

## Model Meeting Code Amendments - Online Submission Form : Entry # 12315

### 1. Your Details

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

☐ I consent to my details being shared

Name:

Kath Elliott

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?**

As a former Newcastle City Councilor I am hopeful that these changes will assist in achieving the policy outcomes, and in particular the proposals to de-politicize the General Manager. When on Council, all of my notices of motion were sent to the GM and at the Council meeting, a similar but different notice of motion from the majority party in the Chamber, would be put and carried, with my notice of motion being voted down. I believe the General Manager was showing my notice of motion to the majority party and allowing them time to submit a similar NOM to gain political mileage. Also Council Council reports on my NOM's would always be in the negative and interestingly, the majority party's similar NOM would have a positive report. These efforts need to stop that behaviour but may not go far enough. See my suggested amendment to strengthen this at 2.2.

The expanded powers of the Lord Mayor to expel Councilors for disorder is an important amendment and should be applauded. Unruly behavior in the Chambers is a common feature of Newcastle Council meetings and should not be tolerated. The community expects high standards of behaviour from its elected representatives and this will assist in maintaining order and community confidence.

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

NOM's should not be provided by GM's to opposing parties prior to the business papers nor prior to the cut off day/time for NOM's to be submitted. .

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

Media gagging of Councillors is an issue which needs to be addressed. Newcastle Council has recently voted to restrict the powers of the Lord Mayor including his ability to speak with the media, instead transferring this to the General Manager. This needs to be addressed as I note it has also been a problem in other councils such as Georges River. This culture of control by administrative staff is not democratic and the community expects their councillors to be free to express the opinions and issues concerning constituents, in the public domain.

## Model Meeting Code Amendments - Online Submission Form : Entry # 12315

### 3. General feedback

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

Very pleased to see this focus on local government. Administrations are getting out of control and elected representatives are being hamstrung from doing what the community elect them to do.

### Notes



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

added December 17, 2024 at 4:09 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.