

Model Meeting Code Amendments - Online Submission Form : Entry # 12435

1. Your Details

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

I consent to my details being shared

Name:

Jason Shepherd

Name of Organisation (If applicable):

Goulburn Mulwaree Council

Role/Position:

Councillor

Postal Address:

[REDACTED]

Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Which of the following best describes you?

Council Regional

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?

No. They will lead to more behind the scenes dealings between mayors and staff, groups aligned with the mayor will have a greater say in what comes before council, less opportunity for all councillors to be better informed to carry out their duties, and less transparency. We are all elected to represent our community. Not just the mayor. These changes can and will be gamed.

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

The ability of the mayor to shutdown debate, censure non-politically aligned councillors, and control numbers during meetings as proposed under the changes needs to be policed. What happens when the mayor is the problem? What can councillors do?

On the issue of briefings, keep them and make them public. Totally agree the community needs to be informed. As much as councillors. Briefings allow councillors to get a better understanding of issues before a council meeting so that they have time to think. Removing this ability will be detrimental to the community and councillors.

2.3. Will the proposed amendments have any unintended consequences?

The focus and empowerment of the mayor over other councillors can be weaponised and used as political tool to shutdown debate, censure non-politically aligned councillors, and control numbers during a vote. This change will have the opposite effect to the democratic ideal it is aimed at.

Preventing councillor briefings will lead to extended debates without, in some cases, the need for such – briefings are a

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chance to ask questions from staff and gain an understanding of matters at hand, and a lot of these matters never see a committee or council meeting. Make briefings public but keep them as it helps us to carry out our roles better.

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

Webcast briefings and increase the speed / action of penalty on mayors that game these changes for political advantage.

3. General feedback

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

Whilst standing when the mayor enters the room is a sign of respect it is archaic and what will it prove?

Notes



Admin Notification (ID: 66d4f054bfdd8)

added February 2, 2025 at 11:21 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.