



# Community Safety Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

*Local Government Act 2009*

# 1. PURPOSE

The Community Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) has been established as an Advisory Group in accordance with section 264 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 ("the Regulation").

Its purpose is to provide information and advice to Council on current, emerging and identified community safety topics which are impacting the Townsville community.

## 2. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The Community Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) is a community engagement body that will assist in identifying and offering advice in relation to strategies and policy for community safety.

The information and feedback that the Committee provides will assist Council in the strategic planning and development of initiatives related to community safety and crime reduction.

The objectives of the Committee are to:

- Support and strengthen the link between Townsville City Council and community safety and crime prevention groups/organisations.
- Provide a forum to enable Council and community projects, initiatives, and strategic issues to be discussed; and
- Provide an opportunity for Committee Members (as representatives of the broader community) to provide advice and make submissions for Council's consideration.

## 3. AUTHORITY/DELEGATION

The Committee provides advice that will inform the development of recommended courses of action to be considered by Council.

The relationship between Council and the Committee is reciprocal in so far as the Committee contributes advice to Council and Council provides information to the Committee (and the various groups and organisations that it represents) about Council decisions, projects, and initiatives relevant to the purpose and scope of the Committee.

The Committee has the authority to provide 'recommendations for consideration' to Council. Recommendations by the Advisory Committees will be by consensus.

## 4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY

The role of the Committee is to consider matters within the defined purpose and scope, and to provide advocacy within their networks and sphere of influence.

Role of the Committee is to:

- Liaise between Council and the communities/groups/organisations it represents on items of relevance to the Committee.
- Advocate for the Townsville community at Local, State and Commonwealth levels within the defined scope and objectives of the Committee.
- Contribute to discussions about the implementation of Council's Strategic documents or other plans that relate to the purpose and scope of the Committee.
- Act as a focus group for specific issues confronting Council relating to community safety including projects or programs associated with domestic and family abuse prevention and reduction, crime reduction, and safety in public spaces.

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## 5. MEMBERSHIP

The maximum voting membership of the Committee will be 15 persons, including two (2) Councillors one (1) being the Chairperson.

Membership of the Committee is voluntary and final appointment of Members must be endorsed by Council.

Councillors will be appointed to the Committee for the term of the Council unless otherwise removed by a resolution of Council or acceptance of a resignation. In the event of a Councillor resigning his/her position on the Committee, the Council will nominate a Councillor to fill the vacant position.

The Advisory Committee Meeting Facilitator and Secretariat Officer are not considered a member of the committee and only supports the meeting in a non-voting capacity.

Townsville City Council Officer/s can observe and participate at Committee meetings in a non-voting capacity. Participation will need to be arranged in advance in accordance with the Advisory Committee Procedure.

With endorsement by the Chairperson and Advisory Committee Meeting Facilitator, invitations can be made to include non-CSAC members (either organisations, groups and/or individuals) to actively participate in Committee discussions as a subject matter expert.

Working groups of the Committee can be formed, as required, and endorsed by the Committee Chairperson and Advisory Committee Meeting Facilitator, led by a Community Safety Advisory Committee member with individuals and/or organisations within the community.

### 5.1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson of the Committee shall be appointed by Council.

### 5.2. ROLE OF CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson who presides at meetings is responsible for the conduct of the meeting and order of business. The Chairperson has a duty to preserve order and ensure proceedings are conducted in a proper manner, by:

- Determining that a quorum is present.
- Informing the Committee as to the business and objective of the meeting.
- Facilitating an exchange of views and ideas on key issues before the meeting occurs.
- Confirming discussion to within the scope and purpose of the meeting and within reasonable limited of time.
- Putting relevant questions to the meeting and conducting a vote where required.
- Declaring the result.
- Ensuring the record of minutes of the meeting is maintained and clearly articulates any 'recommendations for consideration' to Council.
- Declaring the meeting is closed when its business is complete.

