

## Model Meeting Code Amendments - Online Submission Form : Entry # 12323

### 1. Your Details

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

I consent to my details being shared

Name:

Jeremy Miller

Name of Organisation (If applicable):

MidCoast Council

Role/Position:

Deputy Mayor

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.

The new ruling preventing councils from holding private councillor briefing sessions is patently ridiculous.

A Councillor briefing session is a useful way for Councillors to request further information on an issue. It is not (and must not be) a decision-making forum. However, it is (and should be) a place for Councillors to ask the 'silly' questions that they would not ask in a public forum. At this stage of the election cycle, new Councillors are asking for clarity on planning laws and other matters that they don't understand – this is useful and helps Council to conduct its business professionally in Council meetings. They won't say "but I don't understand this" in a briefing that is open to the public.

The only impact that this ruling will have is to force Councils to have a pre-meeting-briefing-meeting-briefing. That's Yes Minister territory.

In the interests of fairness and transparency, will the Minister open all of his briefings with department staff to the public?

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

If it needs further clarity, then specify that Councils cannot and must not make decisions in briefings. I believe that is already clear enough.

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

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Yes.

The only impact that this ruling will have is to force Councils to have a pre-meeting-briefing-meeting-briefing. That's Yes Minister territory.

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

Yes.

If the Minister goes ahead with forcing Council briefings to be open to the public, then the Minister must also open all of his departmental briefings to the public. Anything else would be hypocritical.

**Notes****Admin Notification (ID: 66d4f054bfdd8)**

added December 18, 2024 at 10:15 am

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.