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DRAFT Code of Meeting Practice

Adopted by Council on XXXX

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Code of Meeting Practice – DRAFT VERSION 10

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CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

PART 1 - PRELIMINARY

1 CITATION

This Code may be cited as the Lithgow City Council Code of Meeting Practice

2 DEFINITIONS

(i) In this Code:

- (a) **amendment**, in relation to an original motion, means a motion moving an amendment to that motion;
- (b) **chairperson**,
 - in relation to a meeting of the Council - means the person presiding at the meeting as provided by clause 11 of this Code; and
 - in relation to a meeting of a Committee - means the person presiding at the meeting as provided by clause 52 of this Code;
- (c) **Committee** means a Committee established under clause 45 or the Council when it has resolved itself into a Committee of the whole;
- (d) **LP** refers to Local Practice and refers to Council meeting practice as exercised by Lithgow City Council.

~~(e)~~ **record** means a document (including any written or printed material) or object (including a sound recording, coded storage device, magnetic tape or disc, microfilm, photograph, film, map, plan or model or a painting or other pictorial or graphic work) that is or has been made or received in the course of official duties by a Councillor or an employee of the Council and, in particular, includes the minutes of meetings of the Council or of a Committee of the Council;

Deleted: (e) - **Principal Committees** means the Committees which have delegated authority under section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993 and which are referred to in the Appendices.¶

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~~(f)~~ **relative**, in relation to a person, means any of the following:

- (i) the parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child of the person or of the person's spouse;
- (ii) the spouse or the de facto partner of the person or of a person referred to in paragraph (i).

~~(g)~~ **the Act** means the Local Government Act 1993 (referenced in the format [S X] where S represents section, and X represents a specific clause number);

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~~(h)~~ **the Code** means the Lithgow City Council Code of Meeting Practice;

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(i) **the Regulation** means the Local Government Act (General) Regulation ~~2005 (LGGR) inclusive of subsequent amendments and modifications to the Regulation as adopted (referenced in the format [LGGR X] where X represents a specific clause number);~~

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(ii) Except as otherwise provided, expressions used in this code which are defined in the dictionary at the end of the Act have the meanings set out in the dictionary.

3 ACT, REGULATIONS AND CODE

- (i) This Code is made pursuant to **section 360(2) [S 360(2)]** of the Act.
- (ii) This Code incorporates relevant provisions of the Regulation, the Act and Council Meeting Practice Policy not consistent with the Regulation and the Act.
- (iii) In the event of any inconsistency between the Code and the Act or the Regulation, the Act or the Regulation (as the case may be) shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

4 NOTES TO TEXT

Notes in the text of this Code are explanatory notes and do not form part of this Code. They are provided to assist understanding.

PART 2 - CONVENING OF AND ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

5 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

- (i) The Council is required to meet at least 10 times each year, each time in a different month. **[S 365]**
- (ii) The Council will, by resolution, set the time, date and place of ordinary meetings of the Council. Ordinary meetings of the Council will be held in the Lithgow City Council Chambers, 180 Mort Street, Lithgow unless otherwise resolved by the Council.
- (iii) The Council may, by resolution, vary the time, date and place of ordinary meetings should extenuating circumstances exist which would prevent the ordinary meetings of the Council being held in accordance with clause (ii).

6 EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

- (i) The Mayor may call extraordinary meetings of the Council.
- (ii) If the Mayor receives a request in writing signed by at least 2 Councillors, the Mayor must call an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held as soon as practicable but in any event within 14 working days after the receipt of the request. **[S 366]**
- (iii) For the purpose of subsections 6(ii) a working day is a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.

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7 NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- (i) The General Manager of the Council must send to each Councillor, at least 3 days before each meeting of the Council, a notice specifying the time and place at which and the date on which the meeting is to be held, the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting. [S 367 (1)]
- (ii) Notice of less than 3 days may be given of an extraordinary meeting called in an emergency, but in no case shall notice of less than one day be given. [S 367 (2)]
- (iii) Sub clauses (i) and (ii) do not apply to the consideration of business at a meeting if the business [LGGR 241 (2):
 - (a) is already before, or directly relates to a matter that is already before, the Council; or
 - (b) is the election of a chairperson to preside at the meeting as provided by clause 11(iii); or
 - (c) is a matter or topic put to the meeting by the chairperson in accordance with clause 17; or
 - (d) is a motion for the adoption of recommendations of a Committee of the Council.
- (iv) Despite sub clauses 7(i) and 7(ii), business may be transacted at a meeting of the Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors. However, this can happen only if:
 - (a) a motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting;

and

 - (b) the business proposed to be brought forward is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency. [LGGR 241(3)]

Such a motion can be moved without notice.
- (v) Despite clause 30 relating to the limitation as to the number of speeches, only the mover referred to in sub clause (iv) can speak to the motion before it is put. [LGGR 241(4)]

8 QUORUM [S 368]

The quorum for a meeting of the Council is a majority of the Councillors of the Council who hold office for the time being and are not suspended from office.

9 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A QUORUM IS NOT PRESENT [LGGR 233]

- (i) A meeting of the Council must be adjourned if a quorum is not present:
 - (a) within half an hour after the time designated for the holding of the meeting; or
 - (b) at any time during the meeting.

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- (ii) In either case, the meeting must be adjourned to a time, date and place fixed:
 - (a) by the chairperson; or
 - (b) in his or her absence - by the majority of the Councillors present; or
 - (c) failing that, by the General Manager.
 - (iii) The General Manager must record in the Council's minutes the circumstances relating to the absence of a quorum (including the reasons for the absence of a quorum) at or arising during a meeting of the Council, together with the names of the Councillors present.

Note: See also Clause 60

10 PRESENCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS [LGGR 235]

A Councillor cannot participate in a meeting of the Council unless personally present at the meeting.

10A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS [S 234]

- (i) A civic office becomes vacant if the holder is absent from three consecutive ordinary meetings of the Council (unless the holder is absent because he or she has been suspended from office under **sections 440 or 482 [S 440, S 482]**) without:
 - (a) Prior leave of the Council, or
 - (b) Leave granted by the Council at any of the meetings concerned.
- (ii) For the purpose of Clause (1)(i) & (ii), a Councillor applying for leave of absence from a meeting of a Council does not need to make the application in person and the Council may grant such leave in the absence of that Councillor however the absence must be granted through a formal resolution of Council and the absence is rescinded upon the first attendance of the Councillor at a meeting of the Council.

10B CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH ANNUAL FEES MAY BE WITHHELD [S 254A]

- (i) The Council may resolve that an annual fee will not be paid to a Councillor or that a Councillor will be paid a reduced annual fee determined by the Council for any period of not more than three months for which the Councillor is absent, with or without leave, from an Ordinary Meeting or Ordinary Meetings of the Council.
- (ii) If a Councillor is absent, with or without leave of the Council, from Ordinary Meetings of the Council for any period of more than three months, the Council must not pay any annual fee, or part of an annual fee, to that Councillor that relates to the period of absence that is in excess of three months.

PART 3 - PROCEDURE FOR THE CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

11 CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- (i) A Council may resolve itself into a Committee to consider any matter before the Council. [S 373]
- (ii) The Mayor or, at the request of or in the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor presides at meetings of the Council. [S 369 (1)]
- (iii) If the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are absent, a Councillor elected to chair the meeting by the Councillors present presides at a meeting of the Council. [S 369 (2)]
- (iv) If no chairperson is present at a meeting of the Council at the time designated for the holding of the meeting, the first business of the meeting must be the election of a chairperson to preside at the meeting. [LGGR 236(1)]
- (v) The election must be conducted:
 - (a) by the General Manager or, in his or her absence, an employee of the Council designated by the General Manager to conduct the election; or
 - (b) if neither of them is present at the meeting or there is no General Manager or designated employee - by the person who called the meeting or a person acting on his or her behalf. [LGGR 236(2)]
- (vi) If, at an election of a chairperson, two (2) or more candidates receive the same number of votes and no other candidate receives a greater number of votes, the chairperson is to be the candidate whose name is chosen by lot drawn by the General Manager or his or her nominee. [LGGR 236(3)]
- (vii) For the purpose of subclause 11(vi), the person conducting the election must:
 - (a) arrange for the names of the candidates who have equal numbers of votes to be written on similar slips; and
 - (b) then fold the slips so as to prevent the names being seen, mix the slips and draw one of the slips at random. [LGGR 236(4)]
- (viii) The candidate whose name is on the drawn slip is the candidate who is to be the chairperson. [LGGR 236(5)]
- (ix) The Councillor appointed as Mayor and Deputy Mayor from time to time under section 369 [S 369] of the Local Government Act 1993 to preside at Council Meetings is authorised to exercise the power of expulsion of a Councillor from a Council Meeting for engaging in or having had engaged in disorderly conduct at the meeting, such disorderly conduct being in the nature identified in clause 256(1) [LGGR 256(1)] of the Regulation.
- (x) The Councillor appointed from time to time as Mayor and Deputy Mayor under section 369 [S 369] of the Local Government Act 1993 to preside at Council Meetings is authorised to exercise the power of expulsion of a member of the public engaging in or having had engaged in disorderly conduct at the meeting.

12 CHAIRPERSON TO HAVE PRECEDENCE [LGGR 237]

When the chairperson rises or speaks during a meeting of the Council:

- (i) any Councillor then speaking or seeking to speak must, if standing, immediately resume his or her seat; and
- (ii) every Councillor present must be silent to enable the chairperson to be heard without interruption.

13 CHAIRPERSON'S DUTY WITH RESPECT TO MOTIONS [LGGR 238]

- (i) It is the duty of the chairperson at a meeting of the Council to receive and put to the meeting any lawful motion that is brought before the meeting.
- (ii) The chairperson must rule out of order any motion that is unlawful or the implementation of which would be unlawful.
- (iii) Any motion, amendment or other matter that the chairperson has ruled out of order is taken to have been rejected.

