

## 5.4 POLICY FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND GOVERNANCE RULES

Responsible Senior Officer: Jarrod Doake, Chief Operating Officer

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council*

*1. Adopts the:*

*1.1 Policy for Advisory Committees.*

*1.2 Governance Rules for Advisory Committees.*

*2. Directs the relevant Council officers to provide a copy of the adopted Policy Advisory Committees and Governance Rules for Advisory Committees to each of the Council's Advisory Committees.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report proposes the formulation of a policy and Governance Rules for Council's Advisory Committees.

### **BACKGROUND**

Advisory Committees are no longer recognised in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

However, the Council has resolved to recognise the continuing value of such a structure in assisting it to meet its responsibilities to the Monash community.

### **DISCUSSION**

It has been determined that a policy would be beneficial in providing a consistent approach for the conduct of Council's Advisory Committees.

The proposed policy seeks to provide a platform to support the Advisory Committees to meet their responsibilities under their respective Terms of Reference.

It also clarifies that individuals can be appointed to more than one Advisory Committee.

This restriction has found its way into a number of Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

It has created some concern in creating a limitation to membership of Committees on individuals who could otherwise make a valuable contribution to a number of Committees.

Governance Rules have also been developed to support the policy and to assist with and provide consistency in approach to the conduct of Advisory Committee meetings.

***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

This proposed policy supports the participation of individuals in the Monash community, in public life.

***GENDER EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS***

A gender impact assessment has not been undertaken at this point.

However, when the policy is due to be reviewed a thorough Gender Impact Assessment will be undertaken.

Advice was provided by Gender Equity officers in relation to the content of the policy.

***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

There are no financial implications to this proposal.

***CONCLUSION***

The adopted Policy and the Governance Rules will be circulated to all Advisory Committees.

***ATTACHMENTS***

Attachment 1: Draft Policy for Advisory Committees

Attachment 2: Draft Governance Rules for Advisory Committees.