



City of Perth

# Information Statement 2019–2020

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## Introduction

The *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (“FOI Act”) provides for public access to documents, and for the public to ensure that personal information in documents is accurate, complete, up to date, and not misleading.

Part 5 of the FOI Act requires the City of Perth (the “City”) to prepare and publish an annual Information Statement. The Information Statement must:

- State the structure and functions of the City;
- Describe the ways in which functions of the City affect members of the public;
- Describe arrangements that exist to allow members of the public to participate in the formulation of the City’s policy and performance of the City’s functions;
- Describe the type of documents usually held by the City;
- Describe the arrangements for giving members of the public access to documents; and
- Describe the arrangements for amending personal information.

This document has been created to comply with that requirement, and is correct as at 27 November 2019.

The City’s Information Statement is published on the City’s website at:

<http://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/finance-and-corporate-documents/freedom-information>

This document can be provided in alternative formats upon request.

Further information can be provided, between Mondays and Fridays, by contacting the FOI Coordinator via:

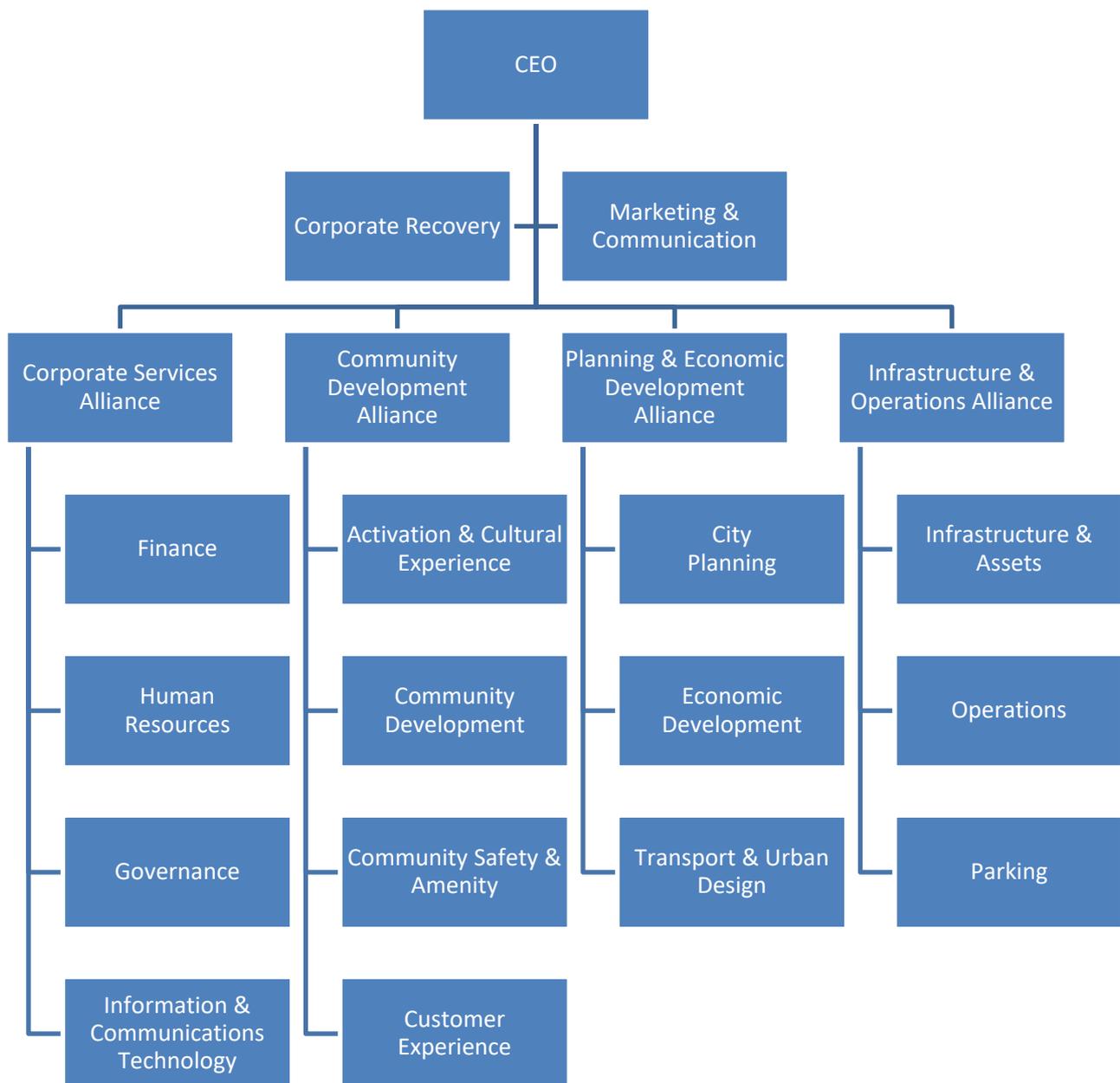
Phone: (08) 9461 3447

Email: [info.city@cityofperth.wa.gov.au](mailto:info.city@cityofperth.wa.gov.au)

# Structure of the City

The day-to-day running of the City is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer, who, along with the Executive and staff, act on the Council's decisions by developing and putting into practice Council policies and resolutions. At present, Commissioners are appointed in place of Elected Members.

