



BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

**HOUSING AND AFFORDABILITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

CONSTITUTION

PROPOSED COMMITTEE - DRAFT

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

(INTERNAL USE ONLY)

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| Date Adopted by Council | 20 January 2022 | Resolution No. | TBC |
| Responsibility | Housing and Affordability Advisory Committee | | |
| Review Timeframe | Each Term of Council | | |
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Document History

| Doc No. | Date Amended | Details Comments eg Resolution No. |
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Further Document Information and Relationships

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| Related Legislation | Section 355, Local Government Act (1993) |
| Related Policies | Code of Conduct 2016 Work Health Safety Policy Code of Meeting Practice |
| Related Procedures/ Protocols, Statements, documents | |

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1. Preamble

The Housing and Affordability Advisory Committee is a Committee of the Council and does not have executive power or authority to implement actions.

The role of the Committee is to provide appropriate specialist advice and recommendations to Council on matters relevant to this Constitution.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Housing and Affordability Advisory Committee is to contribute to the vision for the Byron Shire and its guiding principle to work together in a way that is creative, caring and just.

Affordable housing is a basic need and an essential element of an inclusive and sustainable community.

The scope of the Committee is to:

- Monitor and promote the implementation of [Council's Affordable Housing Policy](#) and other relevant policies and plans related to affordable housing for very low, low and moderate income households, including essential workers, boarding house residents, homeless people and others experiencing housing stress.
- Serve as a resource for Council in relation to the housing market, trends and community impacts, including supporting access to and opportunities for affordable, sustainable and accessible housing options where relevant.
- Suggestions on improving the development of housing options that support the retention of a diverse and inclusive community and an accessible and sustainable place to live.
- Assist in the development of programs and [initiatives](#) to highlight the importance of housing to the well-being and dynamism of the community.

The role of the Committee is to assist Council to develop its policies, plans, programs and services by providing contributions to and feedback on:

- Policy, research and priorities relating to the housing market and trends, and their impacts on the community, including the provision of appropriate, affordable housing and related opportunities as well as identification of service gaps.
- Joint opportunities with State and Federal agencies, peak housing bodies and community housing providers.
- Partnership opportunities with key stakeholders regarding best practice models for affordable, sustainable, accessible, diverse and inclusive housing.
- Implementation of policy.

Activities, forums, roundtables, projects, programs and events to encourage delivery of affordable and sustainable housing options

3. Timeframe for Committee

The lifespan of the Housing and Affordability Advisory Committee is for the term of Council 2022-2024.

4. Responsible Directorate

This Committee is administered by the Sustainable Environment and Economy Directorate. The Director or their delegate will attend these meetings and minutes will be taken by a member of their staff.

5. Membership

Council must appoint all Committee members. Appointment must take place prior to a member being conferred the responsibilities and rights as set out in this document.

Council may release individual members from the Committee at any time by a resolution of council. Council may also appoint any new members to a Committee at any time by a resolution of council.

Membership is to include:

- 3 Councillors
- Up to 7 Community representatives with relevant qualifications or experience
- Byron Shire General Manager (or staff member delegate)

Note: Staff members participating on the Committee do not have any voting entitlements.

6. Induction

All members will be required to participate in an induction process at the establishment of a new Committee, and at any time a replacement voting member joins a Committee. The induction will be scheduled prior to the first meeting of the Committee and will cover topics such as this Constitution, the Code of Meeting Practice, Conflicts of Interest and Code of Conduct.

Replacement voting members will be inducted by experienced Committee members at, or prior to, their first meeting.

7. Quorum

A quorum is to constitute at least half the number of members, two of which are to be Councillors. The General Manager or delegate, who must be a member of staff, is to attend the Committee meeting and is not counted in the quorum for the meeting.

8. Confidentiality

Members of the Committee will, in those circumstances where confidential matters are subject to deliberation, maintain confidentiality.

9. Election of Chairperson

The position of Chairperson is to be elected from Councillors comprising the Committee but only in circumstances where the Mayor elects not to assume the position of Chairperson.

10. Voting

- a) Each member of the Committee (with the exception of staff members) is to have one vote, with the Chairperson to have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.
- b) Members of the Committee who are not Councillors may abstain from voting in any circumstances without such abstention being recorded in the negative.

11. Majority Decision

A majority decision of the Committee requires a majority of elected members to be present and voting on any item subject to the requirements of a quorum being met at the meeting.

12. Convening Meetings

Meetings will be held as required, generally every quarter. An annual timetable of meetings will be prepared in advance and adopted by Council for the following 12 months.

A meeting of the Committee may be convened in response to either the direction of the Mayor (or in the Mayor's absence the Deputy Mayor) in written form to the General Manager; or two Councillors in written form to the General Manager, or by resolution of the Council.

13. Agenda Preparation

It is the responsibility of the chairperson to prepare the agenda in consultation with the relevant Director, setting out the terms of business to be considered.

The agenda is an organised list of the business, in order, that will be transacted at the meeting. An agenda for each meeting, containing a brief report on each item, is to be provided to Committee members and available on Council's website at least 7 days prior to the meeting being held.

Each item of business to discuss at the meeting is required to be listed on the agenda and in written form. Verbal reports at the meeting are not an acceptable practice.

For some matters, it will be necessary to attach other relevant information to the agenda to inform and direct discussion. Such information is to be circulated with the agenda.

Committee members may request items for inclusion in future agendas, through the Chair.

14. Conduct of Business

Each item of business is discussed in the order in which it appears on the agenda. No new matters will be introduced at the meeting. New items of business may be included in a future agenda as noted in clause 13 above.

15. Records of meetings

- a) The minutes of meetings are to be circulated to members of the group within 7 days of the meeting so that members can provide feedback through the Chair on the draft unconfirmed minutes.
- b) Any recommendation of a Committee that requires a resolution of Council will be reported to Council through a staff report to Council from the responsible Directorate for the Committee, and the staff report will include as an attachment, a copy of the minutes of the Committee meeting at which the recommendation was made.

16. Absence from Committee Meetings

All Committee members are required to advise the chair when they are unable to attend Committee meetings. The absence of Committee members from the meeting is to be recorded in the minutes. A Committee member (other than the Mayor) ceases to be a member of a Committee if the member:

- a) Has been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Committee without having given reasons acceptable to the Committee for the member's absence, or
- b) Has been absent from at least half of the meetings of the Committee held during the immediately preceding year without having given to the Committee acceptable reasons for the member's absences.

17. Section 377 Delegation

The Committee does not have any delegated functions pursuant to section 377 of the Local Government Act (1993) and does not have the power to direct staff.

18. Meeting Practice

Meetings are to be conducted in accordance with this Constitution and, where required, reference to Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

19. Miscellaneous

- a) **Insurance:** All group members are covered by the public liability policy of Council. This insurance does not preclude the Committee from due diligence and all Council policies must be adhered to.
- b) **Code of Conduct:** All group members to abide by Council's adopted Code of Conduct at all times.
- c) **Pecuniary Interest:** Pecuniary Interest may be defined as an interest that a person has in a matter, as a group member or employee of a company or other body, because of a reasonable

likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person, or another person with whom the person is associated. Such other person includes the spouse or de-facto partner or relative of the group member.

Section 446 of the Local Government Act states that “a member of a council Committee, other than a Committee that is wholly advisory, must disclose pecuniary interests...”

Even though the Local Government Act provides an exemption to disclose pecuniary interests Council’s preference is for all members to declare pecuniary interests where applicable.

- d) **Work Health Safety:** All group members are required to comply with the “Worker Responsibilities” as prescribed in the Work Health Safety Policy.