14 CHAIRPERSON'S DUTY WITH RESPECT TO IDENTIFICATION OF COUNCILLORS AND STAFF [LP]

It is the duty of the chairperson at a meeting of the Council to identify by reference to the name of the Councillor or either the name or designation of a member of staff prior to the Councillor or member of staff being able to address a meeting of the Council.

15 MINUTES [S 375(1)]

- (i) The Council must ensure that full and accurate minutes are kept of proceedings of a meeting of the Council. [S375(1)]
- (ii) The minutes must, when they have been confirmed at a subsequent meeting of Council, be signed by the person presiding at that subsequent meeting. [S375(2)]
- (iii) The General Manager must ensure that the following matters are recorded in the Council's minutes: [LGGR 254]
 - (a) details of each motion moved at a Council meeting and of any amendments moved to it,
 - (b) the names of the mover and the seconder of a motion or amendment,
 - (c) whether the motion or amendment is passed or lost. [LGGR 254]
 - (d) When a division or a motion is demanded, the Chairperson must ensure that the division takes place immediately. The General Manager must ensure that the names of those who vote for the motion and those who vote against it are respectively recorded in the Council's minutes. [LGGR 251(4)]

(e) The Chairperson must call for a division of Councillors in respect of each development planning decision [s375A]. The General Manager must ensure that the names of those who vote for the motion and those who vote against it are respectively recorded in the Council's minutes. [LGGR 251(4)]

(f) Information on the Public Forum as required in Clause 17 of this Code [LP]

(iv) The correctness of the minutes of every preceding meeting, including extraordinary meeting, not previously confirmed must be dealt with at every ordinary meeting of the Council, in order that such minutes may be confirmed.

(v) A motion or discussion with respect to such minutes shall not be in order except with regard to their accuracy as a true record of the proceedings.

(vi) Minutes may be confirmed at an extraordinary meeting of the Council.

16 MINUTES - SOUND RECORDING [LP]

~~(i) Ordinary, Extraordinary and Committee meetings of the Council may be recorded electronically in "open Council".~~

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(ii) A master recorded copy of Council and Committee Meetings will be retained in safe custody within the Council. The purpose of recording the minutes of a meeting are to provide a means to verify the official minutes when they are being prepared.

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(iii) Recordings will be accessible to Council staff for the purpose of confirmation of the minutes and will not be made available to other persons.

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(iv) The master copy will be destroyed after three (3) months of being made.

(v) Recordings do not replace the official minutes as adopted for any meeting held on the Chamber and once the official minutes have been endorsed recordings can be destroyed without waiting for the expiry of the 3 month period identified as the maximum retention timeframe in sub clause (iv) above.

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(vi) Audio recording equipment may be made available for any other Committee or working group upon request provided that the subject meeting is conducted in the Council Chambers.

(vii) Recording by external parties is dealt with in Clauses 71 and 72 of the Code.

17 ORDER OF BUSINESS [LGGR 239] + (LP)

(i) At a meeting of the Council (other than an Extraordinary meeting), the general order of business is (except as provided by this code) such as the Council has fixed by resolution passed at any previous meeting or, if no such resolution has been passed, in accordance with this code and the schedule.

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- (ii) The order of business fixed under subclause 17(i) may be altered if a motion to that effect is passed. Such a motion can be moved without notice.
- (iii) Despite clause 30, only the mover of a motion referred to in subclause 17(ii) may speak to the motion before it is put.
- (iv) A Councillor may move the following procedural motions in relation to items on a Council Business paper:
 - a. That an item “lie on the table”. The effect of such a resolution, if passed, will be that the matters subject of the motion are dealt with and that any such motions cannot be discussed at the meeting subsequent to the passing of this motion without giving notice of motion as required. Such notice shall be given in accordance with Clause 19 of this Code and the notice shall be to bring the business back before Council only.
 - b. That Council “move to next business”. The effect of such a resolution, if passed, will be that Council will move to the next item of business. The matter subject to the motion can not be considered at a later stage of the meeting unless there is a successful motion from the floor for the matter to be considered.
- (v) The Chairperson must immediately put to the vote, without debate, a motion moved under Clause 17 (iv). A seconder is not required for such a motion.

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(vi) A Councillor suspended by the Division of Local Government, Tribunal, Court or by other means shall not be permitted to utilise the Public Forum or provide other input to a Council meeting or provide public input to a committee meeting.

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(vii) The general order of business at Council meetings shall be as follows:

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1. Acknowledgment of Country
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings
4. Declaration of Interests – Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary
5. Public Forum
6. Presentations
7. Mayoral Minutes
8. Staff Reports
9. Council Committee Minutes
10. Delegates Reports
11. Notices of Motion
12. Questions with Notice
13. Notices of Rescission
14. Business of Great Urgency (as identified by Clause 241 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005)
15. Closed Council

17.1 PUBLIC ADDRESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

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- (i) A Public Forum will be conducted at each Ordinary Meeting of Council, as provided for in Clause 17 of this Code.
- (ii) Public Forum will be for a period of fifteen (15) minutes, unless otherwise determined by Council.

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- (iii) A member of the public may be granted permission to address Council during Public Forum where such a request is received by the General Manager (or his delegate) no later than midday of the day of the Council Meeting. This provision is subject to:
- (a) Each speaker being permitted to address Public Forum for up to three (3) minutes.
 - (b) Each speaker being entitled to make a statement related to any item on the Council Agenda or otherwise related to Council business.
 - (c) Preference will be given to those that wish to speak to items on the meeting agenda
 - (d) Speakers will be required to comply with the Guidelines for Requests to Address Council, as attached to this Code.
- (iv) A list of all requests to speak at Public Forum will be made available to all Councillors at the commencement of the Council Meeting.
- (v) Council may, at its discretion, resolve to extend the time provided to any one speaker by up to three (3) minutes and/ or otherwise resolve to extend the total period allocated to Public Forum at any Council Meeting.
- (vi) The circulation of documents or notes by speakers or members of the public during Council or Committee Meetings shall be allowed only upon determination by the Chairperson.
- (vii) The Minutes of the Council meeting shall reflect the topic only of the issue(s) raised at the Public Forum by individuals
- (viii) Members of the public will not be permitted to use the Public Forum for the purpose of abusing, vilifying, insulting, threatening, intimidating or harassing Councillors, Council staff or other members of the public. Conduct of this nature will be deemed to be an act of disorder and the person engaging in such behaviour will be ruled out of order by the Mayor and may be expelled from the Council Meeting.
- (ix) Members of the public will not be permitted to raise matters or provide information that involves:
- a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals;
 - b) personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer, (unless with the written permission of the subject person(s)).
 - c) information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;
 - d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or
 - reveal a trade secret;
 - e) information that would, if disclosed prejudice the maintenance of law;

f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property;

g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege;

h) on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

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18 AGENDA AND BUSINESS PAPERS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS [LGGR 240]

- (i) The General Manager must ensure that the agenda for a meeting of the Council states:
 - (a) all matters to be dealt with arising out of the proceedings of former meetings of the Council; and
 - (b) if the Mayor (or the Deputy Mayor if acting for the Mayor) is the chairperson - any matter or topic that the chairperson proposes, at the time when the agenda is prepared, to put to the meeting; and
 - (c) subject to subclause 18(ii), any business of which due notice has been given.
- (ii) The General Manager must not include in the agenda for a meeting of the Council any business of which due notice has been given if, in the opinion of the General Manager, the business is (or the implementation of the business would be) unlawful. The General Manager must report (without giving details of the item of business) any such exclusion to the next meeting of the Council.
- (iii) The General Manager must cause the agenda for a meeting of the Council or Committee of the Council to be prepared as soon as practicable before the meeting.
- (iv) The General Manager must ensure that the details of any item of business to which **section 9(2A) [S 9(2A)]** of the Act and Clause 64(vii) of this Code applies are included in a business paper for the meeting concerned.
- (v) Nothing in this clause limits the powers of the chairperson under clause 21.

19 GIVING NOTICE OF BUSINESS [LGGR 241]

- (i) The Council must not transact business at a meeting of the Council:
 - (a) unless a Councillor has given notice of the business in writing by the close of business seven (7) working days prior to the Council meeting.
 - (b) unless notice of business has been sent to the Councillors at least 3 days before the meeting, or, in the event of an extraordinary meeting called in an emergency, at least one day. **[S 367]**
- (ii) Subclause (i) does not apply to the consideration of business at a meeting if the business:

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- (a) is already before, or directly relates to a matter that is already before, the Council; or
 - (b) is the election of a chairperson to preside at the meeting as provided by clause 11(iv); or
 - (c) is a matter or topic put to the meeting by the chairperson in accordance with clause 21; or
 - (d) is a motion for the adoption of recommendations of a Committee of the Council.
- (iii) Despite subclause (i), business may be transacted at a meeting of the Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to Councillors. However, this can happen only if:
- (a) a motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting; and
 - (b) the business proposed to be brought forward is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency.

Such a motion can be moved without notice.

- (iv) Despite clause 30, only the mover of a motion referred to in subclause 19(iii) can speak to the motion before it is put.
- (v) Items listed in the Business Paper for an Ordinary meeting of the Council may be withdrawn under the following circumstances:
 - (a) The General Manager advises Council of the need to withdraw an item from the Business Paper of a meeting of Council where a report has been prepared by staff. The General Manager will advise Council of the reason for the withdrawal of the item, such as new information having been obtained subsequent to the publication of the report on a matter;
 - (b) A Council resolution is moved and seconded and assented to in the normal manner as specified in the Code of Meeting Practice which seeks to withdraw a report prepared and submitted by a Councillor as a delegate or other Councillor written report which has been published in the Business Paper of a meeting of Council.
- (vi) Requests for actions to be taken that are of an operational basis are to be made via the established Actions Request process rather than tabled at Council meetings. Councillors may make use of the template for action requests attached as an appendix for operational items which they wish to have investigated or arise from representations from the community for works requests.

