

## Model Meeting Code Amendments - Online Submission Form : Entry # 12358

### 1. Your Details

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

I consent to my details being shared

Name:

Jane l'Ons

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?**

Remains to be seen. Respect is earned.

Who/which appropriate authority will be checking/supervising Council operations?

How often and in what format? Will reports be made available to councillors and the community they represent?

How will councillors receive information regarding legal, strategic, financial, policy implications if not from the General Manager?

Publicise on the Council website the 'approval form for application to speak'.

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

Document the 'Councillor request system' to inform the community of councillors' requests for information on their behalf.

The sources and timing of funding are critical to local government operations and need more elaboration.

Time limit for speaker at public forum – equal to that extended to a councillor debating a council motion.

Acts of disorder – include bullying.

**2.3. Will the proposed amendments have any unintended consequences?**

Standing to address the meeting – will the speaker be heard and recorded clearly?

Mayoral minutes – on what basis are these made ie relevance, well researched, legal, financial implications?

Provide examples of 'urgent business' for local government.

'The Mayor will not be subject to these restrictions and may receive information in order to undertake their functions' – what checks and balances, oversight are provided to ensure proper conduct?

### 3. General feedback

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

Based upon my observations of Tenterfield Shire Council over many years I am concerned at the inadequacy of checks and balances and professional oversight of Council operations. Members of the local community were aware of many serious

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problems however the culture of the Council in recent years was a deterrent and ultimately damaging. Disrespect to the community and inadequate knowledge of the shire were significant. Councils are increasingly bureaucratic, complex organisations and councillors need good quality ongoing education (and role models) regarding their responsibilities and the operations of local government. The difficulties in attracting suitable staff continue and are detrimental to satisfactory progress.

### Notes



#### Admin Notification (ID: 66d4f054bfdd8)

added December 30, 2024 at 3:27 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.