

MEDIA RELEASE

Cr Oliver and Cr Scott back on board

9 March 2023



Image: (Left) Cr Peter Oliver (right) Cr Michael Scott

Alexandrina Council is pleased to announce that Cr Peter Oliver and Cr Michael Scott are back on board after having their positions as Council Members restored.

Both Cr Oliver and Cr Scott were amongst the 45 Council Members across South Australia that had to vacate office due to not lodging their campaign returns within the required timeframe as set out in the Local Government Elections Legislation.

Council received official notification today from the Office of Local Government advising that the *Local Government (Casual Vacancies) Amendment Act 2023* has come into operation today.

This means that the 45 Council Members across South Australia whose positions had become vacant under s 54(1)(h) of the Local Government Act 1999 have had their position restored as of today, as the vacancy created under this section has been retrospectively disappplied.

Any of these members who have not yet lodged their campaign donations returns with the Electoral Commissioner now have 10 business days to do so, or their position will become vacant. If this does occur, these members will have one month to make an application to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal for restoration to office. However, the Electoral Commissioner has advised that he will be writing directly to all relevant CEOs and the 45 affected members to confirm that all campaign donations returns have been lodged.

Council is please that the legislation received the Governor's assent today after the State Government, Opposition and Crossbench supported to move the legislation through both Houses swiftly and reduce the impact on councils and their communities.



Mayor Keith Parkes welcomes the Local Government (Casual Vacancies) Amendment Act 2023 assent today saying, *“I am relieved that the Government has been able to reach this practical solution which restores the positions of Cr Oliver and Cr Scott that avoids a drawn out and costly process.”*

“I am very pleased to have them back as Council Members. Both Councillors have been democratically elected by our community and now can get back to the important business of serving our community, which they were both doing so brilliantly”, said Mayor Keith Parkes.

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