

POLICY

TITLE:	CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND BUSINESS		
DIVISION:	COUNCIL		
ADOPTED BY:	COUNCIL		
DATE OF ADOPTION:	JULY 2021	DATE OF REVIEW:	JULY 2026
MOTION NUMBER:	OC 56/21 - 29 April 2021		
POLICY NUMBER:	CP68		
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE:	Regulation 53 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021		

PURPOSE:

To ensure proper treatment and review of confidential information after consideration of confidential business at a council meeting.

1. PRINCIPLES

To promote transparency and public confidence, Council will cease the application of confidentiality to information when it is no longer necessary or appropriate.

2. APPLICATION OF POLICY

2.1 Scope

This policy applies to information that was considered during or resulted from confidential business at a council meeting, including (but not limited to) the agenda, business papers, resolutions and minutes.

Confidential information is to be considered separately for the purposes of assessing whether or not the information is to remain confidential (for example, immediately releasing a resolution that is no longer confidential with related business papers remaining confidential for a specified period of time).

2.2 Matters to remain confidential indefinitely

Any information that falls under the prescribed categories in regulation 51 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 must remain confidential until the reason for confidentiality no longer applies.

2.3 Consideration of confidential business

After the conclusion of the consideration of an item of confidential business, Council will decide whether confidential information is:

The type of confidential information that should no longer be confidential after a specified period of time; or

The type of confidential information that should be subject to periodic review to determine if it should no longer be confidential.

If Council resolves a specified period of time for the information to remain confidential, that information is to be publicly released after the expiry of that period of time (see clause 3.5).

If Council resolves that confidential information should be subject to periodic review to determine if it should no longer be confidential, that information will be added to the confidentiality review list (see clause 2.4).

2.4 Confidentiality review list

Council will maintain a list confidential information and review that list once every 12 months to determine whether any matters are to no longer be confidential after a specified period or are to remain confidential for review at a subsequent date.

2.5 Public release of information

When information is no longer confidential, a notation will be put in the relevant document (including the version on the website) that the information is no longer confidential, on what date that decision was made, and where information about the matter that is no longer confidential can be accessed.

3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION, STANDARDS, POLICIES AND FORMS

Local Government Act (2019)

Local Government (General) Regulations 2021

Barkly Regional Council Confidential Review List

4. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Within six (6) months of a new term of Council.