

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

(To Elected Members and CEOs)

MEMBERS REGISTER OF INTERESTS

I remind all Members and CEOs of their obligations under the Register of Interests provisions of the Local Government Act 1999.

- It is an **annual** requirement that elected members lodge an Ordinary Return –distinct from, and additional to, the requirement for a Primary Return.
- **All elected members, including newly elected members, must lodge an Ordinary Return within 60 days after 30 June 2001.** The return must be in the form of Form 4 of the Local Government (General) Regulations, must comply with Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 1999, and must be signed and dated after the 30 June 2001.
- The Council Chief Executive Officer **MUST** notify members of failure to lodge a return, and must advise that **if the ordinary return has not been lodged by one month after the due date, their seat on Council falls vacant.**
- Members should have lodged an ordinary return by **29 August 2001**. If they have failed to do so, and the return has still not been lodged by **29 September 2001**, they will automatically lose office as a member of Council. When this occurs the person has one month to apply to the District Court for re-instatement as a member on the grounds that the failure to lodge the return “*arose from circumstances beyond the member's control.*”
- Elected members face a maximum fine of \$10,000 if they knowingly submit a return that is false or misleading in a material particular, **including by omission.**
- It is not acceptable to mark the form ‘Same as last year’.

The Register of Interests is a key accountability measure that must be available for public inspection on application. It will be subject to public scrutiny including comment from the media. In light of the errors detected last year I advise all elected members to take extra care in completing the return form.

HON DOROTHY KOTZ, MP
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS