

PETITIONS

Ratepayers and residents are encouraged to participate in Council's decision-making process and there are several ways to "have your say". One of the ways members of the Mandurah community can ask Council to consider an issue is by petition.

What is a Petition?:

A petition is defined as a formal written request, signed by many people, appealing to an authority in some cause. The cause or subject of the submission must be something in which the Council has the authority to deal with or has a decision-making role. Typical examples are:-

- a) request for a footpath to be constructed;
- b) request for playground equipment on a reserve; or
- c) request for action to resolve a traffic problem.

Issues relating to public housing or police matters, for example, are not matters in which Council has any jurisdiction and requests concerning these types of issues need to be directed to the relevant authority. In these cases, you may choose to send a copy of the final petition to Council for its information.

How should the Petition be worded?:

Petitions should be worded carefully so any potential signatories are able to clearly understand the purpose of the petition. The request or subject of the petition must be printed at the top of every page containing signatures of support. The petition should also be addressed to the Council and include a summary of reasons supporting the proposal. The petition must be expressed in respectful and temperate terms and may be rejected if it is offensive or derogatory to the Council. Attached to this brochure is an example of how a petition should be worded and set out. The second page of the petition is a sample of what each page containing signatures should look like.

Who should sign a Petition?:

In accordance with Council's Standing Orders Local Laws, the Council will only consider petitions if it is presented to the Council meeting by an elected member, who is fully acquainted with the purpose of the petition and whose signature appears at the beginning of the petition. So discussing the petition with your local elected member and gaining their support for the proposal is vital to the success of the petition.

Of course the other important factor is the number of supporters you can get to sign the petition. The more signatures, the stronger the argument in favour of the proposal. However, it is not appropriate to get just anyone to sign the petition. Signatures should be confined to ratepayers and residents of the community, aged over 18 years and must be limited to those people affected by the proposal.

How will Council treat the Petition?:

When you have collected as many signatures on the petition as possible, it must be handed or posted to the elected member who has included their signature on the petition. The elected member will then table the petition at the next Council meeting and read the proposal to the meeting.

Council will then resolve to receive the petition and, if necessary, the matter may be referred to a Committee for further debate and a recommendation to the Council, or to a Council officer for preparation of a report on the issue.

The person who submits the petition will be advised in writing of the decision of Council in respect to the proposal. It is the responsibility of that person to relay the outcome to the people that signed the petition.

EXAMPLE ONLY

PROPOSAL TO (1) CONSTRUCT A PATHWAY ON JOHNSON STREET, MANDURAH

To: The (2) **City of Mandurah**.....

1. It is respectfully requested that the Council consider (3) **constructing a dual use path on the southern side of Johnson Street, Mandurah between Harper Road and Ellis Court.**

2. The ratepayers and residents of (4) **Mandurah**.....
whose names, details and signatures are set out on the attached list support this proposal.

3. A summary of reasons for the proposal is (5) **many parents and children from the neighbourhood use this road to get to the Edenvale Primary School and Preschool and it is one of the main access roads to the Edenvale Shopping Centre.**

4. This proposal contains (6) **96 signatures** and is served on behalf of the listed signatories by:

Name **Fred CITIZEN**.....

Signature**(Signature of F Citizen)**..... Date **6 September, 2003**

Contact address **63 Godfrey Avenue, Mandurah WA 6210**.....

Phone number **(08) 9586 4747 or Mobile 0416 328 693**.....

- (1) Insert a short description of the proposal.
- (2) Insert name of local government.
- (3) Insert the full description of the subject of the petition.
- (4) Insert name of district.
- (5) Insert reasons for proposal.
- (6) Insert total number of signatures appearing on the petition.

Note: In accordance with clause 4.34 of the City of Mandurah's Standing Orders Local Law, a petition is to be:-

- (a) expressed in respectful and temperate terms; and
- (b) presented to the council only by a member who is to:
 - (i) acquaint himself or herself with its contents;
 - (ii) ensure that his or her name appears at the beginning of the petition, together with the number of signatures it contains; and
 - (iii)..... ensure that it complies with these Standing Orders.

(1) On the presentation of a petition, the councillor presenting it shall be confined to reading the petition, and the only motions that are in order are that the petition be received and if necessary that it be referred to a committee or for officer report.

(2) Where Council determines that a petition presented contains an error in form only, then the council may

resolve to receive the petition notwithstanding the error.

LIST OF RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS

We, the undersigned, propose that Council considers (1) **constructing a dual use path on the southern side of Johnson Street, Mandurah between Harper Road and Ellis Court.**

.....

Full name of ratepayer or resident*	Full Address within the local government to which this proposal relates	Signature of ratepayer or resident	Date
1.....			
2.....			
3.....			
4.....			
5.....			
6.....			
7.....			
8.....			
9.....			
10.....			
11.....			
12.....			
13.....			
14.....			
15.....			

(1) Insert the full description of the subject of the petition.

*Note: A signatory to this petition must be over the age of 18 years and may be one of the following:

- a resident owner or occupier of land within the local government district;
- an owner of rateable property within the local government district (eg. an absentee land owner or an owner of business premises, vacant land or other non-residential property)
- an occupier of rateable property within the local government district (eg. a tenant of business premises or other non-residential property).