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20 AGENDA FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEETING [LGGR 242]

- (i) The General Manager must ensure that the agenda for an Extraordinary meeting of the Council deals only with the matters stated in the notice of the meeting.
- (ii) Despite subclause 20(i), business may be transacted at an Extraordinary meeting of the Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the councillors. However, this can happen only if:

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- (a) a motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting; and
 - (b) the business approved to be brought forward is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency.

Such a motion can be moved without notice but only after the business notified in the agenda for the meeting has been disposed of.

- (iii) Despite clause 30 relating to limitations as to number of speeches, only the mover of a motion referred to in subclause 20(ii) can speak to the motion before it is put.

21 OFFICIAL MINUTES [LGGR 243]

- (i) If the Mayor (or the Deputy Mayor, if acting for the Mayor) is the chairperson at a meeting of a Council, the chairperson is, by minute signed by the chairperson, entitled to put to the meeting without notice any matter or topic that is within the jurisdiction of the Council or of which the Council has official knowledge.
- (ii) Such a minute, when put to the meeting, takes precedence over all business on the Council's agenda for the meeting. The chairperson (but only if the chairperson is the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor if acting for the Mayor) may move the adoption of the minute without the motion being seconded.
- (iii) A recommendation made in a minute of the chairperson (being the Mayor, or Deputy Mayor if acting for the Mayor) or in a report made by a Council employee is, in so far as adopted by the Council, a resolution of the Council.

22 REPORT OF A DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE TO BE TABLED AT COUNCIL MEETING [LGGR 244]

When a report of a Department of Local Government representative has been presented to a meeting of the Council in accordance with [section 433 \[S 433\]](#) of the Act, the Council must ensure that the report:

- (i) is laid on the table at that meeting; and
- (ii) is subsequently available for the information of Councillors and members of the public at all reasonable times.

23 NOTICE OF MOTION - ABSENCE OF MOVER [LGGR 245]

In the absence of a Councillor who has placed a notice of motion on the agenda for a meeting of the Council:

- (i) any other Councillor may move the motion at the meeting; or
- (ii) the chairperson may defer the motion until the next meeting of the Council at which the motion can be considered.

24 MOTIONS TO BE SECONDED [LGGR 246]

- (i) A motion or an amendment cannot be debated unless or until it has been seconded. However, the mover of a motion may be allowed by the chairperson

to speak to the motion before calling for the motion to be seconded. This clause is subject to clauses 21(ii) and 30(v).

- (ii) The seconder of a motion or of an amendment may reserve the right to speak later in the debate.

25 HOW SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS MAY BE MOVED [LGGR 247]

- (i) If an amendment has been accepted or rejected, a further amendment can be moved to the motion in its original or amended form (as the case may be), and so on, but no more than one motion and one proposed amendment can be before the Council at any one time.
- (ii) It is permissible to debate the motion and an amendment concurrently.
- (iii) It is permissible during the debate on an amendment for a further amendment to be foreshadowed. However, any such foreshadowed amendment shall not be moved and debated until the amendment is dealt with.

26 MOTIONS OF DISSENT [LGGR 248]

- (i) A Councillor can, without notice, move to dissent from the ruling of the chairperson on a point of order. If that happens, the chairperson must suspend the business before the meeting until a decision is made on the motion of dissent.
- (ii) If a motion of dissent is carried, the chairperson must proceed with the suspended business as though the ruling dissented from had not been given. If, as a result of the ruling, any motion or business has been discharged as out of order, the chairperson must restore the motion or business to the business paper and proceed with it in due course.
- (iii) Despite clause 30, only the mover of a motion of dissent and the chairperson can speak to the motion before it is put. The mover of the motion does not have a right of general reply.

27 PETITIONS MAY BE PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL [LP]

- (i) A Councillor may present a petition to the Council.
- (ii) The chairperson must not permit discussion on the petition.
- (iii) The petition will be referred to the General Manager for appropriate action or referral to a future meeting of the Council.

28 QUESTIONS MAY BE PUT TO COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL EMPLOYEES [LGGR 249]

- (i) A Councillor:
 - (a) may, through the chairperson, put a question to another Councillor; and
 - (b) may, through the chairperson and the General Manager, put a question to a Council employee.

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- (ii) However, a Councillor or Council employee to whom a question is put is entitled to be given reasonable notice of the question and, in particular, sufficient notice to enable reference to be made to other persons or to documents.
 - (iii) Any such question shall be put directly, succinctly, and without argument. The chairperson shall at all times reserve the right to require the Councillor to submit the question in writing. The chairperson shall also reserve the right to direct that the response in relation to such question be reported in writing to a future meeting of the Council.
 - (iv) The chairperson must not permit discussion on any reply or refusal to reply to a question put to a Councillor or Council employee under this clause.
 - (v) Nothing in this clause affects questions being asked, with the leave of the chairperson, relevant to any matter under discussion at a meeting.

29 **MODE OF ADDRESS [LP]**

Councillors shall at all times address other Councillors by their official designation, for example, Mr. Mayor or Councillor Brown, as the case may be; and with the exception of the chairperson, or any Councillor prevented by physical infirmity, shall stand when speaking or addressing ordinary or extraordinary meetings of the Council.

30 **LIMITATION AS TO NUMBER OF SPEECHES [LGGR 250]**

- (i) A Councillor who, during a debate at a meeting of the Council, moves an original motion has the right of general reply to all observations that are made by another Councillor during the debate in relation to the motion and to any amendment to it, as well as the right to speak on any such amendment.
- (ii) A Councillor, other than the mover of an original motion, has the right to speak once on the motion and once on each amendment to the motion.
- (iii) A Councillor must not, without the consent of the Council, speak more than once on a motion or an amendment, or for longer than 5 minutes at any one time. However, the chairperson may permit a Councillor who claims to have been misrepresented or misunderstood to speak more than once on a motion or an amendment and for longer than 5 minutes on that motion or amendment to enable the Councillor to make a statement limited to explaining the misrepresentation or misunderstanding.
- (iv) Despite clauses 30(i) and 30(ii), a Councillor may move that a motion or an amendment be put:
 - (a) if the mover of the motion or amendment has spoken in favour of it and no Councillor expresses an intention to speak against it; or
 - (b) if at least 2 Councillors have spoken in favour of the motion or amendment and at least 2 Councillors have spoken against the motion or amendment.
- (v) The chairperson must immediately put to the vote, without debate, a motion moved under clause 30(iv). A seconder is not required for such a motion.
- (vi) If a motion that the original motion or an amendment be now put is passed, the chairperson must, without further debate, put the original motion or amendment

to the vote immediately after the mover of the original motion has exercised his or her right of reply under clause 30(i).

- (vii) If a motion that the original motion or an amendment be now put is rejected, the chairperson must allow the debate on the original motion or the amendment to be resumed.

31 MOTIONS PUT WITHOUT DEBATE [LP]

Provided there is no objection from any Councillor present, any motion or recommendation before the Council may be put to the vote without discussion or debate.

32 VOTING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

- (i) Each Councillor is entitled to one vote. [S 370(1)]
- (ii) However, the chairperson has, in the event of an equality of votes, a second or casting vote. [S 370(2)]
- (iii) A Councillor who is present at a meeting of the Council but who fails to vote on a motion put to the meeting is taken to have voted against the motion. (This subclause does not apply to a Councillor who does not vote because he or she has pecuniary interest in the subject matter of the motion.) [LGGR 251(1)]
- (iv) If a Councillor who has voted against a motion put at a Council meeting so requests, the General Manager must ensure that the Councillor's dissenting vote is recorded in the Council's minutes. [LGGR 251(2)]
- (v) The decision of the chairperson as to the result of a vote is final, unless:
- (a) in the case where a vote has been declared on the voices, a Councillor immediately requests a show of hands; or
- (b) the decision is immediately challenged and not fewer than 2 Councillors rise and demand a division. [LGGR 251(3)]
- (vi) When a division on a motion is demanded, the chairperson must ensure that the division takes place immediately. The General Manager must ensure that the names of those who vote for the motion and those who vote against it are respectively recorded in the Council's minutes. [LGGR 251(4)]
- (vii) Voting at a Council meeting, including voting in an election at such a meeting is to be by open means (such as on the voices or by show of hands). However, the Council may resolve that the voting in any election by Councillors for Mayor or Deputy Mayor is to be by Secret Ballot. [LGGR 251 (5)]

Note. Part 11 of the Regulation provides that a Council is to resolve whether an election by the Councillors for Mayor or Deputy Mayor is to be by preferential ballot, ordinary ballot or open voting (clause 394 and clause 3 of Schedule 7 [LGGR 394 and Schedule 7 Clause 3]). Clause 3 of Schedule 7 also makes it clear that *ballot* has its normal meaning of secret ballot.

33 RETURNING OFFICER

- (i) When an election is to be conducted, the returning officer shall be:
 - (a) the General Manager or, in his or her absence, an employee of the Council designated by the General Manager to conduct the election; or
 - (b) If neither of them is present at the meeting or there is no General Manager or designated employee - by the person who called the meeting or a person acting on his or her behalf.
- (ii) The Council will determine the system of voting, that is, either "**ordinary ballot**", "**open voting**", "**first past the post**" or other system of voting.
- (iii) The returning officer will confirm the method of voting.
- (iv) The returning officer will keep a recording sheet and announce results of the election process as each stage of the election proceeds.

34 SHOW OF HANDS – BY OPEN VOTING METHOD [LP]

Where the Council determines that the method of voting shall be by **OPEN VOTING METHOD** the following voting procedures shall apply:

- (i) Where there are only two candidates, the returning officer shall declare elected that candidate who receives the higher number of votes on a show of hands.
- (ii) Where there are three or more candidates, the candidate who receives the lowest number of votes on a show of hands shall be excluded.
- (iii) Where there are three or more candidates remaining after the exclusion of a candidate under clause (ii), a further vote shall be taken in respect of those candidates and the candidate who receives that lowest number of votes on a show of hands shall be excluded.
- (iv) Where there are four or more candidates remaining after the exclusion of a candidate under clause (iii), the procedure as set out in that clause shall be repeated until only two candidates remain.
- (v) Where there are only two candidates remaining after the exclusion of a candidate, all candidates under clauses (ii), (iii), or (iv), a further vote shall be taken in respect of those candidates and the returning officer shall declare elected that candidate who receives the higher number of votes on a show of hands.
- (vi) If on any count of votes on a show of hands at an election using the open voting method, the number of votes cast on a show of hands for two or more candidates is equal and those candidates are:
 - (a) the only candidates in the election, or the only candidates remaining in the election; or
 - (b) the candidates with the lowest number of votes on the show of hands,

the returning officer shall determine by the drawing of lots which of those candidates shall be excluded or elected, as the case may be, and the following provisions shall apply.

