

19 April 2016

Notice of Motion, Councillor Watts: Greater transparency in electoral donations

Motion

That Future Melbourne Committee resolves as follows:

1. That as a commitment to greater transparency by this Council, all Councillors regardless of whether or not they have declared an intention to seek re-election in the upcoming council elections, voluntarily commit to disclosing the following information about donations since 1 January 2013 and also future information about donations received prior to election day (22 October 2016), namely
 - 1.1 Offers of or actual cash donations or in-kind campaign support over the value of \$500 received by a Councillor received from any source.
 - 1.2 All future offers of, or actual cash donations or in-kind campaign support, the details of such offers and donations received by incumbent councillors are to be disclosed and registered within seven days of receipt.
2. That details all such offers cash donations or in-kind campaign support will be listed on a register to be published on Council's website including details on sources, amounts, whether an offer or donation made was declined, accepted or still under consideration.

Background

The City of Melbourne has the opportunity to take a proactive step in demonstrating leadership in good governance and transparency associated with the donations and offer of support towards election campaigns.

Incumbent Councillors have an opportunity at this point to voluntarily model best practise in relation to transparency and disclosure in local government.

The measures proposed in this Motion go beyond the statutory requirements identified under section 62 of the *Local Government Act* 1989 and would be a strong and positive step in instilling community confidence in the process and this Council.

The constituents are entitled to be made fully aware of the potential influence any such donations may have on the conduct of incumbent councillors this term and at the time of election.

Moved: Cr Watts