policy is to ensure all Councillors have fair and equitable opportunities to engage with the community about divisional, community and committee matters through the Council's external communication networks.

**7.3.2 Lead Spokesperson**

The Lead Spokesperson is the Designated Spokesperson responsible for authorising a media statement or response.

Where a matter has more than one Designated Spokesperson, the Lead Spokesperson will be assigned in accordance with sections 7.3.3 to 7.3.6 of this policy.

A Lead Spokesperson is not authorised to amend comments or quotes provided by any other Designated Spokesperson without the consent of that spokesperson.

Communications and Engagement Branch will consult with the Lead Spokesperson regarding any media release or response.

**7.3.3 Mayor**

As civic leader, the Mayor will be the Lead Spokesperson on major matters including those specified in section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 2009.

The Mayor may request media advice and assistance regarding such matters, including proactive media statements, from Communications and Engagement Branch.

Where these matters originate from, or relate to, a standing committee, the committee chairperson will also be a Designated Spokesperson. Where these matters originate from, or relate to, a particular division(s), the relevant divisional Councillor(s) will also be a Designated Spokesperson.

In the absence of the Mayor, or when the Deputy Mayor is the Acting Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will be Lead Spokesperson for matters such matters.

The Mayor may also delegate their Lead or Designated Spokesperson role on particular matters to the Deputy Mayor or other Councillor(s).

**7.3.4 Committee Chairperson**

The relevant standing committee Chairperson will be the Lead Spokesperson on matters arising from their committee portfolio to the extent that these are consistent with the responsibilities outlined in the Committee Terms of Reference document.

A Chairperson may request media advice and assistance regarding committee matters, including for proactive media statements, from Communications and Engagement Branch.

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Where the Chairperson is unavailable, the Deputy Chairperson may be Lead Spokesperson. The Chairperson may also delegate their Lead Spokesperson role on particular committee matters to the Deputy Chairperson or other Councillor(s).

Where the Mayor is the relevant Committee Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson of that committee is also a Designated Spokesperson.

Where a committee matter relates to an issue, initiative or activity principally within or affecting a particular division, the Councillors representing that division will also be Designated Spokespersons.

Where a committee matter relates to an issue, initiative or activity on or near the boundary of divisions, the Councillors representing those divisions are also Designated Spokespersons.

**7.3.5 Divisional Councillors**

The relevant Divisional Councillors are Designated Spokespersons on matters that relate to an event, issue, activity or other matter principally within or affecting the division they represent or other matter initiated by them.

Divisional Councillors may request advice and assistance, including for proactive media statements, from Communications and Engagement Branch regarding events, issues, activities or other matters within or affecting the Division they represent.

**7.3.6 Chief Executive Officer**

Subject to any direction by the Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer will be the Designated Spokesperson for matters concerning Council staff and contractors, and for the operational activities of Council.

The Chief Executive Officer may determine if a matter is an operational matter.

The Chief Executive Officer may choose to delegate their Designated Spokesperson role on a particular matter.

The Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) is responsible for authorising the issuing of all media statements regarding operational matters.

**7.3.7 Communications and Engagement Branch**

Communications and Engagement Branch will manage requests received for advice and assistance from the Mayor, Councillors and Council staff to ensure Council resources are utilised equitably, effectively and efficiently. Requests received may be reasonably prioritised, amended or declined owing to competing media priorities or resourcing issues, with the requestor advised.

Communications and Engagement Branch will seek any required technical or background information from the relevant areas of Council.

Communications and Engagement Branch will consult with the Lead Spokesperson regarding any proposed media release or response.

Communications and Engagement Branch will seek comment from the Lead Spokesperson and any additional Designated Spokespersons.

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Communications and Engagement Branch will follow the Designated and Lead Spokesperson identification requirements according to Section 7.3 of this policy and the attribution requirements in Section 7.4 of this policy.

Communications and Engagement Branch will follow the authorisation process in Section 7.5 of this policy.

Communications and Engagement Branch will keep a register of all media enquiries and all requests for assistance received from councillors and any assistance provided.

**7.3.8 Council Staff and Contractors**

All media enquiries received by Council staff and contractors will be referred to Communications and Engagement Branch.

Council and contractor staff may not make any media comment on behalf of Council unless they have been nominated as a Designated Spokesperson for the matter by the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate).

Council staff and contractors are encouraged to consider instances where their activities and achievements, and those of their team, branch, and department, could be shared with the community.

**7.4 Attribution**

Comments will be attributed to the Designated Spokesperson(s) as detailed in Section 7.3 of this policy unless that spokesperson declines to, or is unable to, provide a comment within required timeframes.

Where all Designated Spokespersons are unable to provide comment, "Council spokesperson" will be attributed in any media response or release.

**7.5 Authorisation**

Communications and Engagement Branch must seek final approval of any media statement from the Lead Spokesperson.

Authorisation is not to be sought from any other party.

Preliminary approval of any quote or comment attributed to any official spokesperson should be sought from that spokesperson before final approval is sought from the Lead Spokesperson.

All parties will be mindful of deadlines and endeavour to respond in a prompt manner to authorisation requests.

Authorisation is not required for Councillor communication through non-Council social and digital media platforms, individual newsletters, media interviews, media releases or personal communications where the councillor is not seeking to represent the official position of Council.

