
City of Greater Geraldton

4.21 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

SUSTAINABILITY THEME

Governance

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to define the parameters for Related Party Transactions and the level of disclosure and reporting required for Council to achieve compliance with the Australian Accounting Standard AASB 124 - Related Party Disclosures.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy applies to Related Parties of Council and their Related Party Transactions with Council.

POLICY DETAILS

Related Party relationships are a normal feature of commerce and business. For example, entities frequently carry on parts of their activities through subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates. In those circumstances, there is the possibility of the entity having the ability to affect the financial and operating policies of Council through the presence of control, joint control or significant influence.

A Related Party relationship could influence the normal business operations of Council. In some instances, Council may enter into transactions with a Related Party that unrelated parties would not. For example, goods are supplied to Council on terms that might not be offered to other customers. Also, transactions between Related Parties may not be made on the same terms as between unrelated parties.

The normal business operations of Council may be affected by a Related Party relationship even if Related Party Transactions do not occur. The mere existence of the relationship may be sufficient to affect the transactions of the Council with other parties. Alternatively, one party may refrain from trading with Council because of the significant influence of another—for example, a local supplier may be instructed by its parent not to engage in supplying goods to Council.

For these reasons, knowledge of Council's transactions and outstanding balances (including commitments and relationships with Related Parties) may affect assessments of Council's operations by users of financial statements, including assessments of the risks and opportunities facing the Council.

1. Identification of Key Management Personnel (KMP)

AASB 124 defines KMP's as *“those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity”*.

KMP's for the Council are considered to include:

- Councillors (including the Mayor);
- Chief Executive Officer; and
- The Executive Management Team.

2. Identification of Related Parties

A person or entity is a related party of Council if any of the following apply:

- They are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others).
- They are an associate or belong to a joint venture of which Council is part of.
- They and Council are joint ventures of the same third party.
- They are part of a joint venture of a third party and council is an associate of the third party.
- They are a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either Council or an entity related to Council.
- They are controlled or jointly controlled by *Close members of the family of a person*.
- They are identified as a *close or possibly close member of the family of a person* with significant influence over Council or a *close or possibly close member of the family of a person* who is a KMP of Council.
- They, or any member of a group of which they are a part, provide KMP services to Council.

For the purposes of this Policy, related parties of Council are:

- Entities related to Council;
- Key Management Personnel (KMP) of Council
- Close family members of KMP;
- Possible close family members of KMP's; and
- Entities or persons that are controlled or jointly controlled by KMP, or their close family members, or their possible close family members.

3. Review of Related Parties

A review of KMP's and their related parties will be completed every 12 months.

Particular events, such as a change of Councillors, Chief Executive Officer or Senior Executive Officers or a corporate restructure, will also trigger a review of Council's related parties immediately following such an event.

Council management shall implement a suitable system to identify related parties. The primary identification method of close family members and associated entities of Key Management Personnel shall be by (but not limited to) KMP self-assessment. KMP have a responsibility to identify and report any changes to their related parties as they occur.

Prior to the commencement of this policy taking effect an initial identification process will be undertaken and recorded.

Council management shall identify suitable methodology and procedures for identifying and reporting on related party transactions such that accurate data will be collated from 01 July 2016. Identification and reporting methods shall consider;

- Transactions occurring via Council's accounting and electronic records management systems;
- Other transactions not passing through Council's electronic accounting / management systems; and
- The identification of the associated terms and conditions of the related party transactions.

If any elected member or employee believes a transaction may constitute a related party transaction they must notify the Chief Executive Officer who will, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, make a determination on the matter.

4. Identification of Control or Joint Control

A person or entity is deemed to have control if they have:

- power over the entity;
- exposure, or rights, to variable returns from involvement with the entity; and
- the ability to use power over the entity to affect the amount of returns.

To jointly control, a person or entity must have contractual rights or agreed sharing of control of the entity, which exists only when decisions about the relevant activities require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

5. Required Disclosures and Reporting

AASB 124 provides that Council must disclose the following financial information in its financial statements for each financial year period:

5.1. Disclosure of any related party relationship - must disclose in the annual financial statements its relationship with any related parties or subsidiaries (where applicable), whether or not there have been transactions within the relevant reporting period.

5.2. KMP Compensation Disclosures - must disclose in the annual financial statements KMP for each of the categories of compensation (as defined in the definitions of this Policy) in total.

6. Related Party Transactions Disclosures

Related Party Transactions are required to be disclosed, regardless of whether a price is charged. Such transactions may include:

- Purchase or sale of goods;
- Purchase or sale of property and other assets;
- Rendering or receiving services;
- Leases;
- Quotations and/or tenders;
- Commitments;
- Settlements of liabilities on behalf of Council or by Council on behalf of the related party;
- Guarantees given or received
- Loans and Settlements of liabilities
- Expense recognised during the period in respect of bad debts
- Provision for doubtful debts relating to outstanding balances
- Grants and subsidy payments made to associated entities of Council
- Non-monetary transactions between Council and associated entities of Council
- Other goods and services provided by Council to associated entities of Council
- Compensation made to key management personnel
- Fees and charges charged to related parties
- Infrastructure contributions and application fees from related parties
- Purchase of materials and services from related parties
- Employee expenses for close family members of key management personnel

Council must disclose all **material** and **significant** Related Party Transactions in its annual financial statements and include the following detail:

6.1. The nature of the related party relationship; and

6.2. Relevant information about the transactions including:

6.2.1. The amount of the transaction;

6.2.2. The amount of outstanding balances, including commitments, and

- Their terms and conditions, including whether they are secured, and the nature of the consideration to be provided in the settlement; and
- Details of any guarantee given or received.

