

1. Your Council generally handles all business at Ordinary or Special Council Meetings.
  2. From time to time Council may, for a Committee, Working Party or Steering group examine specific subjects and then report to Council.
  3. The purpose of the Agenda Forum is for council members and community members to be informed on agenda items before the next Ordinary Council Meeting.
  4. Generally, all meetings are open to the public. Occasionally Council will be required to deal with person, legal and other sensitive matters and on these occasions, Council will generally close that part of the meeting to the public. Every endeavour will be made to do this as the last item of business of the meeting.
  5. **Public Questions Time:** It is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 1995* to allow at least fifteen (15) minutes for public question time. At the Agenda Forum all questions asked must be related to the items listed on the Agenda Paper. Please note the following.
    - a) Meetings are scheduled for a 5.00pm start (unless otherwise advised)
    - b) Record your full name and suburb of resident on the Attendance Form available in the public seating area.
    - c) When invited by the Presiding Member to ask your question/s, please state your full name for the benefit of the note taker and those present,
    - d) A minimum of 15 minutes is allocated to Public Question Time, which may be extended at the discretion of the Presiding Member.
    - e) You may ask up to 2 questions before other members of the public will be invited to ask their questions to ensure all have an equal and fair opportunity to ask questions.
    - f) The Presiding Member may elect for written questions to be responded to as normal business correspondence.
    - g) The Presiding Member may decide that a question shall not be responded to where the same or similar questions has been asked at a previous meeting and a respond has already been provided;
      - A statement has been made and is not reformed into a question; or a question is offensive or defamatory in nature and is not reformed into a question.
    - h) A question may be taken on notice by Council for a later response. Responses will be provided in writing to the member and summary will be included in the agenda of the next Ordinary Council Meeting of Council.
    - i) Members of the public are encouraged to raise matters relating to operations and administration through the Shire's Customer Request System.
    - j) Should you wish to provide written questions prior to the meeting please submit them by 4.00pm the day before the meeting. By submitting written questions, this assists the administration with preparing a response.
    - k) Should you wish to provide a presentation at the Agenda Forum, a request will need to be submitted in writing directly to the Chief Executive Officer by 4pm the day before the meeting. The presentation must be related to an item listed on the agenda paper.
    - l) Presentations have a time limit of 10 minutes and a limit of 2 representatives will be allowed to speak.
    - m) Agendas for the Agenda Forum and Ordinary Council Meetings are available to the public from the Shire of Irwin Administration Centre or via the Shire's Website [www.irwin.gov.au](http://www.irwin.gov.au) seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting.
    - n) Recording of Minutes for Agenda Forums is not required by legislation however a summary of notes from the Agenda Forum will be presented to Council at the next Ordinary Council Meeting.
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