

INFORMATION STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

This Information Statement is published by the City of Melville in accordance with the requirements of Section 96(1) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (the FOI Act). The City of Melville is pleased to comply with the legislation and welcomes enquiries. An updated Information Statement will be reviewed every twelve (12) months. This statement is current as of February 2023.

The City's Information Statement includes information on:

- Documents held by the City
- Structure and functions of the City
- Documents freely available to the public
- Description of the kind of documents generated and held by the City
- Organisational purpose and structure
- How to access non-personal documents
- How to amend personal information

CITY'S INFORMATION ACCESS INTENTION

The City will release at cost or free of cost permitted (through legislation and/or policy) City information / documentation that is of public interest to residents, ratepayers and other stakeholders. Access to all such permissible information should be made outside the confines of the FOI Act 1992 where possible.

If no permissible access is available to the desired information and/or documents, the City will accept a valid application under the FOI Act 1992 and will make available documents permissible under the Act where exemptions do not apply. The City has a duty to protect the privacy of its residents, commercial interest of businesses within the City and also has a need to maintain the integrity of the City's ongoing lawful investigative and decision-making processes. In these instances, permissible exemptions will be applied to protect these activities and you may be refused access to such classification of documents.

VISION

Engaging with our diverse community to achieve an inclusive, vibrant and sustainable future.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide good governance and quality services for the City of Melville community.

OUR VALUES

Excellence	Striving for the best possible outcomes
Participation	Involving, collaborating, and partnering
Integrity	In everything we do, we seek to adhere to our values that guide our behaviours
Caring	Demonstrating empathy, kindness, and genuine concern

ORGANISATIONAL SERVICE AREAS

The City has four (4) Directors who are directly responsible to the Chief Executive Officer. The Directors oversee the running of the main Service Areas within the City

- Environment and Infrastructure
- Corporate Services
- Community Development and
- Urban Planning

The City also has a Governance and Legal Unit that directly supports the CEO led by an Executive Manager

The Executive Leadership Team is supported by fifteen (15) Operational Managers who manage the services of each operational area.

All staff employed by the City are responsible to the Chief Executive Officer.

Visit the [Management](#) page for more information.

THE COUNCIL

The [Council](#) is made up of members of the local community who are elected to office by residents and ratepayers of the City.

The Council is led by the Mayor and twelve (12) Councillors who serve in six wards two (2) Councillors per ward. The wards are:

- Applecross – Mt Pleasant Ward
- Bicton – Attadale – Alfred Cove Ward
- Bull Creek – Leeming Ward
- Central Ward
- Palmyra – Melville – Willagee Ward
- Bateman – Kardinya – Murdoch Ward

Each Councillor, and the Mayor, is elected for a four (4) year term. Information on Local Government Elections is provided by the [Western Australian Electoral Commission](#).

DOCUMENTS FREELY AVAILABLE

The following documents are available for public inspection at the Melville Civic Centre free of charge. Members of the public may purchase copies of these documents. The charges for these documents are set annually by the Council and the Fees and Charges manual may be inspected at the City of Melville Offices, ground floor reception, 10 Almondbury Road Booragoon and at the City of Melville Libraries during their normal opening hours. Some of the following documents or related information is available online.

- Community Planning Scheme No.5 (maps and CDROM's are also available from Council Offices)
- Council & Committee Minutes) unless classified as confidential) are also available from the Civic Centre and/or five public libraries.
- Customer Services Officers Manual
- Delegated Authority Manual
- Details of Representation on Committees
- Electoral Rolls: Individual Wards
- Rates and Charges
- Local Laws Manual
- The City's Building Register as prescribed under the Building Act 2011
- Mosaic Publication
- Residents / Packs, Other Schools, Councils Organisations
- Policy Manual
- Register of Properties Exempt from Rates
- Various Leaflets and brochures outlining the programs and services of the City of Melville
- Documents not highlighted are available from Council Offices.

OTHER DOCUMENTS HELD BY THE CITY

The City of Melville holds a number of different types of documents for which a Freedom of Information request for information should be submitted. These include letters and general correspondence, internal reports, external reports to other agencies, plans, memorandums, drawings, videos and building records not available under legislation.