6.2.3. Provision for doubtful debts related to the amount of outstanding balances; and

6.2.4. The expense recognised during the period in respect of bad or doubtful debts due from related parties.

The following matters must be considered in determining the materiality and significance of any related party transactions:

- Significance of transaction in terms of size;
- Whether the transaction was carried out on non-market terms;
- Whether the transaction is outside normal day-to-day business operations, such as the purchase and sale of assets;
- Whether the transaction is disclosed to regulatory or supervisory authorities;
- Whether the transaction has been reported to senior management; and
- Whether the transaction was subject to Council approval.

Regard must also be given for transactions that are collectively, but not individually significant.

Disclosures that Related Party Transactions were made on terms equivalent to those that prevail in arm's length transactions can only be made if such terms can be substantiated.

All transactions involving Related Parties will be captured and reviewed to determine materiality or otherwise of such transactions, if the transactions are Ordinary Citizen Transactions (OCTs), and to determine the significance of each of the transactions.

7. Ordinary Citizen Transaction (OCT)

Transactions with related parties of Council which are of a nature that any ordinary citizen would undertake will not be captured and reported. These transactions are not material transactions because of their nature. However, if the OCT occurs on terms and conditions that are different to those offered to the general public the transaction may become material and subsequently disclosed.

Ordinary Citizen Transactions shall include:

- Use of Council facilities, equipment and services in accordance with Council's fees, charges and policies;
- Payment of rates and charges;
- Attendance at Council functions and activities that are open to the public;
- Payment of fines and other penalties on normal terms and conditions; and
- Related party transactions occurring during the course of delivering Council's public service objectives and which occur on no different terms to that of the general public.

Amendments to transactions classified as Ordinary Citizen Transactions may be identified from time to time and this policy will be amended accordingly.

8. Review of Related Party Transactions

A review of all Related Party Transactions will be completed every 12 months.

KEY TERM DEFINITIONS

AASB 124 means the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Related Party Disclosures Standard.

Asset - A physical component of a facility which has value, enables a service to be provided and has an economic life of greater than 12 months.

Close members of the family of a person - are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the Council and include:

- (a) that person's children and spouse or domestic partner;
- (b) children of that person's spouse or domestic partner; and
- (c) dependants of that person or that person's spouse or domestic partner.

Entity can include a body corporate, a partnership or a trust, incorporated, or unincorporated group or body.

Incorporated association means an association incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1957*.

Key management personnel - as defined in Section 1 of this Policy.

KMP Compensation means all forms of consideration paid, payable, or provided in exchange for services provided, and may include:

- Short-term employee benefits, such as wages, salaries and social security contributions, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, profit sharing and bonuses (if payable within twelve months of the end of the period) and non-monetary benefits (such as medical care, housing, cars and free and subsidised goods or services) for current employees;
- Post-employment benefits such as pensions, other retirement benefits, post-employment life insurance and post-employment medical care;
- Other long-term employee benefits, including long-service leave or sabbatical leave, jubilee or other long-service benefits, long-term disability benefits and, if they are not payable wholly within twelve months after the end of the period, profit sharing, bonuses and deferred compensation;
- Termination benefits; and
- Share-based payment.

Material (materiality) means the assessment of whether the transaction, either individually or in aggregate with other transactions, by omitting it or misstating it could influence decisions that users make on the basis of an entity's financial statements. For the purpose of this policy, it is not considered appropriate to set either a dollar value or a percentage value to determine materiality.

Ordinary Citizen Transaction means a transaction that an ordinary citizen of the community would undertake in the ordinary course of business with Council.

Possible (Possibly) Close members of the family of a person are those family members who could be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the Council and include:

- (a) that person's brothers' and sisters';
- (b) aunts', uncles', and cousins' of that person's spouse or domestic partner;
- (c) dependants of those persons' or that person's spouse or domestic partner as stated in (b); and
- (d) that person's or that person's spouse or domestic partners', parents' and grandparents'.

Record means any record of information however recorded and includes- anything on which there is writing, a map, plan, diagram or graph, a drawing, pictorial or graphic work, photograph; or anything from which images, sounds or writings can be reproduced.

Related Party – as defined in Section 2 of this Policy.

Related Party Transaction is a transfer of resources, services or obligations between a Council and a related party, regardless of whether a price is charged.

Significant (significance) means likely to influence the decisions that users of the Council's financial statements make having regard to both the extent (value and frequency) of the transactions, and that the transactions have occurred between the Council and related party outside a public service provider/ taxpayer relationship.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

WORKPLACE INFORMATION

Local Government Act 1995

AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures

AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statement

AASB 11 Joint Arrangements

AASB 128 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures

Council Policy 4.2 Code of Conduct for Elected Members and Committee Members

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Corporate and Commercial Services		Chief Financial Officer	Biennial	2021
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis		
2.		Scheduled Policy Review		