- (c) the manner of drawing of lots shall be decided by the returning officer and announced to the Council.
- (d) where there are only two candidates in the election, or where only two candidates remain in the election, the candidate whose name is first drawn shall be deemed to have received the highest number of votes on a show of hands.

35 SHOW OF HANDS - BY FIRST PAST THE POST VOTING METHOD [LP]

- (i) Where the Council has determined that the voting method shall be by the first past the post method, the returning officer will announce the names of the Councillors nominated in alphabetical order and ask each Councillor to record his or her vote by a show of hands in respect of the candidate names and each Councillor is to limit their voting to the number of candidates to be **ELECTED**.
- (ii) If there is only one candidate to be elected, on a show of hands the candidate with the higher number of votes (recorded on a count sheet by the returning officer) is **ELECTED**.
- (iii) If there is two or more candidates to be elected, on a show of hands the candidates with the highest number of votes (recorded on a count sheet by the returning officer) are **ELECTED** for the number of positions to be filled.
- (iv) In the event of two candidates recording **equal and highest** number of votes on a show of hands, the names of the candidates who have **equal and highest** number of votes are written on similar slips of paper by the returning officer, the slips are folded by the returning officer so as to prevent the names being seen, the slips are mixed and one is drawn at random by the returning officer and the candidate whose name is on the drawn slips is **ELECTED**.

36 RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT CLOSED MEETINGS TO BE MADE PUBLIC

- (i) If the Council passes a resolution during a meeting, or part of a meeting, that is closed to the public, the chairperson must make the resolution public as soon as practicable after the meeting or part of the meeting has ended. [LGGR 253]
- (ii) The General Manager will, as soon as practicable, make available for public inspection a resolution passed during a meeting, or part of a meeting, that is closed to the public. [S12(1) and LP]
- (iii) A copy of a resolution passed during a meeting, or part of a meeting, that is closed to the public will be available (either free of charge or on payment of a reasonable copying charge, as the Council chooses) by anyone who asks for a copy. [S12(2) and LP]
- (iv) Where it is proposed in a business paper for a Council or Committee meeting to consider a matter in a meeting, or part of a meeting, that is closed to the public and the grounds for doing so are specified in accordance with section 10A(2)(a)-(h) inclusive of the Local Government Act 1993, **AND** in the event that the Council or Committee subsequently decides to consider and determine the

matter in a meeting, or part of a meeting, that is open to the public, a copy or copies of reports and accompanying annexure relating to the matter will, as soon as practicable, be made available to the public. [LP]

37 DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL [S 371]

A decision supported by a majority of the votes at a meeting of the Council at which a quorum is present is a decision of the Council.

38 RESCINDING OR ALTERING [S 372]

- (i) A resolution passed by the Council may not be altered or rescinded except by a motion to that effect of which notice has been duly given in accordance with clause 19.
- (ii) If notice of motion to rescind a resolution is given at the meeting at which the resolution is carried, the resolution must not be carried into effect until the motion to rescind has been dealt with.
- (iii) If a motion has been negated by the Council, a motion having the same effect must not be considered unless notice of it has been duly given in accordance with clause 19.
- (iv) A notice of motion to alter or rescind a resolution, and a notice of motion which has the same effect as a motion which has been negated by the Council, must be signed by 3 Councillors if less than 3 months has elapsed since the resolution was passed, or the motion was negated, as the case may be.
- (v) If a motion to alter or rescind a resolution has been negated, or if a motion which has the same effect as a previously negated motion, is negated, no similar motion may be brought forward within 3 months. This clause may not be evaded by substituting a motion differently worded, but in principle the same.
- (vi) A motion to which this clause applies may be moved on the report of a Committee of the Council and any such report must be recorded in the minutes.
- (vii) The provisions of this clause concerning negated motions do not apply to motions of adjournment.

39 MOTIONS OF ADJOURNMENT [LP]

- (i) Debate shall not be permitted on any motion for adjournment of a meeting of the Council.
- (ii) If a motion for adjournment is negated, the business of the meeting shall proceed, and it shall not be in order for any Councillor to again move a motion for adjournment within half an hour of the previous motion for adjournment being negated.
- (iii) A motion for adjournment may specify the time, date and place of the adjourned meeting; however, if a motion for adjournment is carried but does not specify the time, date and place of the adjourned meeting, the chairperson shall make a determination with respect to whichever of these has not been specified.

PART 4 - KEEPING ORDER AT MEETINGS

40 QUESTIONS OF ORDER [LGGR 255]

- (i) The chairperson, without the intervention of any other Councillor, may call any Councillor to order whenever, in the opinion of the chairperson, it is necessary to do so.
- (ii) A Councillor who claims that another Councillor has committed an act of disorder, or is out of order, may call the attention of the chairperson to the matter.
- (iii) The chairperson must rule on a question of order immediately after it is raised but, before doing so, may invite the opinion of the Council.
- (iv) The chairperson's ruling must be obeyed unless a motion dissenting from the ruling is passed.

41 ACTS OF DISORDER [LGGR 256]

- (i) A Councillor commits an act of disorder if the Councillor, at a meeting of the Council or a Committee of the Council:
 - (a) contravenes the Act, any regulation in force under the Act or this code; or
 - (b) assaults or threatens to assault another Councillor or person present at the meeting; or
 - (c) moves or attempts to move a motion or an amendment that has an unlawful purpose or that deals with a matter that is outside the jurisdiction of the Council or Committee, or addresses or attempts to address the Council or Committee on such a motion, amendment or matter; or
 - (d) insults or makes personal reflections on or imputes improper motives to any other Councillor; or
 - (e) says or does anything that is inconsistent with maintaining order at the meeting or is likely to bring the Council or Committee into contempt; or
 - (f) reads at length from any correspondence, report or other document, without the leave of the Council. (LP)
- (ii) The chairperson may require a Councillor:
 - (a) to apologise without reservation for an act of disorder referred to in subclause (i) (a) or (b); or
 - (b) to withdraw a motion or an amendment referred to in subclause (i) (c) and, where appropriate, to apologise without reservation; or
 - (c) to retract and apologise without reservation for an act of disorder referred to in subclause (i) (d) or (e).
- (iii) A Councillor may, as provided by clause 65 (iii), be expelled from a meeting of the Council for having failed to comply with a requirement under clause 41(ii).

The expulsion of a Councillor from the meeting by reason of clause 41(ii) does not prevent any other action from being taken against the Councillor for the act of disorder concerned.

42 HOW DISORDER AT A MEETING MAY BE DEALT WITH [LGGR 257]

- (i) If disorder occurs at a meeting of the Council or Committee of the Council, the chairperson may adjourn the meeting for a period of not more than 15 minutes and leave the chair. The Council, on reassembling, must, on a question put from the chair, decide without debate whether the business is to be proceeded with or not. This subclause applies to disorder arising from the conduct of members of the public as well a disorder arising from the conduct of Councillors. [LGGR 257(1)]
- (ii) A member of the public may, as provided by subclause 65 (iii), be expelled from a meeting of the Council for engaging in or having engaged in disorderly conduct at the meeting. [LGGR 257(2)]
- (iii) A Councillor may, as provided by subclause 65 (iii), be expelled from a meeting of the Council for engaging in or having engaged in disorderly conduct at the meeting.

43 POWER TO REMOVE PERSONS FROM MEETING AFTER EXPULSION RESOLUTION [LGGR 258]

If a Councillor or a member of the public fails to leave the place where a meeting of the Council is being held:

- (i) immediately after the Council has passed a resolution expelling the Councillor or member from the meeting; or
- (ii) where the Council has authorised the person presiding at the meeting to exercise the power of expulsion, immediately after being directed by the person presiding to leave the meeting,

a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the Council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the Councillor or member from that place, and, if necessary, restrain the Councillor or member from re-entering that place.

PART 5 - COUNCIL COMMITTEES

44 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE [LGGR 259, S373 & LP]

- (i) The Council may resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider any matter before the Council.
- (ii) All the provisions of this code relating to meetings of the Council, so far as they are applicable, extend to and govern the proceedings of a committee of the whole, except the provisions:
 - (a) limiting the number and duration of speeches; and
 - (b) requiring Councillors to stand when speaking.

- (iii) The General Manager or, in the absence of the General Manager, an employee of the Council designated by the General Manager is responsible for reporting to the Council proceedings in a committee of the whole. It is not necessary to report the proceedings in full but any recommendations of the Committee must be reported.
- (iv) The Council must ensure that a report of the proceedings (including any recommendations of the committee) is recorded in the Council's minutes. However, the Council is not taken to have adopted the report until a motion for adoption has been made and passed.

45 COUNCIL MAY ESTABLISH COMMITTEES [LGGR 260]

- (i) A Council may, by resolution, establish such Committees as it considers necessary.
- (ii) A Committee is to consist of the Mayor and such other Councillors as **ARE ELECTED** by the Councillors or **APPOINTED** by the Council.
- (iii) The quorum for a meeting of a Committee is to be:
 - (a) such number of members as the Council decides; or
 - (b) if the Council has not decided a number - a majority of the members of the Committee.

46 FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEES [LGGR 261]

- (i) The Council **MUST** specify the **FUNCTIONS** of each of its Committees when the Committee is established, but may from time to time amend those functions.