Information of value is held on the City's' central records system which is an electronic document management system grouped into functional directorates.



DOCUMENTS HELD BY THE CITY

SERVICE AREA	DOCUMENTS HELD
Environment and Infrastructure	
Natural Area and Parks	Environmental Plans Information / Research Books and Magazines Product Information Books Instruction Manuals for Tools/Plant Asset Management Plans Take 5's Job Hazard Analysis (JHA's) Incident Reports Maintenance Plans
Engineering	Take 5's Job Hazard Analysis (JHA's) Incident Reports Information / Research Books and Magazines Product Information Books Asset Management Plans Contracts Tenders Specifications Photos/Images Maintenance Plans Bonds
City Buildings	Asset Management Plans Instruction Manuals for Tools/Plant Job Hazard Analysis (JHA's) Incident Reports Policies Procedures Work Instructions Frameworks Contracts Tenders Specifications Photos/Images
Resource Recovery & Waste	Instruction Manuals for Tools/Plant Asset Management Plans Take 5's Job Hazard Analysis (JHA's) Incident Reports Policies Procedures Work Instructions Frameworks Run Sheets Tonnage Spreadsheets Application Forms
Corporate Services	

Financial Services	Accounts payable Funds management Budgeting Financial planning Invoicing
Information and Communication Technology	Information technology Records management Freedom of information requests Information management
Organisational Development	Business improvement Internal auditing

Community Development	
Neighbourhood Amenity	Dog and cat registrations Ranger services Emergency management records Firebreaks Neighbourhood Watch
Neighbourhood Development	Community centres Aboriginal engagement services Financial counselling
Healthy Melville	Recreation centres management Activelink applications
Cultural Services	Museum management Local history Library services
Urban Planning	
Statutory Planning	Information Sheets Planning Application forms Land Information Certificates (received via Landgate) Document Registration Form for Planning & Development Applications

Building & Environmental Health Services	Information / fact sheet / Checklists Smoke Alarm Application forms Building Plans Requests Cross over request forms Verge Bond (VB) Refund Pools documentation Food documentation Infringements Noise issues Public building documentation Trading Public Event - Application Form Request for Consultation to Provide Certifying Service Wastewater - Decommissioning of Septic Apparatus Building Applications
Governance & Management Services	
Legal & Compliance	Leases Licences Property management Internal auditing Process improvements
Governance	Policy development Primary and Annual Returns Delegated authorities Petitions
Property	Street numbering Firebreaks Eating houses

WHAT IS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION?

The [Freedom of Information Act 1992](#) grants through its objectives the legally enforceable right to access records (which are not otherwise exempt) held by both State and Local Government agencies.

3. Objects of Act

- (1) The objects of this Act are to —
- (a) enable the public to participate more effectively in governing the State; and
 - (b) make the persons and bodies that are responsible for State and local government more accountable to the public.

It also gives you the right to apply to have personal information we hold to be altered if you believe it is inaccurate (at no cost).

It obligates the City of Melville to make certain information available about the way it operates.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED?

No fees are payable for access to personal information only or amendment to personal information that is *inaccurate, incomplete, and out of date or misleading*

The costs for non-personal information may vary from one application to another dependent upon the information required and material and work necessary to provide the documents. Nevertheless, an initial fee of \$30.00 is payable on lodgement of these applications. Further information can be obtained from [Office of the Information Commissioner](#) website regarding costings.

FOI APPLICATIONS

To be a valid application, the FOI Act requires that an application must:

- be in writing;
- give enough information to identify the documents;
- given an Australian address for correspondence;
- be accompanied by the application fee;
- be lodged at the office of the agency;
- give any other information required under regulations

To provide a more flexible model, the City has introduced a contactless FOI Act application process. These online processes including credit card payment that can be found on the City's [website](#)

A PDF [application form](#) is available to assist you in submitting an in person application and/ or a written application. These can be submitted in person at the City's Administration Centre Office or by Post with the appropriate application fee.

The City of Melville may request proof of your identity when submitting an application and/or upon collection of documents and or prior to amending any personal information.

