

From: [Ian Tucker](#)
To: [OLG BS Office of Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Model Meeting Code Amendments
Date: Friday, 14 February 2025 10:43:11 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-mx55vae5](#)
[Model Meeting Code Amendments.docx](#)

Attention : OLG Council Governance Team

My submission in relation to the proposed amendments to the Model Code of Meeting Practice are attached.



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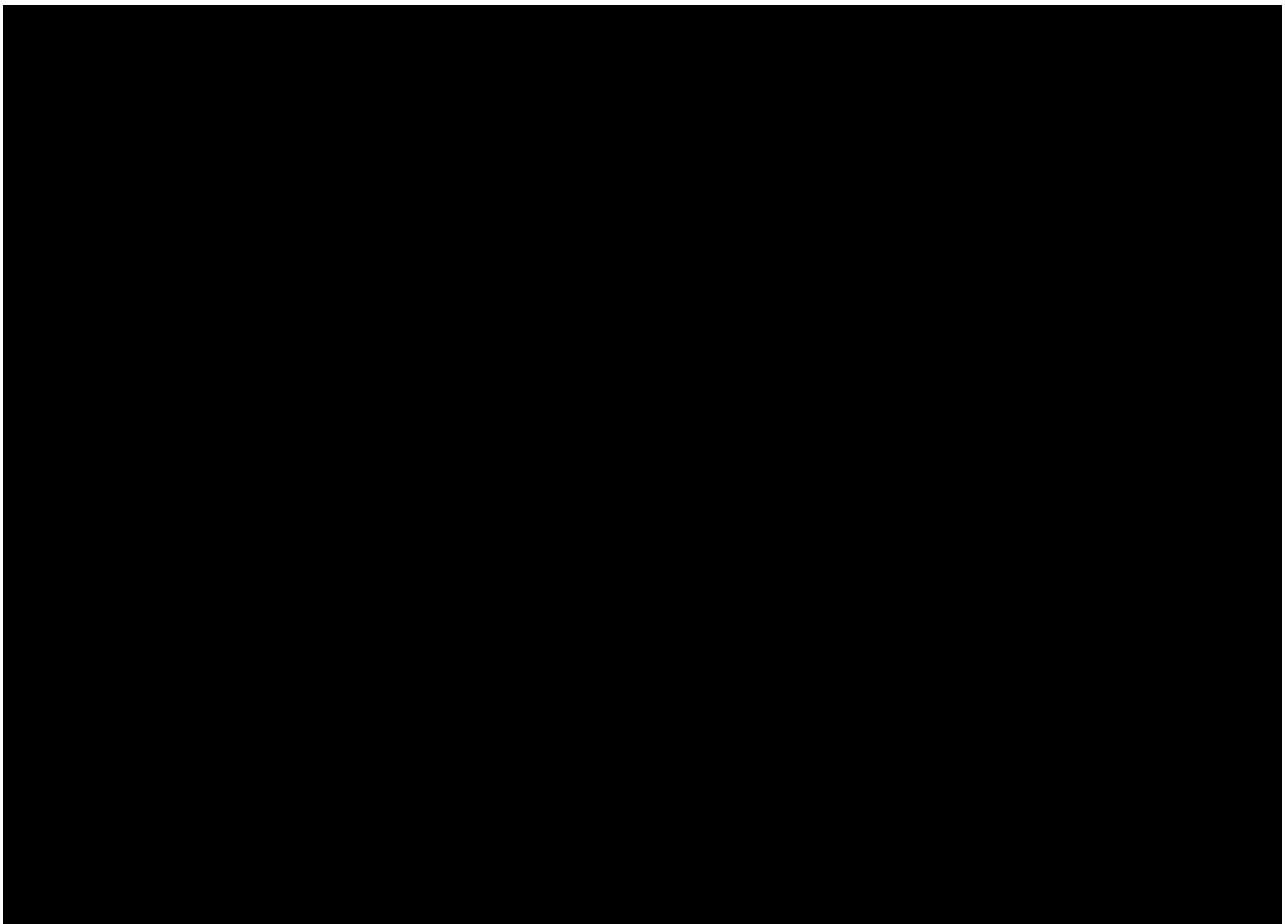
Model Meeting Code Amendments