47 NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO BE GIVEN [LGGR 262]

- (i) The General Manager of the Council must send to each Councillor, at least 3 days before each meeting of the Committee, a notice specifying:
 - (a) the time and place at which and the date on which the meeting is to be held; and
 - (b) the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.
- (ii) However, notice of less than 3 days may be given of a Committee meeting called in an emergency.
- (iii) The provisions of clause 18(i)-(iv) apply to the agenda and business papers of Committee meetings in the same manner as they apply to the agenda and business papers of meetings of the Council.

Deleted: (ii) . The functions of Council's two Principal Committees are specified in the attached **Appendices B and C**.

48 NON-MEMBERS ENTITLED TO ATTEND COMMITTEE MEETINGS [LGGR 263]

- (i) A Councillor who is not a member of a Committee of a Council is entitled to attend, and to speak at, a meeting of the Committee.
- (ii) However, the Councillor is not entitled:

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- (a) to give notice of business for inclusion in the agenda for the meeting, or
 - (b) to move or second a motion at the meeting, or
 - (c) to vote at the meeting.

49 CLOSURE OF PART OF COMMITTEE MEETING - REPRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC [LGGR 264]

- (i) The Mayor or chairperson presiding at a meeting of the Council or a Committee of the Council of which all the members are Councillors **MAY ALLOW** members of the public to make representations as to whether a part of the meeting of the Council or a Committee should be closed to the public after a motion has been moved and seconded and before the motion is put. [S10(A)(4)]
- (ii) A representation at a Council meeting by a member of the public as to whether a part of the meeting should be closed to the public can only be made for a fixed period immediately after the motion to close the part of the meeting is moved and seconded.[LGGR 252(1) & LGGR 264(1)]

50 COMMITTEES TO KEEP MINUTES [LGGR 266]

- (i) Each Committee of the Council must ensure that full and accurate minutes of the proceedings of its meetings are kept. In particular, a Committee must ensure that the following matters are recorded in the Committee's minutes:
 - (a) details of each motion moved at a meeting and of any amendments moved to it,
 - (b) the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment,
 - (c) whether the motion or amendment is passed or lost.
- (ii) As soon as the minutes of an earlier meeting of a Committee of the Council have been confirmed at a later meeting of the Committee, the person presiding at the later meeting must sign the minutes of the earlier meeting.

51 PROCEDURE IN COMMITTEES [LGGR 265]

- (i) Subject to clause 47(iii), each Committee of the Council may regulate its own procedure.
- (ii) Without limiting clause 47(i), a Committee of the Council may decide that, whenever the voting on a motion put to a meeting of the Committee is equal, the chairperson of the Committee is to have a casting vote as well as an original vote.
- (iii) Voting at a Committee meeting is to be by open means (such as on the voices or by show of hands).

52 CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES [LGGR 267]

- (i) The chairperson of each Committee of the Council must be:
 - (a) the Mayor; or

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- (b) if the Mayor does not wish to be the chairperson of a Committee - a member of the Committee elected by the Council; or
 - (c) if the Council does not elect such a member - a member of the Committee elected by the Committee.
- (ii) The Council may elect a member of a Committee of the Council as deputy chairperson of the Committee. If the Council does not elect a deputy chairperson of such a Committee, the Committee may elect a deputy chairperson.
 - (iii) If neither the chairperson nor the deputy chairperson of a Committee of the Council is able or willing to preside at a meeting of the Committee, the Committee must elect a member of the Committee to be acting chairperson of the Committee.
 - (iv) The chairperson is to preside at a meeting of a Committee of the Council. If the chairperson is unable or unwilling to preside, the deputy chairperson (if any) is to preside at the meeting, but if neither the chairperson nor the deputy chairperson is able or willing to preside, the acting chairperson is to preside at the meeting.
 - (v) The Councillor appointed from time to time as chairperson and deputy chairperson under clause 267 of the Regulation [LGGR 267] of a Council Committee is authorised to exercise the power of expulsion of a Councillor or Committee Member from a Committee meeting for engaging in or having had engaged in disorderly conduct at the meeting, such disorderly conduct being in the nature identified in clause 256 of the Regulation [LGGR 256].
 - (vi) The Councillor appointed from time to time as chairperson and deputy chairperson under clause 267 of the Regulation [LGGR 267] of a Council Committee is authorised to exercise the power of expulsion of a member of the public engaging in or having had engaged in disorderly conduct at the meeting.

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53 ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS [LGGR 268]

- (i) A member ceases to be a member of a Committee if the member (other than the Mayor);
 - (a) has been absent from 3 consecutive meetings of the Committee without having given reasons acceptable to the Committee for the member's absences; or
 - (b) has been absent from at least half of the meetings of the Committee held during the immediately preceding year without having given to the Committee acceptable reasons for the member's absences.
- (ii) Clause 53(i) does not apply if all of the members of the Council are members of the Committee.

Note: The expression "year" means the period beginning 1 July and ending the following 30 June. See the dictionary to the Act.

54 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE [LGGR 269]

- (i) If in a report of a Committee of the Council distinct recommendations are made, the decision of the Council may be made separately on each recommendation.

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- (ii) The recommendations of a Committee of the Council are, in so far as adopted by the Council, resolutions of the Council.
 - (iii) If a Committee of the Council passes a resolution, or makes a recommendation, during a meeting, or part of a meeting, that is closed to the public, the chairperson must:
 - (a) make the resolution or recommendation public as soon as practicable after the meeting or part of the meeting has ended; and
 - (b) report the resolution or recommendation to the next meeting of the Council.

55 DISORDER IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS [LGGR 270]

The provisions of the Act, the Regulation and this code relating to the maintenance of order in Council meetings apply to meetings of Committees of the Council in the same way as they apply to meetings of the Council.

56 COMMITTEE MAY EXPEL CERTAIN PERSONS FROM ITS MEETINGS [LGGR 271]

- (i) If a meeting or part of a meeting of a Committee of the Council is closed to the public in accordance with clause 66(i), any person who is not a Councillor may be expelled from the meeting as provided by clause 65(iii) of this code.
- (ii) If any such person, after being notified of a resolution or direction expelling him or her from the meeting, fails to leave the place where the meeting is being held, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the Council, Committee nor person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the first-mentioned person from that place, and, if necessary, restrain that person from re-entering that place.

PART 6 - PECUNIARY INTERESTS

57 PECUNIARY INTEREST [S 442]

- (i) For the purposes of this part, a pecuniary interest is an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person or another person with whom the person is associated as provided in clause 58.
- (ii) A person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to a matter or if the interest is of a kind specified in clause 58.

58 PERSONS WHO HAVE A PECUNIARY INTEREST [S 443]

- (i) For the purposes of this part, a person has a pecuniary interest in a matter if the pecuniary interest is the interest of:
 - (a) the person; or
 - (b) another person with whom the person is associated.

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- (ii) A person is taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter if:
 - (a) the person's spouse or de facto partner or a relative of the person, or a partner or employer of the person, has a pecuniary interest in the matter, or
 - (b) the person, or a nominee, partner or employer of the person, is a member of a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter.
 - (iii) However, a person is not taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter as referred to in clause 58(ii):
 - (a) if the person is unaware of the relevant pecuniary interest of the spouse, de facto partner, relative, partner, employer or company or other body, or
 - (b) just because the person is a member of, or is employed by, a Council or a statutory body or is employed by the Crown, or
 - (c) just because the person is a member of, or a delegate of a Council to, a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter, so long as the person has no beneficial interest in any shares of the company or body.

59 INTERESTS THAT NEED NOT BE DISCLOSED [S 448]

The following interests do not need to be disclosed for the purposes of this part:

- (i) an interest as an elector
- (ii) an interest as a ratepayer or a person liable to pay a charge
- (iii) an interest in any matter relating to the terms on which the provision of a service or the supply of goods or commodities is offered to the public generally, or to a section of the public that includes persons who are not subject to this Part
- (iv) an interest in any matter relating to the terms on which the provision of a service or the supply of goods or commodities is offered to a relative of the person by the Council in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as apply to persons who are not subject to this Part
- (v) an interest as a member of a club or other organisation or association, unless the interest is as the holder of an office in the club or organisation (whether remunerated or not)
- (vi) an interest of a member of a Council Committee as a person chosen to represent the community or as a member of a non-profit organisation or other community or special interest group if the Committee member has been appointed to represent the organisation or group on the Committee
- (vii) an interest in a proposal relating to the making, amending, altering or repeal of an environmental planning instrument, other than an instrument that effects a change of permissible uses of:
 - (a) land in which the person or another person with whom the person is associated as provided in Clause 58 has a proprietary interest (which, for the purposes of this paragraph, includes any entitlement to the land at law

or in equity and any other interest or potential interest in the land arising out of any mortgage, lease, trust, option or contract, or otherwise), or

- (b) land adjoining, adjacent to or in proximity to land referred to in subparagraph (a);

if the person or the other person with whom the person is associated would by reason of the proprietary interest have a pecuniary interest in the proposal,

- (viii) an interest relating to a contract, proposed contract or other matter if the interest arises only because of a beneficial interest in shares in a company that does not exceed 10 per cent of the voting rights in the company,
- (ix) an interest of a person arising from the proposed making by the Council of an agreement between the Council and a corporation, association or partnership, being a corporation, association or partnership that has more than 25 members, if the interest arises because a relative of the person is a shareholder (but not a director) of the corporation or is a member (but not a member of the Committee) of the association or is a partner of the partnership,
- (x) an interest of a person arising from the making by the Council of a contract or agreement with a relative of the person for or in relation to any of the following, but only if the proposed contract or agreement is similar in terms and conditions to such contracts and agreements as have been made, or as are proposed to be made, by the Council in respect of similar matters with other residents of the area:
- (a) the performance by the Council at the expense of the relative of any work or service in connection with roads or sanitation,
- (b) security for damage to footpaths or roads,
- (c) any other service to be rendered, or act to be done, by the Council by or under any Act conferring functions on the Council or by or under any contract,
- (xi) an interest relating to the payment of fees to Councillors (including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor),
- (xii) an interest relating to the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to Councillors (including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor) in accordance with a policy under [Section 252](#) of the Act (S 252),
- (xiii) an interest relating to an election to the office of Mayor arising from the fact that a fee for the following 12 months has been determined for the office of Mayor,
- (xiv) an interest of a person arising from the passing for payment of a regular account for wages or salary of an employee who is a relative of the person,
- (xv) an interest arising from being covered by, or a proposal to be covered by, indemnity insurance as a Councillor or member of a Council Committee,
- (xvi) an interest arising from appointment of a Councillor to a body as representative or delegate of the Council, whether or not a fee or other recompense is payable to the representative or delegate.