If you are seeking access to a document(s) on behalf of another person, the City of Melville will require authorisation in writing together with the authorised party's identification

Your application will be dealt with as soon as practicable (within 45 days) after it is received.

FORMS OF ACCESS

You can request access to documents by way of inspection, a copy of a document, a copy of an audio or video tape, a computer disk, or a written document in case of a document where words can be reproduced in written form.

OPERATION OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IN THE CITY

The Freedom of Information Act is operated at the City of Melville in accordance with the procedures set out by the Office of the Information Commissioner. This [flowchart](#) demonstrates how Freedom of Information is operated at the City.

INITIAL ENQUIRIES

Initial enquiries regarding the release of information should be made to the Freedom of

Information Coordinator either in person at the Melville Civic Centre or by telephone on (08) 9364 0666 or 1300 635 845 or email foi@melville.wa.gov.au.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Requests for information will be considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 1992 legislation.

Freedom of Information requests should be made in writing detailing as much information as possible; however, to assist in providing details of the information required, application forms are available from the Melville Civic Centre. Written requests should be forwarded with the application fee of \$30.00 (for non-personal information only) to:

Online

[Non Personal
Information
Application](#)

[Personal
Information
Application](#)

By Post

FOI Coordinator
City of Melville
Locked Bag 1
BOORAGOON WA 6954

In Person

FOI Coordinator
City of Melville
10 Almondbury Road
BOORAGOON WA 6154

If the agency estimates that the charges (other than the application fee) for dealing with the access application might exceed \$25, or such greater amount as is prescribed it will request these charges or a deposit of the applicant before further progressing the application.

Applicants will receive a response from the City as soon as possible and within the statutory forty five (45) days or longer subject to mutual agreement after a valid application is received.

Any applicant dissatisfied with the original decision made by the City in relation to the provision of access to documents may apply for an internal review of the decision. If the applicant is still dissatisfied with the City's decision they can still apply to the Information Commissioner Office (IC) in a manner prescribed for an External Review by the IC.

INFORMATION PRIVACY

WHAT WE COLLECT

To allow us to respond to your enquiry, we may need to collect your name, mailing address, phone number, and email address. Personal information is collected within the City of Melville by written correspondence, phone, email and verbally at the Reception Counters. The City of Melville maintains a comprehensive database of properties, which includes personal information relating to property owners such as names, addresses, contactable details and also records any issues such as complaints and enquiries relating to a number of categories such as City services, local group and community events, residential areas, and amenities and security.

HOW INFORMATION IS USED

This information is used for responding to requests within the City of Melville relating to

various services that we provide. Your information is used to administer and manage those services, including billing arrangements. Additionally, we may use your information for ongoing research and development of our services.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

The [Local Government Act](#) prescribes the parameters within which the City must function.

THE MAYOR

The [Mayor](#) is the City's Civic Leader, presides at all meetings of the Council and in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer signs every Deed, Conveyance, Agreement and Contract under the Common Seal of the Council.

The Mayoral position has special emergency powers for decision and direction to the Chief Executive Officer.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The day-to-day management of the City rests with the Chief Executive Officer. Under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer, staff respond to the Council's decisions by developing and implementing policies and resolutions.

COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

The Council implements an Agenda Forum / Council structure for the way it conducts its meetings. This enables Council to conduct its business more effectively.

The Agenda Forum allows Elected Members to become more informed on matters prior to formal consideration at the Ordinary Meeting of Council. The forums encourage greater open dialogue between Elected Members, Officers and members of the public, and allow Elected Members to gain maximum knowledge and understanding of issues prior to presentation at the Ordinary Meetings of Council.

View [Meetings Structure and Procedures](#).

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The Chief Executive Officer has Delegated Authority from the Council to make decisions on a number of specified administrative and policy matters. Certain delegations have been on- delegated to senior members of staff. All delegations are listed in a Register and are reviewed annually by the Council.

LOCAL LAWS

[Local Laws](#) are adopted by the Council to ensure that such things as reserves and parking facilities in the City of Melville are maintained for all residents of the City to utilise. All Local Laws for the City of Melville are contained in the Local Laws Register.