The order of business for Advisory Committees will generally be:

- a) Opening of meeting.
- b) Acknowledgement to Country.
- c) Apologies and Leave of Absence.
- d) Confirm Quorum.
- e) Confirmation of Minutes of previous minutes.
- f) Disclosure of interests.
- g) Presentations.
- h) Agenda submissions.
- i) General business.
- j) Confirmation of next meeting.

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- k) Close of meeting.

In the absence of the appointed Chairperson, the meeting will appoint an Acting Chairperson from the Councillor members or Council workers present, for the duration of that meeting.

The Chairperson becomes the spokesperson on behalf of Council in discussing matters relating to the Committee; provides leadership at Committee meetings; and represents the Committee at the Community Health, Safety and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CHSESC).

### 5.3. ROLE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The role of Committee Members is to apply a collective action approach to advocate and consider matters relating to the purpose and scope of the Committee.

The responsibilities of Committee members, are to:

- Actively contribute to discussions.
- Interact in a participatory manner.
- Share information with the broader community safety community/service providers.
- Declare any conflicts of interest that may arise during Committee discussions

### 5.4. TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

- a) Representation

Membership of the Committee will consist of representatives from various groups, organisations or individuals within the Townsville community who can directly contribute and provide community leadership on matters relating to crime reduction and prevention, community safety and safety in public spaces.

**Individual Member** – is a Committee Member independent of a community group or an organisation who has a skill set or knowledge base relevant to the specific topic of the Committee. Individual members must be a resident of Townsville.

**Member Organisation / Member Community Group** – are an organisation or community group appointed as a Committee Member represented by a delegated person who has authority to represent the organisation/community group in decision making. The organisation/community group provides a skill set or knowledge base relevant to the specific topic of the committee. The organisation/community group must be based in Townsville and predominantly operate for the purposes of the Townsville community.

- b) Proxy

Members are required to give due notice of their unavailability for a meeting. Member Organisations/ Member Community Groups are able to provide a proxy. No proxy's allowed for Individual Members.

- c) Working Groups

Working Groups that are endorsed by the Chairperson of the Committee may be formed as required.

Working Groups may be led by members of the Committee appointed by the Chairperson and may include individuals/groups/organisations from outside the Committee membership that represent special interest areas, topical issues, and/or target groups that are the subject of the sub-committee's deliberations.

Working Groups must follow the Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. Members of the Working Group will be provided a copy of the Terms of Reference before their commencement.

- d) Membership Process

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The Chairperson of the Committee and the Advisory Committee Meeting Facilitator will determine the most appropriate representation, skill set, and knowledge base required for an Advisory Committee.

Committee Membership composition (establishment, resignation, or alternation) can occur through invitation, expression of interest or selection criteria application process, whichever is deemed appropriate by the Chairperson of the Committee and Advisory Committee Meeting Facilitator.

Assessment and selection of potential members will be made by a panel consisting of the Chairperson of the Committee, second appointed Councillor and the Advisory Committee Meeting Facilitator. Final appointment will be consistent with section 5.4(e).

e) Appointment of Members

Appointment of the Committee Membership will be by Council and based on recommendations made by the Committee Chairperson and Advisory Committee Meeting Facilitator.

f) Terms of Membership

Members of the Committee will be appointed for the duration of the local government term, after implementation of the selection process.

There is no maximum number of terms to be served on the Committee. However, the assessment and selection process will take into consideration the number of terms served, and areas of knowledge/connection required to support the purpose and scope of the Committee.

Membership will be discontinued if a Committee Member, or their delegate, fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings.

Committee Members can apply to the Committee Chairperson in writing for a leave of absence of up to a year from the Committee, and request that an alternative delegate attend on their behalf. Notice must be received in writing prior to the relevant meeting.

g) Replacing Vacating Members

If a Committee Member wishes to relinquish their position on the Committee, the Member should notify the Chairperson of the Committee in writing. The Committee's Chairperson and Advisory Committee Meeting Facilitator will recommend a replacement for the vacating member for Council's approval.

An Organisation Representative Member who relinquishes their membership on the Committee may nominate a replacement representative from their organisation who has skills like their own in writing to the Chairperson of the Committee for consideration.

