Policy M6 – Council Members Recognition of Continuous Service

1. Policy Intention

To provide guidelines for the recognition of Council Members who achieve a significant milestone with continuous service.

2. Policy

It is policy to recognise and show appreciation to long serving Council Members. Eligibility is based upon years of continuous service with the Shire of Murray (Shire). The Shire provides recognition in appreciation of ongoing loyalty and commitment to the Murray community.

2.1 Council Members Continuous Service

Council Members with five, ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty-five plus years continuous service, from the date of their commencement with Council are eligible for service recognition, as follows:

(a) Each Council Member who achieves five, ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty-five plus years continuous service from the date of their commencement with Council, will be recognised by the presentation of a certificate, commemorative pewter tankard, pewter champagne flute, or an engraved glass, whichever the Council Member prefers.

2.2 Retiring Council Members

(a) A retiring Council Member that has completed at least one four-year term or more than one four-year term continuously shall, subject to the approval of the Shire President, be eligible to receive a gift of their choice from Council up to the value of $100 for each year of service as a Council Member, up to a maximum amount of $1000. Where the Shire President is the retiring Council Member the (CEO) shall determine the matter. Cash is not deemed to be an appropriate gift.

(b) Where a retiring Council Member has been allocated office furniture or information and communication equipment to carry out their functions as a Council Member during their term, the Council Member may seek the approval of the CEO to retain the equipment issued.

(c) The equipment approved to be retained will form part of the gift to the retiring Council Member and the value of the equipment upon retirement will be assessed as follows:

- original purchase price less 25% depreciation for each year the equipment is used.

(d) The balance of the applicable entitlement may be put towards a retirement gift.

Example: A Council Member retiring after a four-year term would be entitled, under the Regulations. to receive a retirement gift up to the value of $400. If after one year of service a new facsimile valued at $400 was purchased, the residual value at retirement would be $100. In this case any additional gift could not exceed $300.

2.3 General Information

The following are not deemed to be gifts to Council Member.

"Implicit entitlements" a benefit to which a Council Member is entitled because it is implicit in the performance of the duties/functions of the Council Member. An example of this type of entitlement includes meals provided at meetings and official functions and the provision of office and electronic equipment.

"Express entitlements" a benefit to which a Council Member is entitled, pursuant to the local government legislation, or as a result of the exercise by the local government of a 'discretionary authority' which is itself something authorised (expressly or implicitly) by the legislation.

This category would include necessary travel and accommodation, and the use of council vehicles.

Policy Detail		
Responsible Directorate	Corporate Services	
Responsible Department	Governance	
Responsible Officer	Manager Governance	
Next Policy Review / Schedule	2027 (3-yearly)	
Council Adoption	**Date / Resolution**	22 December 2004 (OCM04/260)
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		24 April 2008 (OCM08/090)
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		26 July 2012 (OCM12/149)
		22 February 2018 (OCM18/008)
		23 June 2022 (OCM22/070)
		19 December 2024 (OCM24/159)