60 DISCLOSURE AND PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

- (i) A Councillor or a member of a Council Committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Council is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Council or Committee at which the matter is being considered must disclose the interest and the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. [S 451(1)]
- (ii) The general thrust of the Local Government Act 1993 is for greater transparency and accountability of the management and operation of the Council. Given the thrust of the Act, the attention of Councillors, designated persons, members of staff, advisers and delegates is drawn to the following criteria to determine the extent of disclosure of the nature of the interest to the meeting necessary to observe the statutory requirements of section 451 of the Act to satisfy the requirements of the Act for greater transparency and accountability in the management and operation of the Council:
- (a) The details are sufficient to enable other Councillors, Committee members and the public to appreciate in general terms the connection of the person with the matter under consideration.
- (b) The disclosure does not reveal sensitive information which is not relevant to the matter before the Council or Committee.
- (c) The disclosure does not reveal information which may be unnecessarily damaging to the reputation of some person(s) with whom the person disclosing the interest is associated.
- (d) The disclosure will not unnecessarily prejudice a sensitive commercial or legal situation.
- (iii) A general notice given to the General Manager in writing by a Councillor or a member of a Council Committee to the effect that the Councillor or member, or the Councillor's or member's spouse, de facto partner or relative, is:
- (a) a member, or in the employment, of a specified company or other body; or
- (b) a partner, or in the employment, of a specified person,

is, unless and until the notice is withdrawn, sufficient disclosure of the Councillor's or member's interest in a matter relating to the specified company, body or person that may be the subject of consideration by the Council or Council Committee after the date of the notice. [S 454]

(iv) Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests Forms

- A Councillor who has a pecuniary interest in a principal environmental planning instrument (applying to the whole or a significant part of the Council's area, may participate in the discussion of and vote on the instrument, provided that they make a special disclosure
- A special disclosure in relation to the interest must be made before the commencement of the council meeting or the council committee meeting, and must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting

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- The special disclosure must be in the form prescribed, and contact the information required, by the Regulation

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See Attachment 7 - DLG Circular 12-28 - Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests Form

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- (v) The councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the council or Committee:

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- (a) at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the Council or Committee [S 451(2)(a)], or
- (b) at any time during which the Council or Committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter. [S 451(2)(b)]

- (vi) This clause does not prevent a person from taking part in the consideration or discussion of, or from voting on, any question as provided for in clause 59.

- (vii) A person who, at the request or with the consent of the Council or a Council Committee, gives advice on any matter at any meeting of the Council or Committee must disclose the pecuniary interest and the nature of any pecuniary interest that the person has in the matter to the meeting at the time the advice is given. The person is not required to disclose the person's interest as an adviser. [S 447 & 456]

- (viii) A person does not breach this clause if the person did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.[S 457]

- (ix) Despite clause 60(v) a councillor who has disclosed that a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists may participate in a decision to delegate council's decision-making role to council staff through the general manager, or appoint another person or body to make the decision in accordance with the law. This applies whether or not council would be deprived of a quorum if one or more councillors were to manage their conflict of interests by not voting on a matter in accordance with clause 4.16(b) above.

61 DISCLOSURES TO BE RECORDED [S 453]

A disclosure made at a meeting of the Council or Council Committee must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

62 POWERS OF THE MINISTER IN RELATION TO MEETINGS [S 458]

The Minister may, conditionally or unconditionally, allow a Councillor or a member of a Council Committee who has a pecuniary interest in a matter with which the Council is concerned to be present at a meeting of the Council or Committee to take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter and to vote on the matter if the Minister is of the opinion:

- (i) that the number of Councillors prevented from voting would be so great a proportion of the whole as to impede the transaction of business; or
- (ii) that it is in the interests of the electors of the area to do so.

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PART 7 - CONFLICT OF INTEREST

63 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- (i) A Councillor, member of staff, delegate and member of a Council Committee must avoid and appropriately resolve any conflict or incompatibility between his or her private or personal interest and the impartial performance of his or her public or professional duties.
- (ii) A “conflict of interest” is a private or personal interest (perceived or real) which does not relate to money (financial gain or loss) and arises out of kinship, friendship, membership of an association, society or trade union, or involvement or interest in an activity which could influence the capacity of a Councillor, member of staff, delegate or a member of a Council Committee to perform their public or professional duties impartially.
- (iii) The mere fact that a person has both a public or professional duty and a private or personal interest in relation to a particular matter does not necessarily mean that the two must be in conflict. What is important is how any conflict of interest, if it exists, is dealt with and the public perception of the way the person deals with any such conflict of interest. A person with a “conflict of interest” should not do anything which he or she could not justify to the public and should avoid any occasion of reasonable suspicion or the appearance of improper conduct or the partial performance of his or her public or professional duties. Unlike a “pecuniary interest”, a perceived or real “conflict of interest” need not mean automatic or complete exclusion from participation in the discussion and decision making. The onus is on the Councillor, member of staff, delegate or member of a Council Committee to determine the nature of the interest and decide whether it could influence the capacity of the person to perform their public or professional duties impartially.
- (iv) A conflict of interest arises if it is likely that the person with the private or personal interest (perceived or real) could be prejudicially influenced in the performance of his or her public or professional duties by that interest, or that a reasonable person would believe that the person could be so influenced.
- (v) Where the interest in question is a “pecuniary interest”, the person with the interest must comply with **Part 2 of Chapter 14** of the Local Government Act 1993.
- (vi) Where a conflict of interest (perceived or real) exists, and where practicable, the onus is on the Councillor, member of staff, delegate and member of a Council Committee to disclose the conflict of interest and the nature of the interest in writing to the Council, the Mayor or the General Manager, as appropriate.
- (vii) Where a conflict of interest (perceived or real) arises in respect of a matter during a meeting of the Council or Council Committee, the Councillor, delegate or member of a Council Committee should disclose to the meeting the conflict of interest and the nature of the interest. Depending on the nature of the conflict of interest, the person should then decide whether or not they will participate in consideration of or voting on the matter
- (viii) Where the person discloses a conflict of interest and decides not to take part in consideration of or voting on the matter due to the nature of the conflict of interest, it is necessary for the person to leave the Council Chamber or

Committee meeting room at the time the vote is taken. Otherwise, the person will be taken to have voted in the negative.

- (ix) The disclosure of the conflict of interest will be recorded in the minutes of the Council or Council Committee meeting and a record of the disclosure of the conflict of interest will be kept by the Council.
- (x) A Councillor, member of staff, delegate or a member of a Council Committee is encouraged to err on the side of caution by disclosing a conflict of interest and by not participating in discussion or in decision making if there is any doubt. If the person is aware in advance of a possible conflict of interest, or where the person is unsure whether a conflict of interest exists, the person is encouraged to seek legal or other appropriate advice and act accordingly. In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for the Council to obtain legal advice on the person's behalf.

PART 8 - PUBLIC

64 PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETINGS [S 9]

- (i) The Council must give notice to the public of the times, dates and places of its meetings and meetings of those of its Committees of which all the members are Councillors. [S 9(1)]
- (ii) A notice of a meeting of the Council or Committee meeting must be published in a newspaper circulating in the area before the meeting takes place. [LGGR 232(2)]
- (iii) The notice must specify the time and place of the meeting. [LGGR 232(3)]
- (iv) Notice of more than one meeting may be given in the same notice. [LGGR 232(4)]
- (v) Clause (ii) does not apply to an extraordinary meeting of the Council or a Committee of the Council. [LGGR 232(5)]
- (vi) The Council and each such Committee must have available for the public at its offices and at each meeting copies (for inspection and taking away by persons) of the agenda and associated business papers (such as correspondence and reports) for the meeting. [S 9(2)]
- (vii) In the case of a meeting whose agenda includes the receipt of information or discussion of other matters that, in the opinion of the General Manager, is likely to take place when the meeting is closed to the public:
 - (a) the agenda for the meeting must indicate that the relevant item of business is of such a nature (but must not give details of that item), and
 - (b) the requirements of clause (vi) with respect to the availability of business papers do not apply to the business papers for that item of business. [S 9(2A)]
- (viii) The copies are to be available free of charge. [S 9(4)]

- (ix) The copies are to be available to the public as nearly as possible to the time that they are available to Councillors. [S 9(3)]
- (x) A notice given under this clause or a copy of an agenda or of a business paper made available under this clause may in addition be given or made available in electronic form. [S 9(5)]

65 ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL ORDINARY, EXTRAORDINARY AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- (i) Everyone is entitled to attend Ordinary Council Meetings and Extraordinary Council Meetings except as provided by this clause. [S10 (1) (a)]
- (ii) The Council must ensure that all meetings of the Council and of such Committees are open to the public. [S10(1)(b)]
- (iii) A person (whether a Councillor or another person) is not entitled to be present at a meeting of the Council or of such a Committee if expelled from the meeting:
 - (a) by a resolution of the meeting, or
 - (b) by the person presiding at the meeting if the Council has, by resolution, authorised the person presiding to exercise the power of expulsion. [S10(2)]
- (iv) A person may be expelled from a meeting only on the grounds specified in, or in the circumstances prescribed by, the regulations. [S10(3)]