## Organisational Structure



## Services

CEO Alliance	
CEO Office	Internal Audit
Corporate Recovery	<p>Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy and Inter-Government Relations</li> <li>• Stakeholder Management</li> </ul> <p>Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Recovery</li> <li>• Integrated Corporate Performance</li> <li>• Integrated Strategic Planning</li> <li>• Organisational Capability</li> <li>• Organisational Systems Improvement</li> </ul>
Marketing & Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative Services</li> <li>• Digital Channels Management</li> <li>• Marketing</li> <li>• Media &amp; Communications</li> </ul>
Corporate Services Alliance	
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Accounting</li> <li>• Grant Attraction</li> <li>• Management Accounting</li> <li>• Payroll</li> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Rates</li> <li>• Strategic Financial Planning</li> </ul>
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employee Relations</li> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Strategic HR Management</li> </ul>
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Continuity</li> <li>• Citizenship</li> <li>• Civic &amp; Hospitality Services</li> <li>• Governance &amp; Council Support</li> <li>• Internal Printing Services</li> <li>• Legal Services</li> <li>• Occupational Health &amp; Safety</li> <li>• Policy Development</li> <li>• Records Management</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> </ul>
Information & Communications Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analytics &amp; Insights</li> <li>• Business Systems</li> <li>• Digital Workplace</li> <li>• ICT Governance and Architecture</li> <li>• Technology Infrastructure, Service and Support</li> </ul>

Community Development Alliance	
Activation & Cultural Experience	<p>Events &amp; Activation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events Management</li> <li>• Place Activation</li> </ul> <p>Culture &amp; Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural Collections Management</li> <li>• Cultural Development</li> <li>• Cultural Heritage Management</li> <li>• Heritage Policy</li> </ul> <p>Sponsorships, Grants &amp; Donations</p>
Community Services	<p>Community Capacity Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal Engagement &amp; Reconciliation</li> <li>• Access &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Community Planning</li> </ul> <p>Community Support Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Services</li> <li>• Community Facilities</li> <li>• Community Support</li> <li>• Homelessness Response</li> <li>• Lord Mayor’s Distress Relief Fund Coordination</li> <li>• Seniors’ Services</li> <li>• Visitor Services</li> <li>• Volunteer Services</li> </ul> <p>Library &amp; Lifelong Learning</p>
Community Safety & Amenity	<p>Activity Approvals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity Approvals Compliance</li> <li>• Event Approvals</li> <li>• Obstruction Approvals</li> </ul> <p>Community Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Safety</li> <li>• Emergency Management</li> <li>• Ranger Services</li> <li>• Surveillance Services</li> </ul> <p>Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Approvals</li> <li>• Health Monitoring &amp; Compliance</li> </ul>
Customer Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community &amp; Stakeholder Engagement</li> <li>• Customer Relationship Management</li> </ul>

Infrastructure & Operations Alliance	
Infrastructure & Assets	<p>Asset Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure Maintenance</li> <li>• Facility Maintenance</li> <li>• Electrical Maintenance</li> <li>• Public Furniture Maintenance</li> </ul> <p>Asset Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asset Performance Management</li> <li>• Strategic Asset Planning</li> </ul> <p>Engineering &amp; Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Design</li> <li>• Infrastructure Design</li> </ul> <p>Project Delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major Project Delivery</li> </ul> <p>Property Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial Property Management</li> </ul>
Operations	<p>Fleet &amp; Depot Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depot Workshop Operations</li> <li>• Fleet Acquisition &amp; Management</li> </ul> <p>Parks &amp; Environment Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigation Maintenance</li> <li>• Natural Areas Maintenance</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Reserves Maintenance</li> <li>• Verge Maintenance</li> </ul> <p>Street Cleaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graffiti Management</li> <li>• Street Cleaning</li> </ul> <p>Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Business Development</li> <li>• Waste Collection</li> </ul>
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial Parking Operations</li> <li>• Financial Reconciliation Services</li> <li>• Infringement Support</li> <li>• Parking Business Development</li> <li>• Parking Operations</li> <li>• Parking Technical Support</li> </ul>

Planning & Economic Development Alliance	
Development Approvals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning &amp; Building Approvals &amp; Compliance</li> </ul>
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Support</li> <li>• Economic Modelling &amp; Analysis</li> <li>• International Engagement</li> <li>• Investment &amp; Attraction</li> <li>• Sector Development</li> </ul>
City Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Research</li> <li>• Heritage Planning</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Planning &amp; Renewal</li> <li>• Planning Schemes &amp; Planning Policy</li> <li>• Urban Strategy &amp; Policy</li> </ul>
Transport & Urban Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Realm Concept Design</li> <li>• Transport Planning</li> <li>• Traffic Management Approvals</li> </ul>

# Functions of the City

The City incorporates the Perth Central Business District, Crawley and Northbridge; extensive portions of East Perth and West Perth; and, a small portion of Nedlands.

