

Model Meeting Code Amendments - Online Submission Form : Entry # 12621

1. Your Details

I would like my name and personal details to be treated as confidential:

I consent to my details being shared

Name:

Deb Cansdell

Postal Address:

[REDACTED]

Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Which of the following best describes you?

Member of the public

2. Targeted Questions

2.1. Will the proposed amendments made in the consultation draft of the Model Meeting Code achieve the policy outcomes identified in the paper?

I strongly support the proposed change for Councillor Briefings to be made public, except where there is a valid reason for confidentiality.

2.2. Are there any other amendments you would suggest that will achieve these policy outcomes?

I would like to see consideration for transparency around lobbyists. Sutherland Shire Council has an on line Lobbyist Register which has one entry for 2009.

Other Councils have clear rules about records of interactions/ meetings with lobbyists, a requirement for a staff member to be present and a register.

2.4. Are there any other amendments the Government should consider?

I would like to see a section on Councillors behaviour during meetings. Over the past 3 years, I have attended many Council meetings and watched others on line.

I have seen Councillors:

Texting and using their computer during the opening prayer (Council has visiting clergy deliver a prayer at the beginning of each Council meeting)

A Councillor doing on line shopping, entering her credit card details on her laptop during a meeting.

The same Councillor was seen last week using her laptop during the meeting to work on CANVA.

The CANVA homescreen and pages was visible on the Webcast for a large part of the meeting, and she was tapping away.

It is also common practice for Councillors to be using their computer during Public Forums, not engaging with or even listening to the presentation.

They just keep typing, don't stop at the end of a presentation to acknowledge the speaker.

It would also be helpful if there was some standard way that Councils structure their Agendas.

Most Councils have a link to every document that is listed on the Agenda.

This means that members of the public can easily find the document that is being debated.

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Sutherland Shire Council do not do this.

In most cases, the relevant document is attached to the agenda of the relevant Standing Committee which are held 2 weeks before.

Most members of the public would have no idea how or where to find it.

You should be able to look at the Council meeting agenda and ALL of the business papers should be attached.

The other thing that would be helpful for members of the public, and improve transparency, is if the live feed of the dynamic changes to Motions during the meeting, can be shown on the Webcast Screen.

Many Councils do this and it means that the community watching on line, can follow along.

Sutherland Shire Council often has multiple amendments to a Motion and it is impossible to follow.

It would also be useful to have a screen in the Public Gallery so people attending can see the amendments.

3. General feedback

3.1. Please provide any other feedback on the proposed amendments.

I would like to see a focus on monitoring of implementation of Resolutions of Council.

Some Councils have a register of Resolutions which is an excellent tool for transparency and accountability.

It is easy to search for previous resolutions plus easy to see when they were actioned.

Sutherland Shire have no register and frequently do not implement the actions of a resolution.

This includes reports that are supposed to come back to Council, but don't, convening a specific community reference group, not done.

So I would like to see a process where resolutions can be searched. This should also be audited

Notes



Admin Notification (ID: 66d4f054bfdd8)

added February 28, 2025 at 5:11 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.