Communications and Engagement Branch shall keep a register of all approvals.

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**IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL | External Communications Policy****7.6 Key Practice Guidelines**

Statements issued on behalf of Council must:

- Be consistent with Council's current policy and position.
- Support the reputation of the city, its Council, Council staff and contractors.
- Be respectful of the Mayor, Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer, Council officers, and the community.
- Not commit the city or its resources without prior Council discussion and/or resolution.
- Not be in breach of any laws (such as privacy, defamation, racial vilification or equal opportunity) or the Code of Conduct.
- Avoid any admission of legal liability.

**8. Community Matters Newsletters**

As a specific channel of external communication, Community Matters newsletters will be provided across the city in both physical and digital format, at least four times per calendar year.

Newsletter facilitation and distribution will be undertaken by the Communications and Engagement Branch in consultation with the Mayor and Divisional Councillors.

During election caretaker periods, all parties must be mindful of the restrictions outlined in Section 10 of this policy.

**8.1 Distribution**

Community Matters newsletters must be approved and published by Council's Corporate communications team in consultation with the Councillors.

**8.2 Content**

Information within Community Matters newsletters must be consistent with the Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland, Council's Corporate Plan and other relevant Council policies.

A standard template will be provided that is consistent with the Information that will generally be considered acceptable for inclusion in a newsletter may include:

- Information about Council services, facilities, events or projects
- Matters of local community or citywide interest
- Information about Councillor community meeting times
- Information about community and sporting organisations, activities and events.

Each Community Matters newsletter will consist of 2 pages for Citywide initiatives, and 2 pages per division for divisional events or matters of local interest. The back page will be dedicated to promoting existing programs or initiatives of Council.

**8.3 Exclusions**

Community Matters newsletters must not contain information which is election campaign material or matters of particular political sensitivity.

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Any information considered inappropriate for publication in a community newsletter by the Corporate Communications team will be provided to the CEO for review.

Should the Chief Executive Officer determine that the information is inappropriate for publication, the CEO will discuss the matter with the Mayor and/or relevant Councillor to determine the most appropriate action with the CEO exercising final approval.

**8.4 Community Matters Newsletter Approval**

Individual Councillors will provide final endorsement of the divisional pages and the Mayor will provide endorsement of the lead city pages.

The Chief Executive officer (or delegate) is responsible for final approval of publication.

**9. Other External Facing Communications**

Council departments, branches and sections are responsible for creating, publishing and updating an extensive range of public facing communications.

These communications include:

- Operational information on Council websites
- General interest articles on Council websites
- Posting to Council social media accounts
- Marketing and tourism publications (e.g. Discover Ipswich)
- Departmental publications (e.g. Environmental Matters newsletters)
- Flyers, newsletters and other materials that promote Council services, activities or initiatives
- Community consultation activities
- Commencement of an advertising campaign.

**9.1 Content Approval**

Content approval of public facing communications is to be sought through normal operational procedures.

**9.2 Authorisation**

Authorisation for publishing and updating public facing communications is to be sought from the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate).

**9.3 Mayor and Councillors**

The Mayor and Councillors are to be advised of any significant public facing communications prior to their release, updating or commencement.

Approval from the Mayor and Councillors is not necessarily required for publications of this type and generally there will not be a Designated Spokesperson.

**10. Caretaker Period**

The Local Government Act 2009 (the Act) prohibits the publication or distribution of election material during the caretaker period.

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Section 90A of the Act defines the caretaker period for a local government as the period during an election for the local government that –

- (a) starts on the day when public notice of the holding of the election is given under the Local Government Electoral Act, section 25(1); and
- (b) ends at the conclusion of the election.

Section 90D of the Act defines election material as anything able to, or intended to:

- (a) influence an elector about voting at an election; or
- (b) affect the result of an election.

Council and Councillors must not issue direct any mail outs from Council during the caretaker period.

**11. Monitoring and Evaluation**

The success and effectiveness of the policy will be measured by:

- Information to the community that is timely and accurate, and which encourages discussion about Council decisions and policies
- Information about the city and its people that encourages and promotes participation in an active, healthy and liveable community
- Ensuring the community has access to Council decisions and policies, the reasons for those decisions, and the resultant outcomes
- Ensuring information that encourages and promotes advancement towards the accomplishment of Council's social, cultural, economic and development goals
- Ensuring Council media resources are utilised effectively, efficiently and economically
- Ensure Councillors have fair and equitable opportunity to engage with the community about divisional and committee matters through our external communication networks
- Maintenance of audience across Council-owned external communication channels (relative to population).

**12. Definitions**

**Council** means Ipswich City Council.

**Media** includes television, print, radio, online and social media, as well as Council-branded or sub-branded social media, mastheads, magazines and media releases

**Media Statement** means a statement that provides an official statement of Council that is published to a Council website, social media channel or provided to external media organisations

**Proactive media** means external communication that is initiated by media release. It does not include general educational or communications that help Council achieve specific outcomes such as iFuture or the publication of an information brochure or flyer

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**Reactive media** includes a media statement in response to external enquiries or anticipated community issues

**Spokesperson** is a person who speaks as a designated representative of Council.

**13. Policy Owner**

The General Manager, Coordination and Performance Department is the Policy Owner.

The Manager, Media, Communications and Engagement is responsible for reviewing this policy.

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