Local governments operate within a framework of delegated legislation, including orders and proclamations made by the Governor, by-laws, regulations and ordinances made by other statutory authorities.

The functions of the City are to provide services and facilities, by proper and democratic government, in an efficient and cost-effective manner, subject to the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act) and other legislation that provide the powers and directions for local government.

In carrying out its functions, a local government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.

Under the LG Act the City has general, legislative and executive functions:

## General Functions

### *Section 3.1*

The general function of a local government is to provide for the good government of people living and working within its district.

## Legislative Functions

### *Section 3.5*

A local government may make local laws that are necessary or convenient for it to perform any of its functions.

## Executive Functions

### *Section 3.18*

A local government is to administer its local laws and may do all other things that are necessary or convenient to be done for, or relating to, performing its functions.

# Public Participation

Members of the public have several opportunities to participate in the formulation of the City's plans, policies and strategies as well as comment on the performance of the City's functions.

## Council and Committee Meetings

Council meetings afford members of the public the opportunity to ask Council and staff questions about City matters generally.

Refer to <https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings>.

The Council has established several Committees to support the operations of the Council:

- Audit & Risk Committee
- CEO Performance Review Committee
- Design Advisory Committee
- City of Perth Committee

Refer to <https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/our-committees>.

## Deputations

In accordance with the City of Perth *Standing Orders* Local Law, a member of the public can address one of the Council's Committees personally, or on behalf of a resident or group of residents. A deputation may relate to an item on a Committee meeting agenda, or a matter concerning the affairs of the City generally.

Refer to <https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings> for information on Deputations.

## Elected Members

Members of the public can contact the City's Elected Members\* to discuss any issue relevant to the Council.

\* In March 2018, the Minister for Local Government initiated the *Inquiry into the City of Perth*. Council was suspended and Commissioners were appointed to fulfil the role of the Council.

Refer to <https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/about-council/commissioners>.

## Advertising

Residents may be notified of issues by advertising in the local newspaper, written notification or an on-site sign. Residents have right to write to the City expressing their views.

### Development Application advertising

Where a development application does not comply with the provisions of the City Planning Scheme or involves an unlisted land use, the City may give written notice of the proposal to affected owners and/or occupiers, or the City may direct the applicant to advertise the application in any manner that it considers to be appropriate.

Refer to <https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/develop/planning-and-building-applications/advertised-planning-applications>.

## Petitions

Written petitions can be presented to the Council on any issue within the Council's jurisdiction.

Refer to <https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings>.

## Public Question Time

Members of the public can ask questions (preferably in writing) on any matter affecting the City in the time set aside for this purpose at meetings of the Council and Committee meetings that are open to the public.

Refer to <https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings>.

## Written Requests

A member of the public can write to the Council or City on any policy, activity, function or service of the Council.

Contact can be:

Email	<a href="mailto:info.city@cityofperth.wa.gov.au">info.city@cityofperth.wa.gov.au</a>
Website	<a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/how-can-we-help">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/how-can-we-help</a>
Surface Mail	GPO Box C120, Perth WA 6839
Telephone	(08) 9461 3333

# Documents held by the City of Perth

## Types of Information Held

The City holds documents relating to various service functions, as described below:

Function	Description
Commercial Activities	Competing commercially or providing services to other councils or agencies on a fee for service basis.
Community Relations	Establishing rapport with the community and raising and advancing Council's public image and its relationships with outside bodies, including the media and the public.
Community Services	Providing, operating or contracting services to assist residents and the community.
Corporate Management	Applying broad systematic planning to define the corporate mission and determine methods of the City's operation.
Council Properties	Acquiring, constructing, designing, developing, disposing and maintaining facilities and premises owned, leased or otherwise occupied by Council.
Customer Service	Planning, monitoring and evaluating services provided to customers by the City.
Development and Building Controls	Regulating and approving building and development applications for specific properties.
Economic Development	Improving the local economy through encouragement of industry, employment, tourism, regional development and trade.
Emergency Services	Preventing loss and minimising threats to life, property and the natural environment, from fire and other emergency situations.
Environmental Management	Managing, conserving and planning of air, soil and water qualities, and environmentally sensitive areas such as remnant bushlands and threatened species.
Financial Management	Managing the City's financial resources.
Governance	Managing the election of Council representatives, the boundaries of the City district, and the terms of office for Elected Members.
Government Relations	Managing the relationship between Council and other governments, particularly on issues which are not related to normal Council business.
Grants and Subsidies	Managing financial payments to, and from, the City for specific purposes.
Human Resources	Managing the conditions of employment and administration of personnel at the City.

