



# Ordinary Council Meeting – 15 November 2021 – 9.2 - Notice of Motion – Waiving Fee to Clubs for Storage Space

## 9.2 - Notice of Motion – Fees to Clubs for Storage Space (SJ3417)

<b>Councillor</b>	Councillor Atwell
<b>Disclosure of Officers Interest:</b>	No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .

### Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion was received from Deputy Shire President, Councillor Atwell on Monday, 8 November 2021.

The Notice of Motion is:

“That Council

- 1) In accordance with section 6.19 of the Act AMENDS the fee for club storage space from \$100 to \$0
- 2) In accordance with section 6.12 of the Act WAIVES the fees paid for club storage space to date in 2021-22”

### Officer Comment

A new fee for storage space as a separate identifiable fee was adopted by Council in July 2021 when Council adopted the 2021-22 budget.

The fee was imposed to manage increased demand for Shire facilities and competition amongst groups for limited storage space in those facilities. In the past, the Shire has either built more external storage areas or converted small meeting rooms into storage spaces.

Storage charges are commonly used by local governments to manage demand for facilities and is consistent with the need for governments at all levels to adopt user pays approaches.

While in previous years the Shire’s fees and charges have included fees for some facilities storage where storage was provided by the Shire at no cost subject to availability.

The removal of the storage fee which applies to community groups and other hirers would have a financial impact to the Shire of approximately \$3,000 as a reduction in budgeted revenue over the financial year. The Shire has more than 50 regular hirers registered on SpaceToCo with over 30 who use in Shire’s storage facilities. The fee is only charged to users who use the storage.

An opportunity exists to revise the fee structure in the next financial year as part of budget considerations in the 2021-22 financial year.

### Contact Us

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*Reduction of the fee*

As the fee was adopted and set by Council in accordance with legislation as part of the budget, Council may if it wishes under section 6.17 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, amend the fee by absolute majority.

Under s6.19 of the Act if the local government wishes to impose any fees or charges it must give local public notice of its intention to do so. However, this section does not apply because the matter under consideration is the amending of the fee, not the imposition of the fee.

If Council wished, it could reduce the fee to an amount less than the \$100 fee currently charged, including to \$0. This approach would apply only to future hiring.

A decision to reduce fees in the future is an Absolutely Majority decision.

*Fee waiver*

Section 6.12 of the Act provides the capacity of local governments to waive fees.

Council policy 5.1.14 Community Contributions deals with fee waivers and reductions. The policy states that: "A community group may apply for a reduction or a waiver of the applicable Fees and Charges for facility or reserve hire, (as detailed within the Council adopted Schedule of Fees and Charges), for events or casual bookings via a written request to the Shire."

The policy also states that applications for fee waivers or reductions to government, corporate or commercial entities are not considered.

Council policy 5.1.4 Facility Hire provides that a maximum of 50% of a facility hire may be reduced. If Council wished, it could waive fees paid to date.

**Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority** (s6.19 of the Act)

**Councillor Recommendation**

**That Council**

- 1) **In accordance with section 6.19 of the Act AMENDS the fee for club storage space from \$100 to \$0**
- 2) **In accordance with section 6.12 of the Act WAIVES the fees paid for club storage space to date in 2021-22**

**Alternative Officer Recommendation**

**That Council RESOLVES to make no changes to the fee structure at this time.**