

ADMINISTRATION

A 8.3 Records Management

<i>Responsible Department</i>	CEO Office
<i>Resolution Number</i>	C.4690
<i>Resolution Date</i>	15/03/2023
<i>Next Scheduled Review</i>	2024
<i>Related Shire Documents</i>	Record Keeping Plan Policy G 1.9 Council Member and Staff Interactions and Requests for Information
<i>Related Legislation</i>	State Records Act 2000 Criminal Code Act 1913 Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003 Electronic Transactions Act 2011 Evidence Act 1906 Financial Management Act 2006 Freedom of Information Act 1992 Interpretation Act 1984 Limitations Act 2005 Local Government Act 1995 State Records Commission: Principles and Standards Australian Standard on Records Management: AS ISO 15489

OBJECTIVE

To define the principles that underpin the Shire's record keeping function and the roles and responsibilities of those individuals who manage or perform record keeping processes on behalf of the Shire.

The Policy and its associated Plans and Procedures establish a framework for the reliable and systematic management of Shire records in accordance with legislative requirements and best practice standards.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all government records created or received by a Shire of Northam employee, contractor or Council Member, or an organisation performing outsourced services on behalf of the Shire of Northam, regardless of their physical format, storage location or date of creation.

POLICY

Custodianship of Records

The Shire of Northam recognises its records as a government owned asset and will ensure that they are managed as such. Ownership and proprietary interest of records created or collected during the course of business (including those from outsourced bodies or contractors) is vested in the Shire of Northam.

Roles and Responsibilities

- (a) **Council Members:** All Council Members are to create, collect and retain records relating to their role as a Council Member for the Shire of Northam in a manner commensurate with legislation and the Shire's policies and procedures for record keeping. Originals or copies thereof shall be delivered to the Chief Executive Officer for recording and safe keeping by the Shire of Northam. Party political and personal records of Council Members are exempt.
- (b) **Chief Executive Officer:** The Chief Executive Officer is to ensure that an organisational system for the capture and management of records is maintained that is compliant with legislative requirements and best practice standards.
- (c) **Managers:** All Managers are to ensure record keeping policy and procedures are known and adhered to in their area of responsibility.
- (d) **All Staff:** All staff (including contractors) are to create, collect and retain records relating to Shire of Northam business activities they perform. They are to identify significant and ephemeral records, ensure significant records are captured into the Record Keeping System and that all records are handled in a manner commensurate with legislation and the Shire's policies and procedures for record keeping.

Creation of Records

All Council Members, staff and contractors will create full and accurate records, in the appropriate format, of the Shire's business decisions and transactions to meet all legislative, business, administrative, financial, evidential and historical requirements.

Capture and Control of Records

All records created and received in the course of Shire of Northam business are to be captured at the point of creation, regardless of format, with required metadata (naming conventions as per the Document Control in Promapp), into appropriate record keeping and business systems that are managed in accordance with sound record keeping principles.

Security and Protection of Records

All records are to be categorised as to their level of sensitivity and adequately secured and protected from violation, unauthorised access or destruction, and kept in accordance with necessary retrieval, preservation and storage requirements.

Access to Records

Access to the Shire's records by staff and contractors will be in accordance with designated access and security classifications. Access to the Shire's records by the general public will be in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* and Shire policy. Access to the Shire's records by Council Members will be via the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and Policy G 1.9 Council Member and Staff Interactions and Requests for Information.

Appraisal, Retention & Disposal of Records

All records kept by the Shire will be disposed of in accordance with the General Disposal Authority for Local Government Records, produced by the State Records Office of Western Australia in 1999.