Function	Description
Information Management	Managing the City's information resources, including the storage, retrieval, archives, processing and communications of all information regardless of format.
Information Technology	Acquiring and managing communications and information technology and databases to support the business operations of the City.
Land Use and Planning	Establishing a medium to long term policy framework for the management of the natural and built environments.
Laws and Enforcement	Regulating, notifying, prosecuting, and applying penalties in relation to the City's regulatory role.
Legal Services	Providing legal services to the City.
Parks and Reserves	Acquiring, managing, designing and constructing parks and reserves either owned or controlled and managed by the City.
Plant, Equipment and Stores	Purchasing, hiring or leasing of all plant and vehicles, and other equipment. Includes the management of the City's stores.
Public Health	Managing, monitoring and regulating activities to protect and improve public health in accordance with relevant legislation, health codes and standards.
Rates and Valuations	Managing, regulating, setting and collecting income through the valuation of rateable land and other charges.
Recreation and Cultural Services	Arranging, promoting or encouraging programs and events in recreation and cultural activities and services.
Risk Management	Managing and reducing the risk of loss of City properties and equipment, and risks to personnel.
Roads	Providing road construction, maintenance of roads and associated street services to property owners within the City area.
Sewerage and Drainage	Designing, constructing, maintaining and managing the liquid waste system, including drainage, sewerage collection and treatment, stormwater and flood mitigation works.
Traffic and Transport	Planning for transport infrastructure and the efficient movement and parking of traffic.
Waste Management	Providing services to ratepayers for the removal of solid waste, destruction and waste reduction.
Water Supply	Managing the design, construction, maintenance and management of water supplies, either by the City or by service providers.

## Council Minutes

Council and Committee Minutes are available for free inspection at the City's offices and library. Copies are also available on the City's website. Copies of the Minutes and related searches conducted by City of Perth staff may incur charges.

Minutes from 1988 onwards are available in hardcopy at the City's offices, with Minutes from January 1996 onwards also available electronically via the City's website. Hard copies of minutes dated between 1890 and August 1987 are located with the State Records Office.

## Rates Books

Currently City of Perth rates information is listed by Assessment Number or property address, however, up until 1994 Rates information was listed by Ward (for example: central, west, coastal) and then by property address, due to Ward boundaries changing over time. When searching for historical rates information the property address, lot number, and where possible the Ward name are required to retrieve the relevant information.

City of Perth Rates Books from 1880 to 1946 have been microfilmed, copies of the film are available at the State Records Office or the City of Perth. Access to this information is free, however, copying charges apply.

City of Perth Rates Books dating back to 1947 are stored in hardcopy at the City's offsite storage facility. Fees apply for the retrieval of Rates Books.

## Building/Development Applications

As the authority responsible for granting planning approval and issuing building licences for land zoned under the City Planning Scheme, the City of Perth has a vast record of drawings and plans of buildings within the City area. These drawings and plans may be requested via an Archive Plan Search and can include site plans, floor plans, elevations, sections, and detailed technical drawings (such as mechanical, hydraulic, structural and architectural drawings) and in some cases perspective drawings or photo montage images.

Information about the year of construction, builder details and cost of construction can be obtained via a Specific Document Search.

Access to this information is available subject to the consent of the current owner of the property. Charges apply for obtaining this information; and the availability of plans in all instances cannot be assured.

## Municipal Heritage Inventory

Under the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990* the City of Perth is required to prepare a Municipal Heritage Inventory. This is an inventory of all buildings within the City of Perth boundaries that are, or may become, of cultural heritage significance to the community. Details in the inventory include property address, ownership, description, historical information, architectural information, bibliography, listing status, and a digital photo of each building. Access to place records on the adopted inventory is free of charge.

## Other Municipal/Town Records

In 1994, the City of Perth was restructured resulting in changes to the City's boundaries.

For access to records created prior to 1 July 1994 relating to properties, roads, reserves and other matters that now fall within the boundaries of the Towns of Cambridge, Victoria Park and the City of Vincent, contact the City of Perth. Access to historical Building/Development Applications should be directed through the respective Towns / City of Vincent.

For access to records created on or after 1 July 1994 relating to properties, roads, reserves and other matters that now fall within the boundaries of the Towns of Cambridge, Victoria Park and the City of Vincent, applications should be lodged with Towns / City of Vincent directly.

In 2015, a further boundary change occurred with a portion of Subiaco being incorporated into the City of Perth.

For access to records that relate to properties or assets falling within the boundary change area prior to 30 June 2016, applications should be lodged with the City of Subiaco.

For access to records that relate to properties or assets falling within the boundary change from 1 July 2016, applications should be lodged with the City of Perth.

