

From: [John Walker](#)
To: [OLG BS Office of Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Draft Code of Meeting Practice
Date: Monday, 24 February 2025 9:53:35 AM

Good Morning.

I wanted to add my voice of support for the model code as it has been circulated. Unfortunately, I believe my Council has missed the point in its formal submission. In my view we are being asked to consider an appropriate Code for all of local government. Richmond Valley Councillors have taken the draft as a personal affront believing that because there have been no issues there for many years that nothing should change and that no new powers are necessary.

In my view their response is about them and not what the industry needs.

As a former CEO of Liverpool, Lismore and Richmond Valley Councils and an elected member of Woollahra Council in NSW and a CEO in other States, I have experienced many, many instances where a different code was necessary and powers for the Mayor need to change. I support the proposed changes.

I believe strongly that getting rid of closed information sessions is a priority. At RVC the Agendas for the monthly Information sessions end up being the same as the next Council meeting. All that happens is the Councillors spend time discussing matters in closed session then rubber stamp the issues at Ordinary Council meetings . It is wrong.

I have also seen first hand at Lismore the abuse of the system to attend meetings by audio visual link and it needs to stop. I support this change.

These comments are personal ones and do not reflect the thinking of my Council. They are in fact the total opposite of the official view but I wanted to ensure you didn't see their submission as being unanimous.

Regards

John Walker

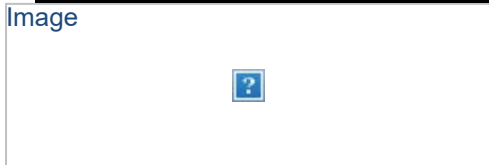
Councillor

Richmond Valley Council | Locked Bag 10, CASINO NSW 2470

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