That in accordance with Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 the Committee should resolve to go into camera and close the meeting to the public for the duration of this item as the matter to be discussed relates to a matter which the Committee considers may prejudice Council or any other person.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks approval for Cr. Bill Goodrem to attend the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards in Hobart, Tasmania, on Friday, 26 February, 2010.

BACKGROUND

Council’s Policy requires that Councillors wishing to undertake overseas or interstate travel to apply to Council for approval to attend. Applications must include a brief resume on the activities and benefits expected. On approval, Council will then pay the reasonable expenses incurred by the Councillor attending the approved activity.

DISCUSSION

The National 2009 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards are being held in Tasmania on Friday, 26 February, 2010 in Hobart, Tasmania.

Hosted by the National Tourism Alliance (NTA) and presented by Qantas, Tourism Australia and Tourism Tasmania, the national awards are the industry’s biggest and most prestigious event of the year.

Finalists from every State and Territory will compete in 27 categories to receive one of these prestigious awards.

Mornington Peninsula Shire (through the Dromana Information Centre) won the State award for tourism services in November, 2009.

Mornington Peninsula Tourism is representing the State in the national awards and has been nominated for an award in the specialised Tourism Services Category.

This is a prestigious affair for the tourism industry which is the largest industry sector on the Mornington Peninsula.
DISCUSSION (CONT’D)

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect interest requiring disclosure.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

The cost for Cr. Goodrem’s attendance at this awards presentation is estimated to be $1,000.00 (dinner, flights, accommodation, taxis etc). As from 1 July, 2009 each Councillor was allocated $4,000.00 per annum for Conference and Seminars.

During the current term, Cr. Goodrem has expended $590.42 on sundry expenses. Therefore, the estimated cost to attend this conference is within the allocated budget amount.

Cr. Goodrem is the Tourism representative for Council.

CONCLUSION

Cr. Goodrem’s attendance at this awards presentation is a matter for Council to determine. In reaching the decision, Council should consider the benefit that the Shire will derive from the Councillor’s attendance.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Cr. Bill Goodrem’s attendance at the National 2009 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards in Hobart Tasmania on 26 February, 2010 be a matter for Council to determine.

2. That the Committee resolves that the report, Committee decision and attachment are not confidential pursuant to section 77(2)(a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 1989.