## City of Perth History Centre Collection

The History Centre Collection contains materials which relate to the history and development of the City of Perth municipal area, including microfiche of City of Perth Rates Books from 1880 to 1946. It is in the City of Perth Library and access is free of charge. This is a reference collection ensuring that materials are available when you visit. Some materials may be restricted for conservation or preservation reasons.

Refer to <https://www.visitperth.com.au/see-and-do/educational-attractions/Venues/city-of-perth-history-centre>.

## Access to Documents: Outside of FOI

Availability of information is subject to provisions established in legislation such as the FOI Act and LG Act. Access may be free, or subject to fees and charges. The City will, in all instances, seek to provide access to information upon request except where there may be issues under relevant legislation.

Information is made available through a range of mediums including public statements, news releases, the City's internet website, advertisements placed in local and state-wide newspapers, public notice boards, library services, information sheets and other publications, as well as individual correspondence, public and statutory documents, and reports.

### Access: Documents Published

Documents the City has published (physically or digitally) are available for access outside of the FOI process. As the *Legal Deposit Act 2012* requires the City to deposit copies of certain published material with the State Librarian, many City publications can be accessed through the State Library.

Document Description	Website address
<p><b>Adverse Findings</b></p> <p>Adverse findings against current council members, employees or the local government by the following bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Local Government Standards Panel;</li> <li>(b) Public Sector Commission;</li> <li>(c) Corruption and Crime Commission; and</li> <li>(d) State Administrative Tribunal.</li> </ul>	<p>Not currently on the website, awaiting advice on implementation date (expected sometime in 2020)</p>
<p><b>Agendas (Council/Committee)</b></p> <p>Notice papers and agendas relating to council and committee meetings that have been tabled or produced by the local government and presented at a council or committee meeting;</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings</a></p>
<p><b>Annual Budget</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents</a> – <i>click on Annual Budget</i></p>

Document Description	Website address
<p><b>Annual Financial Statements</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents</a> – <i>click on Annual Report</i> (incorporated in this report)</p>
<p><b>Annual Report</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents</a> – <i>click on Annual Report</i></p>
<p><b>Candidate profiles</b></p>	<p>Not currently on the website, as there was no Council Election in 2019.</p>
<p><b>CEO Appointment</b> Policy for the temporary employment or appointment of CEO</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents/local-laws">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents/local-laws</a> – <i>click on Appointment of an Acting Chief Executive Officer</i></p>
<p><b>City Planning Schemes</b> Providing for controls on land use and development</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/develop/planning-framework/planning-schemes">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/develop/planning-framework/planning-schemes</a></p>
<p><b>Code of Conduct</b> For Council and Committee members, and employees</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/transparency-and-accountability/code-of-conduct">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/transparency-and-accountability/code-of-conduct</a> – <i>click on Policy 10.1</i></p>
<p><b>Differential Rates</b> Objects and reasons for the imposition of differential rates</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/live-and-work/residents/rates-and-payments">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/live-and-work/residents/rates-and-payments</a> – <i>click on Objects of Differential Rates</i></p>
<p><b>District Map</b> Map of the district (which includes ward boundaries)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/develop/planning-and-building-applications/mapping">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/develop/planning-and-building-applications/mapping</a></p>
<p><b>Fees &amp; Charges</b> List of fees and charges under s6.16 of the LG Act</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents</a> – <i>click on Other (Fees and Charges)</i></p>
<p><b>Financial Interests Register</b> Register of financial interests</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/transparency-and-accountability/elected-members-registers">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/transparency-and-accountability/elected-members-registers</a> – <i>click on Declared Interests Register</i></p>

Document Description	Website address
<p><b>Future Plans</b></p> <p>Plans, for the future of the district, made under s5.56 of the LG Act</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/vision-and-strategy">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/vision-and-strategy</a></p>
<p><b>Gifts Register</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/transparency-and-accountability/elected-members-registers">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/transparency-and-accountability/elected-members-registers</a> – <i>click on Gift Register</i></p> <p><i>Limitations:</i></p> <p>It should be noted that s5.89A(6) of the LG Act requires that gift declarations are removed as soon as possible once a person stops being a ‘relevant person’ (designated employee or Elected Member).</p> <p>s5.89A(7) of the LG Act clarifies that for at least five (5) years after a person stops being a ‘relevant person’ that information is still to be made available to the public for inspection. Therefore, up to 5 years after removal from the Gift Register access will be publicly available.</p>
<p><b>Local Laws</b></p> <p>Proposed and current local laws</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents/local-laws">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/reports-and-important-documents/local-laws</a></p>
<p><b>Major Trading Undertakings</b></p> <p>Business plan for a major land transition or major trading undertaking</p>	<p>Once undertaken, this will be placed on the website.</p>
<p><b>Minor Breaches</b></p> <p>Register of complaints of minor breach compiled under section 5.121;</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/transparency-and-accountability/elected-members-registers">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/transparency-and-accountability/elected-members-registers</a> – <i>click on Register of Complaints of Minor Breaches</i></p>
<p><b>Minutes (Council/Committee)</b></p> <p>Confirmed Council and Committee meeting minutes</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings</a></p>
<p><b>Minutes AGM</b></p> <p>Minutes of annual Electors’ meetings</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings/15-january-2019-annual-general-meeting">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings/15-january-2019-annual-general-meeting</a></p>