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## 6. MEETINGS

### 6.1. QUORUM

A quorum for the Committee must be in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice and is half plus one of the Committee membership.

### 6.2. FREQUENCY AND LOCATION

Meetings of the Committee will be held every two months unless otherwise advised in the months of March, May, July, September, November, at a location to be confirmed.

Annual calendar of meetings will be discussed and approved at the first Committee meeting of the year. Once finalised the calendar will be distributed to the Committee Members and presented on the Advisory Committee webpage.

Any changes to meetings will be advised to Committee Members no later than 1 week prior to the meeting date.

Additional meetings of the Committee may be called at the discretion of the Chairperson as required.

### 6.3. CONDUCT

Meetings must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 and Local Government Regulation 2012. If there is a dispute regarding meeting procedure or the conduct of an individual the Chairperson must refer to this Terms of Reference.

### 6.4. STANDARDS OF ATTIRE

The appearance and dress of Committee Members, any attending guest or Council workers should be appropriate to the advisory committee being attended.

Councillor appearance and dress must in accordance with the Councils Code of Meeting Practice Policy as outlined below.

Males – open neck, long sleeve business shirt or corporate polo shirt and long trousers.

Females – smart casual suit, dress or skirt/long pants and blouse or other appropriate apparel.

### 6.5 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

At the commencement of each meeting, Committee Members must declare:

- any material personal interest (using the definition of that term in the Local Government Act 2009, to the extent it applies to the committee member); and
- any perceived or actual conflict of interest they have in respect of a matter before that meeting. Committee members with a material personal interest must not participate in discussion or decision about the matter in which they have the material personal interest; and
- any other committee decision about a matter if that decision has any possibility of impacting upon the matter in which they have the material personal interest (for example, a decision about another grant application).

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When a Committee Member declares a perceived or actual conflict of interest and the Committee Member does not decide to refrain from discussing or voting upon the matter, the other Committee Members must vote upon whether the declaring member must refrain from discussing or voting upon the matter. The results of the ballot are binding upon the declaring member.

## 6.6 MEETING AGENDA

Agenda topics will be open to Committee Members as well as the general community and Council staff by deputations.

Agendas are to be submitted through the Community Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) webpage. Agenda submission will close 4 weeks prior to each meeting date, any agenda items received post the cut-off date will be considered for the subsequent meeting. CSAC webpage – <https://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/about-council/council-meetings/advisory-committees/-community-safety-advisory-committee>

## 6.7 MEETING RECORDS

The Committee shall keep minutes of its proceedings.

Only authorised persons may make an audio or video recording of the meeting in accordance with Section 35 of *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011*.

## 7. REPORTING

The minutes of the Committee will be reported to Council through the Community Health, Safety and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CHSESC). The report will contain the Committee's deliberations and any recommendations for consideration for Council.

## REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

### 8.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee shall review these Terms of Reference at the first Committee Meeting of each calendar year.

### 8.2 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

At the first Advisory Committee of each calendar year, the Committee will:

- Review the Terms of Reference; and
- Undergo a self-assessment process to ensure all the functions and business of the Committee is being dealt with in an efficient and effective manner.

The assessment process shall include but not be restricted to time of meetings, length of meetings, attendance at meetings, location of meetings (suitability), content of meetings, results of recommendations on matters discussed, achievements, satisfaction rating of members and meeting management

## 8. COUNCIL WORKERS

The Committee will be supported by Townsville City Council Officers from the Lifestyle, Economy, Environment and Planning Division, and Business Services Division.

Attendance by relevant Townsville City Council workers from various Divisions of Council may be requested by the Committee through the Committee Chairperson and appropriate internal channels.

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Townsville City Council Officers (as required) will also attend meetings in an observation/non-voting capacity to provide and/or seek information from the Committee.

## 9. DEFINITIONS

**CSAC** – Community Safety Advisory Committee

**CHSESC** – Community Health, Safety and Environmental Sustainability Committee

## 10. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Council Advisory Committees Policy

Advisory Committee Procedure

Townsville City Council's Code of Meeting Practice Policy

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

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