

EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

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1. OBJECTIVE

To provide guidance to all staff as to who can sign various types of documents representing the City of Karratha (the City), including when to apply the Common Seal.

1.1 Definitions

In this policy the following words have the following meanings:

- Act** means the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- Delegated Officer** means an officer of the City of Karratha who has the appropriate delegated authority to execute documents on behalf of the Council.
- Senior Employee** means an employee designated as a senior employee by Council under s 5.37 of the *Local Government Act 1995* including the CEO and Directors.

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1. Legal Requirements

The Council is required to comply with sections 9.49A (Execution of Documents) and 9.49 (Documents, how authenticated) of the Act. This details the requirements for documents to be validly executed by a local government.

Under the Act, in order for a document to be considered validly executed, the document must be signed in one of the following ways:

- **By affixing the Common Seal** of the Council in the presence of:
 - the Mayor and the CEO; or
 - the Mayor and a Senior Employee authorised by the CEO [s.9.49A(3)(b) of the Act], whereby Council has authorised the affixing of the Common Seal [s.9.49A(2) of the Act]; or
- **Without affixing the Common Seal**, by the CEO, another employee or agent of the local government who has been authorised by resolution of the Council to sign documents on behalf of the local government [s.9.49A (4) of the Act].

By virtue of s.5.35 of the Act, the Deputy Mayor may perform the functions of the Mayor, if the Mayor is absent or the office is vacant.

2.2. Document Categories

For the purpose of this policy, agreements involving the Council are classified into four categories, as follows:

- Category 1 Documents – Documents requiring both CEO and Mayor execution;
- Category 2 Documents – Documents requiring CEO only authorisation;
- Category 3 Documents – Documents within Delegated authority; and
- Category 4 Documents – Operational in nature.

The Appendix to this policy provides a full description of the documents falling within the above categories.

2.2.1. Category 1 Documents

Category 1 documents are to be executed by **either**:

- (a) affixing the Common Seal of the Council, in the presence of the Mayor and the CEO (or a Senior Employee authorised by the CEO to do so) where it is deemed necessary.

NB. Prior to the Common Seal being affixed, a specific authorisation by way of a resolution of the Council is required. The authorisation can be made at the same time as the approval of the project or document, for example the resolution could be in two parts, the first to approve the project or document and the second, to authorise the affixing of the Common Seal to the relevant documents.

or

- (b) signing the document by the Mayor and CEO as authorised representatives of the Council.

<p><i>Characteristics of this category:</i> <i>Requires the signatures of <u>both</u> the Mayor and CEO.</i></p>
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2.2.2. Category 2 Documents

Category 2 Documents are to be signed by the CEO only. Category 2 documents can be described as documents arising out of a matter that requires Council approval, arising out of delegated authority from Council or are operational in nature and that the CEO should be signing as a representative of the City.

<p><i>Characteristics of this category:</i> <i>Requires the signature of the CEO only.</i></p>
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2.2.3. Category 3 Documents

Category 3 documents are to be signed by the CEO or a Director. Category 3 documents can be described as documents arising out of a matter that:

- requires Council approval;
- arises out of delegated authority from Council; or
- is operational in nature and due to its significance should only be signed by a Senior Employee as defined.

<p><i>Characteristics of this category:</i> <i>Requires the signature of <u>either</u> the CEO or Director</i></p>
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2.2.4. Category 4 Documents

Category 4 documents can be described as documents arising out of the general operation of a directorate, and/or a matter an officer of a directorate has the delegated authority to deal with.

The Appendix to this policy details the signatures required for specific documents in the above categories.

2.3. Common Seal Register

A list of documents to which the Council's Common Seal has been affixed, shall be reported to Council on a monthly basis by the CEO and included within the Council's Common Seal Register.

2.4. Retrospective Approval to Use the Common Seal

Where there is an **urgent need** to apply the Common Seal to documents of a Category 1 nature, this is to be reported to Council at the next ordinary meeting. Retrospective action is to be exercised sparingly as this commits the Council to an activity that has not received appropriate consideration by the Council.