Document Description	Website address
<p><b>Policy</b></p> <p>All approved policy documents that govern an assessment of an application</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/develop/planning-framework">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/develop/planning-framework</a></p>
<p><b>Public Notices</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/news-and-updates/public-notices">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/news-and-updates/public-notices</a></p>
<p><b>Schedule of Meetings (Council/Committee)</b></p> <p>Up-to-date schedule of meetings upcoming Council and committee meetings</p>	<p><a href="https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings">https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings</a> – <i>click on Next Council Meeting</i></p>

## Access: Documents for Inspection

The following information is available for inspection upon request:

Document Description
<p>Annual Returns</p> <p><i>Limitation:</i></p> <p>s5.88(3) of the <i>Local Government Act</i> requires that Returns are removed as soon as possible once a person stops being a 'relevant person' (designated employee or Elected Member). Furthermore, the <i>Local Government Operational Guidelines</i> states that "Returns removed from the register will not be available for public inspection under this section of the Act".</p>
Corporate Asset Management Plan
Corporate Business Plan
Debentures Register
Delegated Authority Register (including decisions made under Delegation)
Electoral Roll (Owner and Occupiers or Consolidated Roll)
Long Term Financial Plan
Policy Manual
Rates records
Public Notices (removed from City's website)
Strategic Community Plan
Tenders Register
Workforce Plan

## Access: Costed Service

### ***Specific Document Search***

Requests such as the age of a building, the year of approval, construction costs, builder's details, copies of building permit or planning approvals can, in most cases, be answered by requesting a Specific Document Search.

Refer to <https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/forms-and-payments/building-planning-and-development/property-enquiries/specific-document-search> for further details.

### ***Archive Search***

As the current property owner, or with written authorisation from the current property owner, an Archive Search can be requested for plans/specifications only. No other documentation is included, and there are associated Fees and Charges.

Refer to <https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/forms-and-payments/building-planning-and-development/property-enquiries/archive-plan-search> for further details.

### ***CCTV Footage***

The City has many initiatives which aim to keep people safe, and minimise crime and damage. One such initiative, is the use of a CCTV surveillance system.

The City's CCTV Code of Practice allows for footage to be released to:

- Police (for investigation and/or prosecution);
- Lawyers/Solicitors (for legal defence of their client);
- Members of the Public (defencing themselves in court).

Refer to <https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/live-and-work/community-services-and-facilities/security-and-surveillance> for details regarding access requests and Fees and Charges.

## Access: Police Officers

Where a Police Officer requests access to City documents, access will be provided:

- Upon production of the Certificate of Authority (Warrant Card) of the Police Officer concerned; and/or
- With the written advice from the Police Officer concerned verifying the documents are required for a bona-fide police enquiry or investigation.

Documents released under these circumstances are considered confidential and must not be divulged or released to any third parties without prior consent of the City of Perth.

# Access to Documents: Via FOI

## Right to Access Documents

The FOI Act gives Applicants a legally enforceable right to apply for access to documents held by the City of Perth.

An applicant's right to seek access cannot be affected by their reasons for wishing to obtain access, and there is no need to demonstrate such.

The City is required to:

- Assist those in making an application;
- Assist those in obtaining access to documents at a reasonable cost; and,
- Ensure that personal information captured in documents is accurate, complete, up-to-date, and not misleading.

## Exemption Clauses

While the FOI Act provides a general right of access to documents it also recognises some documents require a level of protection. Schedule 1 of the FOI Act cites relevant Exemption Clauses.

The most frequent reasons for refusal to provide access to information are:

### **Personal Information**

Information that would reveal personal information about an individual (e.g. their name, contact details, signature etc.) may be exempt under Schedule 1 Clause 3 of the FOI Act and s5.95 (8) of the LG Act.

### **Business and Commercial Information**

Information that would reveal trade secrets, information of a commercial value (e.g. documents containing technical designs that, if released, would harm the company), or the financial affairs of a person (e.g. debts owed to the City) may be exempt under Schedule 1 Clause 4 of the FOI Act.

### **Deliberative Processes of Government**

Information that would reveal a decision made during a deliberative process closed to the public (e.g. confidential Council meeting) may be exempt under Schedule 1 Clause 6 of the FOI Act and s5.23 of the LG Act.

### **Legal Professional Privilege**

Information that would reveal legal advice may be exempt under Schedule 1 Clause 7 of the FOI Act.

## Lodging Applications

The City's FOI Application form is available at <http://www.perth.wa.gov.au/council/finance-and-corporate-documents/freedom-information>.

