

5. Community

5.3 C-5HFSD03 – Honorary Freeman within the Shire of Dandaragan

Previous Policy Number – 1.14

PART A - Policy

Objective

The objective of this Policy is to provide a framework and guidance to enable Shire of Dandaragan (Shire) to honour exceptional individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the local and broader community.

Policy Statement

The Shire acknowledges the importance of recognising exceptional contributions by individuals within the community through the bestowing of an honorary award at the local level.

The Honorary Freeman of the Shire is an award used to honour individuals who, through their personal endeavours and commitment, have made an outstanding contribution to the local and broader community.

Award Criteria:

A person may be nominated for the honorary award Honorary Freeman of the Shire under the following circumstances:

1. The title is intended to recognise outstanding community service over a significant period of time and in a wide range of activities within the Shire.
2. For the position to have desired standing within the community, it should only be applied where there is a great assurance of public approval of those recipients of it.
3. The award of Honorary Freeman will only be made occasionally for rare and exceptional behaviour over a long period of time.
4. If an elected member expresses an objection to the nomination, that elected member must give valid reasons for the objection. If no elected member objects, it shall be assumed that all agree to the nomination. One valid objection will invalidate the nomination.
5. At any one time, a maximum of four (4) living persons may hold the title 'Honorary Freeman' of the Shire.
6. The award of Honorary Freeman is recognised as the highest honour that the local community, through its Council, can offer to one of its citizens. It therefore follows that the award will be applied sparingly.
7. The nominee should have given extensive and distinguished service to the community that goes beyond services solely to local government (e.g. service to other organisations, voluntary and community groups in a largely voluntary capacity).
8. The nominee must have made an outstanding contribution to the Shire of Dandaragan such that the nominee's contribution can be seen to stand above the contributions made by most other people.

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Entitlements:

1. Any person declared an Honorary Freeman of the Shire may designate themselves as a Freeman of the Shire of Dandaragan.
2. The award of Honorary Freeman shall be recognised by a framed certificate presented to a recipient and a badge. A portrait of Honorary Freeman shall be commissioned and displayed in the Administration Centre.
3. The Honorary Freeman shall be invited to attend civic events and functions conducted by the Council.

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PART B – Management Procedures

Definitions

Nil.

Detail

Process of Nomination:

Nominations will be considered or as the need is identified by Council

1. A nomination must be sponsored by an Elected Member and supported in writing by at least three other Elected Members.
2. A nomination may be submitted by any person at any time, provided that nomination is in writing and addresses the criteria for the award.
3. A nominee must not be made aware of their nomination
4. Any nominations received will be validated and the findings presented at a Meeting of Council behind closed doors, with recommendations to approve/not approve a nominee for the award. The decision will be based on a Simple Majority vote.

Conferring of the Award

1. Acceptance of the award must be determined prior to being conferred.
2. Conferring the award upon an individual will take place at a meeting of Council or at a special event to be determined by Council.