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**14 February 2019**

## **Shire FOI on the ABC**

The Shire of Esperance submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the ABC late last year requesting information on private correspondence that appeared to be forwarded to the media.

An example of the information requested was of a private email conversation between Councillors and a Member of Parliament. The conversation had no bearing on the operations of the Shire or the services offered to the community and should not have been forwarded to a third party.

The sharing of this email breached the use of information rules detailed in both the Local Government Rules of Conduct and the Act itself, and for this reason the Shire felt compelled to act.

The FOI was submitted in October 2018 and relates to information aired on the ABC.

CEO Matthew Scott said, "Every member of the public, including local government representatives, should expect a level of privacy in their correspondence with elected officials. This was not our preferred approach however it was the only option available to us at the time."

"The Shire does not provide private information about an individual or organisation to unrelated third parties, this would be a major breach of trust to all community members."

**Ends**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Lauren Darge (08) 9071 0626