It is not mandatory to complete this form, so long as the following conditions are met:

- Be in writing;
- Give enough information so that the documents requested can be identified;
- Give an Australian address to which notices can be sent; and,
- Be lodged with the City with any applicable fee payable.

Please note, proof of identity may be required.

If access to documents is sought on behalf of another person, the City of Perth requires written authorisation from that person.

The City will consider the application officially lodged when the application fee has been paid and both parties agree on a manageable scope.

### FOI applications can be lodged by:

Mail: FOI Coordinator – City of Perth  
GPO Box C120, PERTH WA 6839

E-mail: [info.city@cityofperth.wa.gov.au](mailto:info.city@cityofperth.wa.gov.au)

## Time Limits

- A Notice of Decision must be issued within **45 days** from when the application was lodged. The City aims to respond as soon as practicable to any application and will negotiate with the Applicant on an extension to the 45-day limit should the application be unusually large, or require consultation with a significant number of Third Parties.
- The Applicant has **30 days** in which to lodge an application for an **Internal Review** if dissatisfied with the City's Notice of Decision. The City must respond within 15 days.
- The Applicant has **60 days** in which to lodge an application for an **External Review** if dissatisfied with the City's Internal Review decision. The Information Commissioner must respond within 30 days.

**NOTE:** All time limits are in calendar days.

## Charges

Fees and charges are set under the *Freedom of Information Regulations 1993 (WA)* (FOI Regulations).

### Lodgement Charges

- Application fee for personal information (about the Applicant) No fees
- Application fee for non-personal information \$30.00

### Processing Charges

- Processing the application (per hour, pro rata) \$30.00
- Access time supervised by staff (per hour, pro rata) \$30.00
- Photocopying staff time (per hour, pro rata) \$30.00
- Per Photocopy (per page) \$ 0.20
- Transcribing from tape, film or computer (per hour, pro rata) \$30.00
- Duplicating a tape, film or computer information Actual Cost
- Delivery, packaging and postage Actual Cost

### GST

All charges, outlined above, are exempt from GST under Determination No 2 2000, made by the Federal Treasurer (Exempt Fees and Charges) Part 5 (Western Australia), page 203.

### Payment of Processing Fees

Processing fees are incurred for the time spent reaching an access decision and writing a Notice of Decision. The Notice of Decision will outline the incurred processing fees. Once a Notice has been issued, the City requires full payment of any processing fees.

#### *If there are Sourced Documents:*

Payment is required prior to sourced documents being released.

#### *If there are no Sourced Documents:*

*Prior* to the City issuing of a Notice of Decision, if the Applicant has been advised documents do not exist and they elect to withdraw their application, no processing fees will be incurred.

*Prior* to the City issuing of a Notice of Decision, if the Applicant has been advised documents do not exist and they elect to continue with their application, processing fees will still be payable.

### Waiver or Reduction of Fees

Under s3 of the FOI Regulations, fees may be reduced where the Applicant is:

- (a) impecunious, or
- (b) the holder of a valid pensioner concession card.

The reduction or waiver of fees only applies to associated processing costs, not the original application fee (if applying for non-personal information).

#### *Impecunious:*

The FOI Act does not specify what constitutes being “impecunious”, leaving this at the discretion of agencies. The City of Perth requires such a claim be supported by written evidence (e.g. letter from Centrelink).

#### *Pensioner Concession:*

The City of Perth requires that the Pensioner Concession Card be sighted upon request. If the Applicant holds a currently valid pensioner concession card, the charge payable is reduced by 25%.

### Deposits

Under s17 of the FOI Act, the City is required to provide the Applicant with an estimated cost should the charges for dealing with the application exceed \$25.00. An advance deposit of 25% of the estimated cost may be required as a sign of good faith that full payment will be provided once the Notice of Decision is issued. This is in accordance with Section 6 of the FOI Regulations.

### Notice of Decision

A Notice of Decision will include details such as:

- The date on which the decision was made;
- The name and the designation of the officer who made the decision;
- The reason why documents are considered exempt, or the fact that access is given to an edited document; and
- Information on the right of review and the procedures to be followed to exercise those rights.

## Access Arrangements

Access to documents can be by way of:

