BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

EM06: Gifts and Benefits received by Council Members

1. POLICY CERTIFICATION

Policy Title	Gifts and Benefits received by Council Members	**Policy Number**	EM06
Status	Reviewed and Approved	**Category**	Administrative
Endorsement Date	4th August 2026	**Resolution**	
Version	2.0		

2. PURPOSE

From time to time, Elected Members may be offered gifts or benefits. This policy has been developed to provide guidelines for the appropriate, consistent and transparent treatment of offers of or receipt of gifts and benefits by Elected Members.

This policy does not cover benefits provided to the Member by the Council in accordance with the EM05: Member Allowances, Expenses and Benefits policy.

This policy operates in addition to all other obligations under the NT Local Government Act (the Act) and any other legislation or relevant codes and policies.

3. LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

Section 112 of the Local Government Act 2019 states:

(1) A council must, by resolution, adopt a policy in relation to relevant gifts or benefits received by council members.
(2) The policy must:
   a) differentiate between what is given to a council member for the council and what is given to the member as a relevant gift or benefit; and
   b) be in accordance with any relevant guidelines the Minister may make.
(3) A council member must notify the CEO as soon as practicable after the council member receives a relevant gift or benefit from another person.

4. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

This policy applies to all elected Council members and members of Council committees.

5. POLICY

- A Member must not:

  • Solicit or encourage gifts or private benefits from any person who might have an interest in obtaining a benefit from the Council. Private benefits include hospitality.
  • Seek or accept a bribe or other improper inducement; or
  • By virtue of his or her position, acquire a gift or benefit which has a monetary value, other than one of a nominal or token value

- A Member must not seek or accept any payment, gift or benefit intended or likely to influence, or that could be reasonably perceived by an impartial observer as intended or likely to influence a member to:

  - act in a particular way (including making a particular decision)
  - fail to act in a particular way
  - otherwise, deviate from the proper exercise of his or her statutory duties

- A Member may accept gifts or benefits of a nominal or token value that:

  - do not create a sense of obligation on his or her part and
  - that would not be reasonably perceived by an impartial observer to be intended to or likely to influence him or her in carrying out their statutory duty.
  - has a nominal or token value of less than $50 with a cumulative annual value of less than $200.

- A Member must never accept an offer of money, regardless of the amount.
- Meals provided in the course of approved council activities are not considered benefits for the purpose of this policy.
- Gifts or benefits received by members must be recorded in the appropriate register by the member as soon as practicably possible after the receipt of the gift or benefit. Failure to declare a gift or benefit in a timely manner will be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct.
- Gifts received that have a monetary value in excess of the nominal value will be considered gifts to the Council and referred to the CEO for inclusion in the Council's asset management system (as appropriate).

6. REGISTER

A Members Gifts and Benefits Register will be maintained by the Council. The Register will contain the following:

- Name of Member receiving the gift or benefit.
- Details of person/organization giving the gift or benefit.
- Description of the gift or benefit.
- Estimated value.
- Reason for presentation of the gift or benefit.
- Comments in relation to disclosure.
- Date of receipt.
- Date of Disclosure

The Members Gifts and Benefits Register will be available for public inspection on the Council's website.

7. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Policy Owner	BCGC
Endorsed by	BCGC/ARMC
Date approved	28 July 2020
Revisions	August 2026
Amendments	
Next revision due	June 2028