

	<b>Media Policy - Councillors</b>
	<b>Strategic</b>

## 1. Purpose

To ensure all Councillors are aware of their responsibilities to Council in supporting communications with the Shire's communities, businesses and residents. The policy promotes a positive and professional public image to the community, strengthening community engagement, and manages the risk of negative community perceptions or misunderstandings.

## 2. Objectives of the Policy

This policy aims to ensure Council improves communications with the community whilst projecting a corporate image, and ensuring the accuracy of public comments. The policy will also manage the risk of a public liability or professional indemnity claim arising from comments made by a Councillor to the media, or any claims being made against Council or an individual Councillor.

## 3. Policy Scope

The policy applies to Councillors of Warrumbungle Shire Council.  
The policy applies to any situations when dealing with Media.

## 4. Background

Council's current Media Policy – Councillors was endorsed on 19 September 2017 (Resolution 113/1314).

## 5. Definitions

Media is defined as newspapers, radio, internet, social media and any other public forum.

## 6. Policy Statement

- No Councillor (except the Mayor) is authorised to represent or speak on behalf of Council in any public comments, statements or press releases to the media.
- Councillors may speak to the media clearly indicating that they are portraying their own personal point of view and are not speaking on behalf of Council.
- A Councillor may be nominated by the General Manager or Mayor to speak on behalf of Council on a matter they have knowledge or expertise.

### 6.1 Disciplinary Action

Breach of this policy may constitute a breach of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW.

## 7. Responsibilities

The Director of Corporate and Community Services is responsible for this policy

## 8. Associated Documents

Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils

## 9. Getting Help

*The staff member/s who can assist with enquiries about the policy*

*Position: Director of Corporate and Community Services*

## 10. Version Control

Review Date: September 2021

Staff Member Responsible for Review: *Director of Corporate and Community Services*

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Date</b>
Media Policy – Councillors	1	406	26 June 2008
Media Policy – Councillors	2	113/1314	19 September 2013
Media Policy – Councillors	3	112/1718	21 September 2017