66 GROUNDS FOR CLOSURE OF A MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

- (i) The Council or a Committee of the Council which all the members are Councillors, may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises the discussion of any the following matters, or the receipt or discussion of any of the following information:
 - (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals other than Councillors;
 - (b) personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
 - (c) information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;
 - (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or
 - reveal a trade secret;
 - (e) information that would, if disclosed prejudice the maintenance of law;

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Deleted: and meetings of the Council's Principal Committees of which all the members are Councillors,

Deleted: (v) Council's Principal Committees comprise those as listed in the Appendices. ¶

(vi) Up to 15 minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting will be made available for members of the public to address the Council or submit questions, either verbally or in writing. Priority will be given to those addressing the Council or asking questions on matters included in the Business Paper. Members of the public will be permitted a maximum of 3 minutes to address or ask a question of the Council. ¶

¶ An extension of time may be granted if deemed necessary by the Council, such extension shall be by resolution of Council. Every such address or question is to be put directly, succinctly and without argument. Each member of the public wishing to use this Public Forum Session be required to state their name and shall be permitted to make an address or to ask two questions. ¶

If time permits members of the public may be permitted to make further addresses or ask further questions of Council. A précis of the address or question by a member(s) of the public shall be recorded in the Council minutes. Questions may be answered at the meeting or taken on notice and dealt with in accordance with Clause 249 of the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. ¶

(vii) Members of the public will not be permitted to use the Public Forum for the purpose of abusing, vilifying, insulting, threatening, intimidating or harassing Councillors, Council staff or other members of the public. Conduct of this nature will be deemed to be an act of disorder and the person engaging in such behaviour will be ruled out of order by the Mayor and may be expelled from the Council Meeting. ¶

¶ (viii) Members of the public will not be permitted to raise matters or provide information which involves: ¶

¶ a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals; ¶

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- (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property;
 - (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege;
 - (h) during the receipt of information or discussion of information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land. [S10A (1) and S 10A(2)]
- (ii) The Council, or a Committee of the Council of which all the members are Councillors, may also close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public. [S 10A(3)]
 - (iii) A meeting of the council or a Committee is not to remain closed to the public during the discussion of anything referred to in clause 66 (i):
 - (a) except for so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security, and
 - (b) if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret-unless the Council or Committee concerned is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. [S 10B(1)]
 - (iv) A meeting is not to be closed during the receipt and consideration of information or advice referred to in clause 66 (i) (g) unless the legal advice concerns legal matters that:
 - (a) are substantial issues relating to a matter in which the Council or Committee is involved, and
 - (b) are clearly identified in the advice, and
 - (c) are fully discussed in that advice. [S10B(2)]
 - (v) If a meeting is closed to the public during the discussion of a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (as referred to in clause 66 (ii)), the consideration of the motion must not include any consideration of the matter of information to be discussed in that other part of the meeting (other than consideration of whether the matter concerned is a matter referred to in clause 66 (i)). [S 10B(3)]
 - (vi) For the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:
 - (a) a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or
 - (b) the discussion of the matter may:
 - cause embarrassment to the Council or Committee concerned, or to Councillors or to employees of the Council, or
 - cause a loss of confidence in the Council or Committee. [S 10B(4)]

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- (vii) In deciding whether a part of a meeting is to be closed to the public, the Council or Committee concerned must have regard to any relevant guidelines issued by the Director-General of the Department of Local Government. [S 10B(5)]
 - (viii) Part of a meeting of the Council, or of a Committee of the Council of which all the members are Councillors, may be closed to the public while the Council or Committee considers a matter that has not been identified in the agenda for the meeting as a matter that is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed, but only if:
 - (a) it becomes apparent during the discussion of a particular matter that the matter is a matter referred to in clause 66 (i), and
 - (b) the Council or Committee, after considering any representations made under clause 67 (i), resolves that further discussion of the matter:
 - should not be deferred (because of the urgency of the matter), and
 - should take place in a part of the meeting that is closed to the public. [S 10C]
 - (ix) The grounds on which part of a meeting is closed to the public must be stated in the decision (resolution) to close that part of the meeting and must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. [S 10D(1)]
 - (x) The grounds on which part of a meeting is closed to the public must specify:
 - (a) the relevant ground or grounds identified in clause 66(i),
 - (b) the matter that is to be discussed during the closed part of the meeting,
 - (c) the reasons why part of the meeting is being closed, including (if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret) an explanation of the way in which the discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest. [S10D (2)]
 - (xi) Nothing in this clause prevents any limitation being placed on the number of members of the public admitted to a meeting of the Council or a Committee of the Council, provided such limitation is for reason of safety or security.

67 CLOSURE OF PART OF MEETING - REPRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (i) A Council or a Committee of the Council, may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a Council or Principal Committee meeting, before the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed to the public. [S 10A(4)]
- (ii) A representation at a Council meeting by a member of the public as to whether a part of the meeting should be closed to the public can only be made for a fixed period immediately after the motion to close the part of the meeting is moved and seconded.[LGGR 252(1)]

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- (iii) The Mayor or chairperson presiding at a meeting of the Council or a Committee of the Council of which all the members are Councillors may invite representations from members of the public in attendance at the meeting as to whether a part of the meeting of the Council or a Committee should be closed to the public after a motion has been moved and seconded and before the motion is put.**[LP]**

68 PUBLIC ACCESS TO CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS [S 11]

- (i) The Council and a Committee of which all the members are Councillors must, during or at the close of a meeting, or during the business day following the meeting, give reasonable access to any person to inspect correspondence and reports laid on the table at, or submitted to, the meeting.
- (ii) This clause does not apply if the correspondence or reports:
- (a) relate to a matter that was received or discussed; or
 - (b) were laid on the table at, or submitted to, the meeting, when the meeting was closed to the public.
- (iii) This clause does not apply if the Council or Council Committee resolves at the meeting, when open to the public, that the correspondence or reports, because they relate to a matter specified in Clause 66(i) of this code, are to be treated as confidential.

PART 9 - MISCELLANEOUS

69 INFORMATION RELATING TO PROCEEDINGS AT CLOSED MEETINGS NOT TO BE DISCLOSED

- (i) A person must not disclose any information obtained in connection with the administration or execution of the Local Government Act 1993 unless that disclosure is made:
- (a) with the consent of the person from whom the information was obtained; or
 - (b) in connection with the administration or execution of the Local Government Act 1993; or
 - (c) for the purposes of any legal proceedings arising out of the Local Government Act 1993 or of any report of any such proceedings; or
 - (d) in accordance with a requirement imposed under the Ombudsman Act 1974 or the Freedom of Information Act 1989; or
 - (e) with other lawful excuse. **[S 664(1)]**
- (ii) If a meeting or part of a meeting of the Council or a Committee of the Council is closed to the public in accordance with clause 66(i), a person must not, without the authority of the Council or the Committee, disclose, otherwise than to the Council or to a Councillor, information with respect to the discussion at, or the business of, the meeting. **[S 664(1A)]**

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- (iii) Subclause (ii) does not apply to:
 - (a) to the report of a Committee of the Council when presented to the Council;
or
 - (b) disclosure made in any of the circumstances referred to in subclause (i);
or
 - (c) disclosure made in circumstances prescribed by the regulations.
S664(1B)]
 - (iv) For the purpose of clause 69 (iii) (c), any disclosure made with the intention of enabling the Minister or the Director-General to properly exercise the functions conferred or imposed on them by or under the Local Government Act 1993 is a prescribed circumstance.**[LGGR 412]**

70 INSPECTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OR A COMMITTEE
[LGGR 272]

- (i) An inspection of the minutes of the Council or Committee of the Council is to be carried out under the supervision of the General Manager or an employee of the Council designated by the General Manager to supervise inspections of those minutes.
- (ii) The General Manager must ensure that the minutes of the Council and any minutes of a Committee of the Council are kept secure and in safe custody and that no unauthorised person is allowed to interfere with them.

Note: Section 12 of the Act confers a right to inspect the minutes of a Council or Committee of a Council.

71 AUDIO RECORDING OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OR A COMMITTEE
PROHIBITED WITHOUT PERMISSION [LGGR 273]

- (i) A person may use a tape recorder to record the proceedings of a meeting of the Council or a Committee of a Council only with the authority of the Council or Committee.
- (ii) A person may, as provided by clause 65(iii), be expelled from a meeting of the Council or a Committee of the Council for using or having used a tape recorder in contravention of this clause.
- (iii) If any such person, after being notified of such a resolution, fails to leave the place where the meeting is being held, a police officer, or any person authorised by the Council for the purpose, may remove the person from, and, if necessary, restrain the person from re-entering, that place.
- (iv) In this clause, tape recorder includes a video camera and any electronic device capable of recording speech, whether a magnetic tape is used to record or not.

72 PHOTOGRAPHIC AND AUDIO VISUAL RECORDING OF COUNCIL AND
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- (i) Accredited representatives of the following electronic and print media are permitted to take still photographs and make audio visual recordings of Council and Committee Meetings.

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Electronic

Prime Television
WIN Television
Ten Television
AM & FM Band ABC Radio
2LT Radio (AM & FM)
[Lithgow Mercury](#)

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- (ii) Still photographs, audio visual recordings will be permitted from accredited media representatives subject to such media representative not interfering with or impeding the progress or proceedings of any Council or Committee meeting.
- (iii) Accredited representatives of the Media are required to follow the instructions of the General Manager.
- (iv) The Mayor and General Manager reserve the right to prevent the taking of still photographs, audiovisual recordings if in the circumstances it would be inappropriate.

73 COUNCIL SEAL [LGGR 400]

- (i) The seal of a Council must be kept by the Mayor or the General Manager, as the Council determines.
- (ii) The seal of a Council may be affixed to a document only in the presence of:
 - (a) the Mayor and the General Manager; or
 - (b) at least 1 Councillor (other than the Mayor) and the General Manager; or
 - (c) the Mayor and at least 1 other Councillor; or
 - (d) at least 2 Councillors other than the Mayor.
- (iii) The affixing of a Council seal to a document has no effect unless the persons who were present when the seal was affixed (being persons referred to in sub clause (ii)) attest by their signatures that the seal was affixed in their presence.
- (iv) The seal of a Council must not be affixed to a document unless the document relates to the business of the Council and the Council has resolved (by resolution specifically referring to the document) that the seal be so affixed.
- (v) For the purpose of clause 72 (iv), a document in the nature of a reference or certificate of service for an employee of the Council does not relate to the business of the Council.

