



MEDIA RELEASE

18 September 2020

Changes to Council meeting structure

At the August Ordinary meeting, Elected Members voted to adopt a new meeting structure which replaces the mid-month committee meeting with a second ordinary, making for two ordinary meetings per month.

CEO Robert Jennings said *"The report was developed based on best practice, improving meeting efficiency and puts the focus back on quality decision making to allow for optimum functionality."*

"Public participation and interaction with Council meetings and decisions will not be negatively impacted as a result of these changes. In fact, these changes now allow Council to be more responsive to community needs with the greater capacity to make decisions twice monthly as opposed to once per month" said CEO, Robert Jennings.

The previous Council cycle held one committee meeting mid-month and one ordinary meeting at the end of the month, which allowed only one opportunity per month for business of Council to be decided and progressed. Now with two ordinary meetings per month, Council business can be more readily dealt with.

Meetings have also been moved from Monday night to Tuesday allowing an extra business day for better coordination. The new start time will be 5.30pm with the open section of these meetings to be completed no later than 8.30pm.

Commencing Tuesday 29 September the new cycle will be (ref attached diagram*):

- first ordinary of the month – Corporate Services, Community Development or Technical Services (interchanged at 12-week cycles)
- second ordinary of the month - Finance

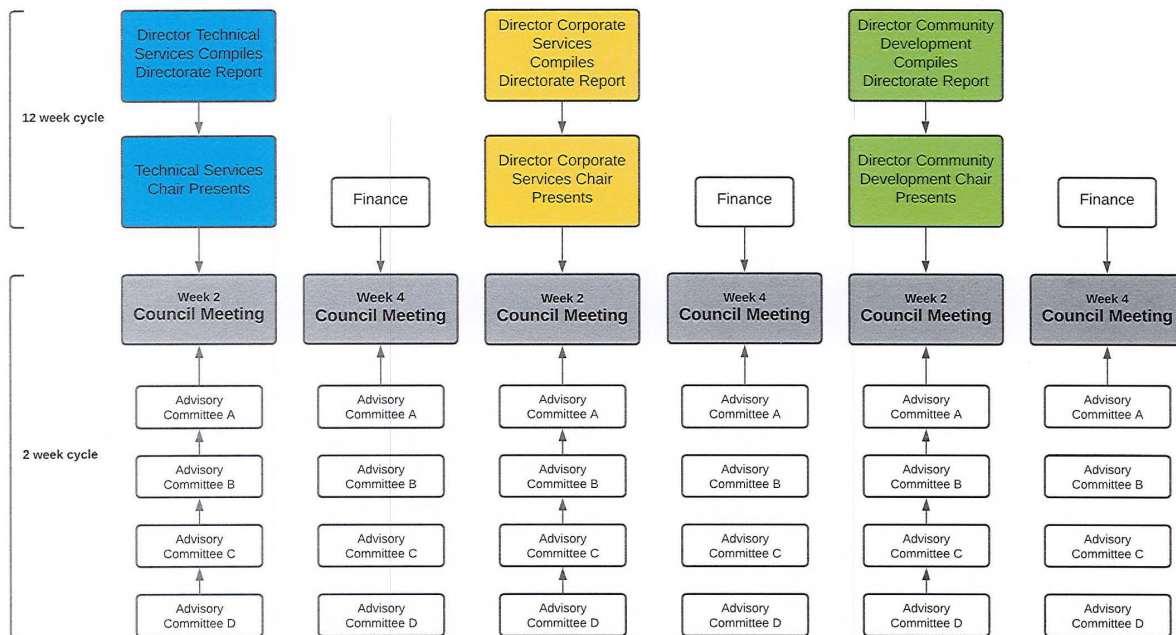
Whilst each ordinary meeting does have a Directorate strategic focus (as above) for reporting structure, other matters or reports can be brought to each meeting.

Public records of meeting agendas and minutes will continue to be made available via Council website - <https://alicesprings.nt.gov.au/governance/meetings>. Public question time will continue at the commencement of all meetings of Council.

For further information contact:

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*further details re meeting ref below diagram



INDICATIVE / DRAFT

Refer to accompanying Alice Springs Town Council Meeting Structure for detail on each process