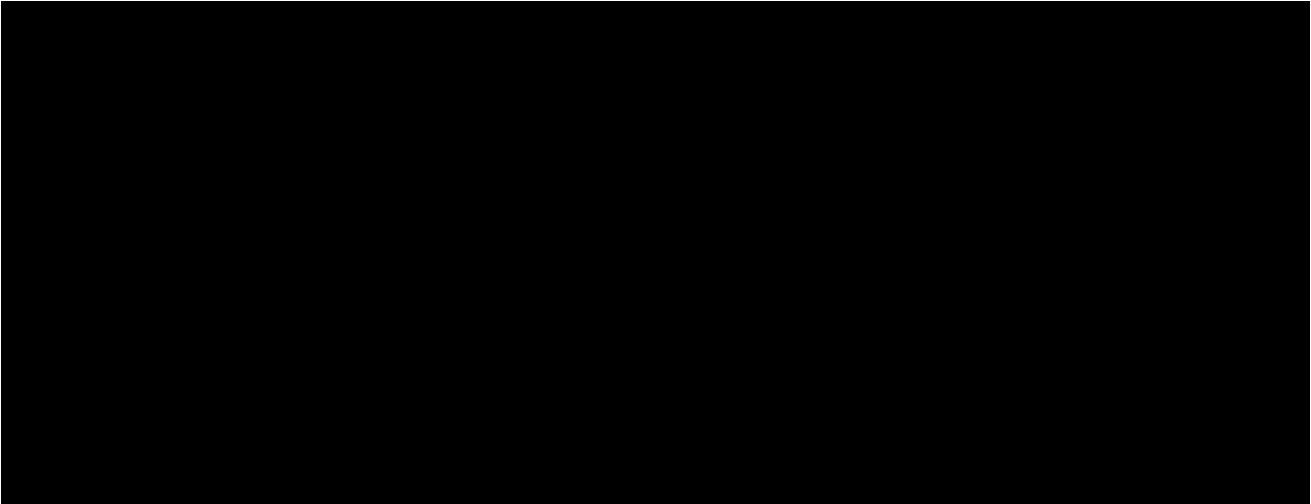
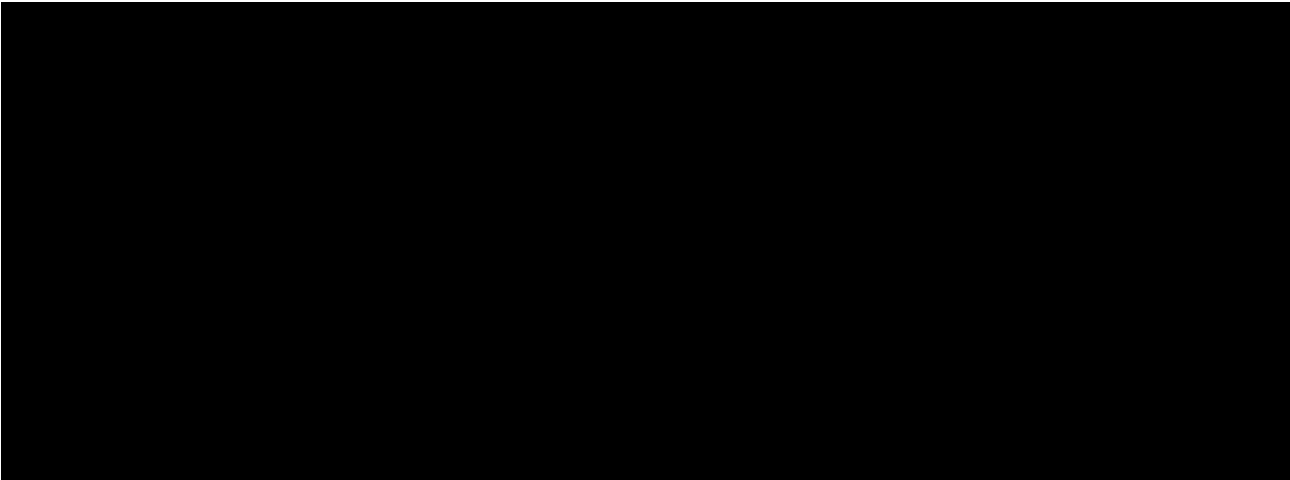
Notice to Councillors of extraordinary meetings

I suggest the CoMP should provide guidance as to what constitutes an emergency which would justify calling an extraordinary meeting with less than three days notice. Such guidance should relate to the common, dictionary definition of an emergency.

This was a contentious issue at Oberon Council at the end of the previous term, where an extraordinary meeting was called with only one day's notice. The only purpose appears to have been to deny the newly elected Council the opportunity to make a decision on whether to extend the GM's contract, which still had 16 months to run.

A number of Councillors did not believe there was any urgency to this decision, let alone an emergency, and hence felt the meeting was improperly called, and chose not to attend.



Order of business

I suggest this clause should include some guidance about what items must be included, or must not be included, in the order of business. It would then be up to council to decide whether to add any additional items, and the order they are to be dealt with.

I request that the CoMP include a prohibition for a council to include a prayer or any other form of religious observance in its order of business. In a multi-cultural and multi-faith (including no faith) society, it is unreasonable for any councillor or staff member to be required to participate in a religious practice which does not accord with their own beliefs (or lack of belief).

I also suggest that the acknowledgement of country be a compulsory part of each council's order of business. This is not a religious or political statement, and it is not an apology. It is simply a polite and respectful

statement of acknowledgement. Making it compulsory would avoid “culture wars” arguments.

Amendments to motions

With the proposed removal of the existing clause relating to foreshadowed motions, it is unclear to me how it will be possible for a council to pass a motion which is a direct negative of the first motion which is moved and seconded.

It is noted that under the existing CoMP a foreshadowed motion may be a direct negative. However as I read it, under the proposed amended CoMP, any amendments including foreshadowed amendments, must not be a direct negative of the original motion.

This could create significant problems if the majority of councillors favour a particular course of action, but the first motion put forward is the direct negative of that majority view.

If my interpretation of this is incorrect, I would appreciate clarification of how this is intended to work, to enable council to resolve the direct negative of the original motion.

Closure of council meetings to the public

I suggest a clause be added to set out the process a councillor may follow if they believe an item for consideration has incorrectly been placed into the closed section of the meeting.

This would apply if they do not believe it fits into any of the types of matters in clause 14.1 (a) – (i), or if they believe it has been placed in the closed section for the reasons set out in clause 14.6 (a) – (b).