3. CONSEQUENCES

This policy represents the formal policy and expected standards of the City. Appropriate approvals need to be obtained prior to any deviation from the policy. Elected Members and Employees are reminded of their obligations under the Council's Code of Conduct to give full effect to the lawful policies, decisions and practices of the City.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, CEO, Directors and Managers with respect to the execution of documents are outlined in the attached Appendix.

It is the responsibility of the executing parties to ensure they fully understand what they are executing on behalf of the Council and any queries are addressed before this process is completed.

On the occasions where a Common Seal is required of the Council, it is the responsibility of the CEO to ensure that the Register of Common Seals is updated and Council is notified of its application at the next available Council meeting.

5. REFERENCES TO RELATED DOCUMENTS

Delegations Register

Policy Number:	CG-10
Previous Policy Number:	CE-12
Resolution Numbers:	152480-May2013; 153109-Apr 2015; 153772-Apr 2017; 153876-Aug 2017
Last Review:	August 2017
Next Review:	August 2019
Responsible Officer:	Manager Governance and Organisational Strategy

This Policy takes effect from the date of adoption by Council and shall remain valid until it is amended or deleted.

APPENDIX

Consideration must be given to the potential risks exposed to the City when executing a document. This includes the potential financial, service commitments, service interruption, environmental, reputation and compliance implications.

Document	Document Category	Signatures Required				
		Mayor	CEO	Director	Manager	Staff
Deeds in respect to sale, or purchase relating to property including equitable interests.	1	X	X			
Town Planning Scheme and any Town Planning Scheme Amendments	1	X	X			
Any document where Common Seal is requested by other party or legally required	1	X	X			
Adoption or Repeal of Local Laws	1	X	X			
Restrictive Covenants – under s.129BA of the <i>Transfer of Land Act 1893</i> and any discharge or variation of covenants	2		X			
Lodgement, modification and withdrawal of caveats	2		X			
Lodgement, modification and withdrawal of memorials	2		X			

Document	Document Category	Signatures Required				
		Mayor	CEO	Director	Manager	Staff
Easements and the surrender or modification of easements	2		X			
Notifications on title and withdrawal or variation of same	2		X			
Rights of carriageway agreements and withdrawal or variation of rights of carriageway agreements	2		X			
Reciprocal access agreements and withdrawal or variation of reciprocal access agreements	2		X			
Debenture documents for loans which Council has resolved to raise	2		X			
Management statements and withdrawal or variation of management statements	2		X			
Service agreements / Contracts as a result of procurement process (above Director delegation)	2		X			
Licences to occupy land or premises	3		X	Corporate Only		

Document	Document Category	Signatures Required				
		Mayor	CEO	Director	Manager	Staff
Community Leases / Peppercorns (including extensions, renewals and variations)	3		X	Corporate Only		
Commercial Leases / Peppercorns (including extensions, renewals and variations)	3		X	Corporate Only		
Residential tenancy leases for employee housing	3		X	Corporate Only		
Agreements relating to funding (within delegation)	3		X	X		
Service agreements / Contracts as a result of procurement process (where total consideration is within delegation)	3		X	X		
Any type of legal agreement / instrument or service agreement binding the organisation to some form of commitment	3		X	X		
Memoranda of understanding	3		X	X		
Employment Contracts (Directors – Casual contracts only)	3		X	Where authority exists		

Document	Document Category	Signatures Required				
		Mayor	CEO	Director	Manager	Staff
Documents arising out of instances that require the staff to enact a decision of Council	4		X	X	X	
Subdivision, Survey Strata, Strata Title or Development Approvals or provisions of a Structure Plan, Activity Centre Plan or Local Development Plan	4		X	X	X	Where authority exits
Documents arising out of any matter in which delegated authority has been exercised	4		X	Where authority exists	Where authority exists	Where authority exists
Documents which arise out of the general operation of a directorate, and/or a matter an officer of a directorate has the authority to deal with	4		X	X	X	X
Outgoing general correspondence for a work team	4		X	X	X	X
Other documentation not listed in Appendix	Liaise with your Director or Governance Officer for advice					