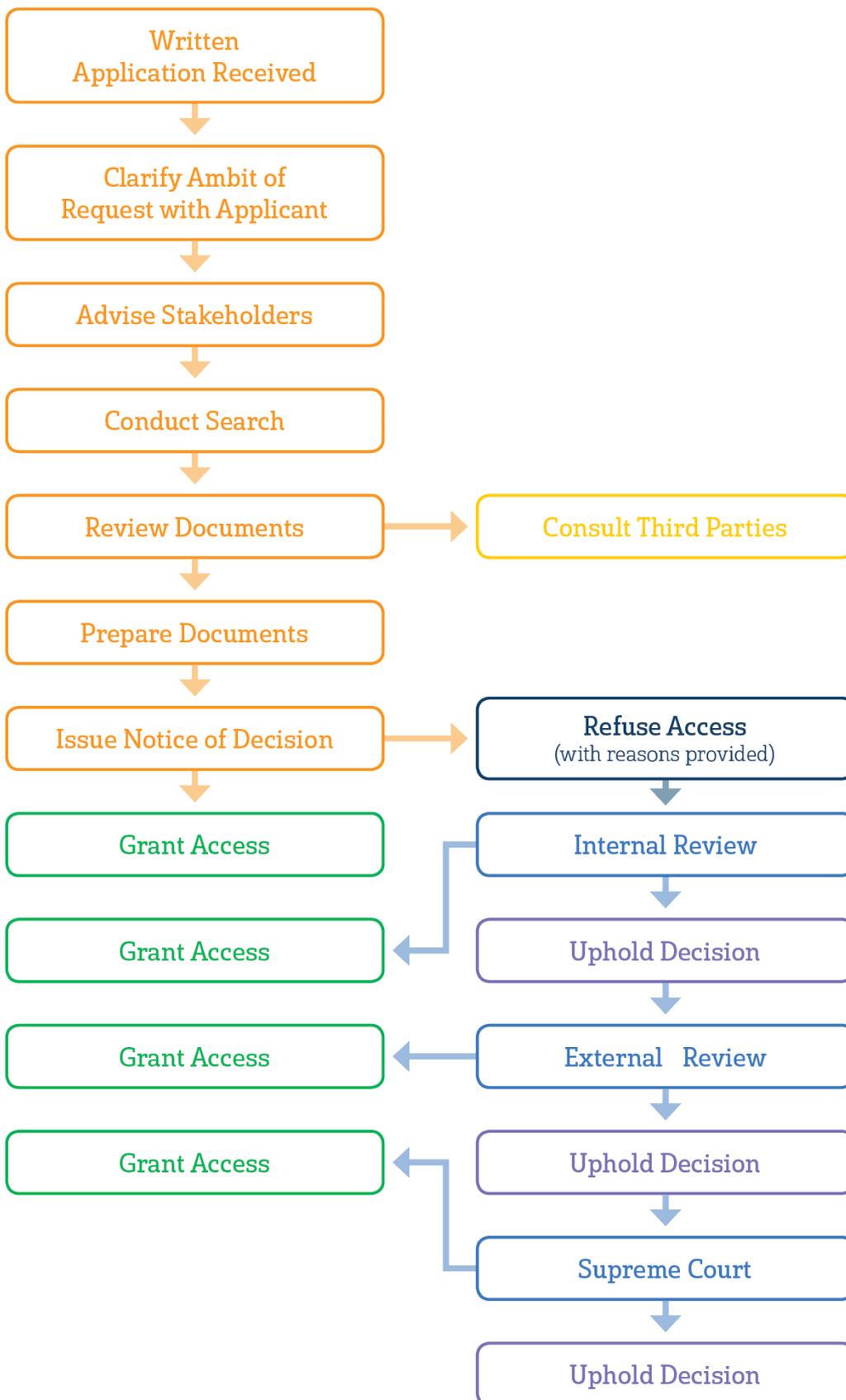
- Inspection;
- A copy of a document;
- A copy of an audio or video recording, or computer disk; or
- A transcript of a recorded document or of words recorded in shorthand or encoded form, or a written document in case of a document where words can be reproduced in written form.

## Review Process

The FOI Act provides for a review and appeal process, as follows:

- *Internal Review:* If dissatisfied with the City's decision, an application for an internal review can be lodged. Internal review applications must be in writing and lodged with the City within thirty (30) days of being notified of the original decision. There is no charge for an internal review.
- *External Review by the Information Commissioner:* If still dissatisfied with the City's decision after the internal review has been completed, a review by the Information Commissioner can be sought. External review requests must be made in writing to the Information Commissioner and give details of the application and decision to which the request relates.
- *Appeals to the Supreme Court:* Any party to a complaint may appeal to the Supreme Court on any question of law arising out of a decision of the Information Commissioner, except for a decision as to the deferral of access to a document, the charges to be imposed for dealing with an access application, and the payment of a deposit because charges.

## FOI Flowchart



## Amending Personal Information

The right to amend personal information held by the City ensures information does not unfairly harm the person referred to, misrepresent facts about them or give a misleading impression.

An application can be made to the FOI Coordinator to correct or amend any documents containing an individual's personal information.

The application must be in writing, providing details and, if necessary, documentation to support claims that the information the Applicant seeks to have amended is inaccurate, incomplete, out-of-date or misleading.

Furthermore, Applicants must indicate whether they wish the amendment to the information to be made by altering, striking out or deleting the information or inserting information or a note in relation to the information.

If the City decides to amend the information it will usually alter the record, or add a further note in relation to the record.

The City will inform the Applicant of its decision, and reasons for arriving at that decision, together with rights of review if dissatisfied with the City's decision.