74 CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT INVALIDATE COUNCIL DECISIONS [S 374]

Proceedings at a meeting of the Council or a Council Committee are not invalidated because of:

- (i) a vacancy in a civic office; or
- (ii) a failure to give notice of the meeting to any Councillor or a Committee member; or

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-
- (iii) any defect in the election or appointment of a Councillor or a Committee member; or
 - (iv) a failure of a Councillor or a Committee member to disclose a pecuniary interest at a Council or a Committee meeting; or
 - (v) a failure to comply with this code.

75 AMENDMENT OF CODE

This code may be amended only in accordance with the provisions of Division 1 of Part 2 of Chapter 12 of the Act.

APPENDIX ONE (1) ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Meeting Date: As resolved by the Council

Matters determined by Ordinary meetings will include all those non - delegable functions identified in Section 377 of the Local Government Act as follows:

- The appointment of a General Manager
- The making of a rate
- A determination under section 549 of the Act as to the levying of a rate
- The making of a charge
- The fixing of a fee
- The borrowing of money
- The voting of money for expenditure on it works, services or operations
- The compulsory acquisition, purchase, sale, exchange or surrender of any land or other property (but not including the sale of items of plant or equipment)
- The acceptance of tenders which are required under the Act to be invited by the Council
- The adoption of a management plan under section 406 of the Act
- The adoption of a financial statement included in an annual financial report
- A decision to classify or reclassify public land under Division 1 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act
- The fixing of an amount or rate for the carrying out by the Council of work on private land
- The decision to carry out work on private land for an amount that is less than the amount or rate fixed by the Council for the carrying out of any such work
- The review of a determination made by the Council, and not by a delegate of the Council, of an application for approval or an application that may be reviewed under section 82A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- The power of the Council to authorise the use of reasonable force for the purpose of gaining entry to premises under section 194 of the Act
- A decision under section 356 of the Act to contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons
- The making of an application or the giving of a notice, to the Governor of Minister
- This power of delegation
- Any function under the Act or any other Act that is expressly required to be exercised by resolution of the Council

Other matters and functions determined by Ordinary Council meetings will include:

- Notices of Motion
- Notices of Motion of Rescission
- Council elections, polls, Constitution Referendums and Public hearings / inquiries
- Ministerial Committees and inquiries
- Mayor and Councillors annual fees
- Payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Mayor and Councillors
- Local Government remuneration tribunal
- Local Government Boundaries

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	General Order of Business
	Welcome and evacuation message
1	Apologies
2	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings
3	Public Forum
4	Declaration of Interests - Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary
5	Mayoral Minute
6	Notices of Rescissions
7	Notices of Motion
8	Correspondence and Reports
9	Reports from Delegates
10	Business of Great Urgency (as identified by Clause 241 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005)
11	Closed Meeting ... [2]

- NSW Ombudsman
- Administrative Decisions Tribunal
- Delegations of Functions by the Minister
- Delegation of Functions to General Manager
- Organisation structure
- Code of Conduct
- Code of Meeting Practice
- Honesty and Disclosure of Interests
- Access to information
- Protection of Privacy
- Enforcement Functions (statutory breaches/prosecutions/recovery of rates)
- Dispute resolution
- Council land and Property development
- Annual Financial Reports, Auditors Reports, Annual Reports and Statement of the environment reports
- Performance of the General Manager
- Equal Employment Opportunity
- Powers of Entry
- Liability and Insurance
- Memberships of organisations
- Affixing of the Common seal of Council

Deleted: and Principal Committees

Deleted: <#>Any matter or function not within the delegable function of Principal Committees¶
<#>Matters referred from Principal Committees for determination¶

Membership: Full Council - Nine (9) Councillors

Quorum: Five (5) members

Chairperson: The Mayor

Deputy Chairperson: The Deputy Mayor

APPENDIX TWO (2) GUIDELINES – REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

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Applications to Address Council

-
- A member of the public may be granted permission to address Council during Public Forum where such a request is received by the General Manager (or his delegate) no later than midday on the day of the Council meeting.
-

This provision is subject to: -

- o Public Forum will be for a period of no more than fifteen (15) minutes, unless otherwise determined by Council.
- o Each speaker being permitted to address Public Forum for up to three (3) minutes.
- o Each speaker being limited to making a statement on any item on the Agenda or otherwise related to Council business.
-
- Applications to address Council are subject to the following qualifications:
 - o Requests to address the Public Forum at Council Meetings will be limited to local issues.
 - o Each address shall be limited to three (3) minutes, and the Council may resolve to extend the address by one further three (3) minutes if considered appropriate.
- The proceedings of all Council Meetings in open session may be recorded
-
- Council accepts no responsibility for any defamatory comments made by the speaker in respect of anything said or any material presented to the Meeting.
-

Addressing Council – Application Process

- All requests are to be made to the Personal Assistant to the Mayor and General Manager by midday on the day of the Council meeting.
- Applicants shall state:

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- o Their name, address and contact telephone number;
- o Organisation or group they are representing (if applicable);
- o Details of the issue to be addressed and the item number of the report in the Business Paper (if applicable) or the questions to be presented to the meeting;
- o Whether they are opposing or supporting the issue or matter (if applicable).

-

Previous Applications and Agenda Items

- Where the applicant has previously addressed Council further applications to address Council will only be accepted if new issues are to be introduced. Issues previously raised are not to be re-canvassed.
- This will not preclude residents addressing Council for the first time on a matter that has previously been the subject of a public forum presentation, question or statement albeit that they intend to raise issues that were previously raised in the public forum.
- The Chairperson and Council staff shall not be obliged to provide a response to the speaker's statement.

Replies to Speakers

- Where an address relates to an issue of general interest, the Mayor or General Manager may provide a reply to the speaker at the conclusion of the address.

Conduct of Speakers

Speakers should conduct themselves with due respect to the Council and observe the Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice, ie not disrupt the conduct of the meeting and to treat all people with respect, and courtesy, and not make defamatory comments. In the event that a speaker does not conduct themselves accordingly, the Chairperson may request the speaker to apologise, desist from the inappropriate behaviour, return to the public gallery and/ or otherwise enact provisions of Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

Members of the public will not be permitted to use the Public Forum for the purpose of abusing, vilifying, insulting, threatening, intimidating or harassing Councillors, Council staff or other members of the public. Conduct of this nature will be deemed to be an act of disorder and the person engaging in such behaviour will be ruled out of order by the Mayor and may be expelled from the Council Meeting.

Members of the public will not be permitted to raise matters or provide information that involves:

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- a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals;
- b) personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer, (unless with the written permission of the subject person(s)).
- c) information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;
- d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or
 - reveal a trade secret;
- e) information that would, if disclosed prejudice the maintenance of law;
- f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property;
- g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege;
- h) on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

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APPENDIX ~~THREE~~ (3) –ACTION REQUEST



Date of request:	
Customer name:	
Customer Address:	
Customer telephone contact:	Home: Work:
If submitted by a Councillor for a Customer, Councillor name:	
Description of work being requested: Include address and as much detail as possible	

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Deleted: Purpose: To determine and / or recommend to Council on matters relating to the strategic direction of the organisation, business activities, performance and audit in accordance with the authority delegated by the Council under Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Deleted: Delegated Functions:
 <#>Management Plan Review (excluding new budget)
 <#>Corporate Plan
 <#>Strategic Planning
 <#>Land use Planning (Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) Development Control Plans (DCPs), Contribution / Developer Servicing Plans)
 <#>Capital projects
 <#>Natural resource management
 <#>Business activity
 <#>Economic development
 <#>Policy Development and Review
 <#>Organisational performance and audit
 <#>Community development and partnering
 <#>Recreation Planning
 <#>Tourism and Marketing
 For a resolution of the Policy and Strategy Committee to be effected, a minimum number of 5 Councillors in favour of the matter must be recorded. If less in number than a recommendation or referral to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council for determination of the matter is to occur.
 Membership: . Full Council - Nine (9) Councillors
 Quorum: . . Five (5) members
 Chairperson: . to be elected / appointed
 Deputy Chairperson: to be elected / appointed

¶

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APPENDIX THREE (3) – PRINCIPAL COMMITTEE – Finance and Services

¶

Meeting date: . As resolved by the Council.

Purpose: . To determine and/or recommend to Council on matters relating to the provision of services and facilities and reporting of Council financial...

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APPENDIX FOUR (4) REQUEST FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL



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We the undersigned wish to seek an extraordinary meeting of Council to deal with the following topic:

SIGNED:

_____ DATE: _____

COUNCILLOR

_____ DATE: _____

COUNCILLOR

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APPENDIX **FIVE (5)** NOTICE OF MOTION

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MOTION TITLE/TOPIC:

Listed by Councillor _____ DATE: _____

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

Signed: _____

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APPENDIX SIX (6) MAYORAL MINUTE



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ITEM: x dd/mm/yy MINUTE TOPIC

REPORT FROM: MAYOR, INSERT NAME

REFERENCE

Min XX-XXX: Meeting name, DD/MM/YYYY

SUMMARY

COMMENTARY

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

ATTACHMENTS

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

Signed: _____

MAYOR

Date: _____

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APPENDIX SEVEN (7) DLG CIRCULAR 12-28 - SPECIAL DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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Circular to Councils

Circular No. 12-28
Date 10 August 2012
Doc ID. A285530

Contact Investigations Team
02 4428 4100
dlg@dlg.nsw.gov.au

SPECIAL DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS FORM

Purpose

The purpose of this Circular is to advise general managers and councillors of the commencement of the exemption from compliance with requirements of the pecuniary interest provisions at meetings in relation to the adoption of principal local environmental plans.

Issue

- An amendment has been made to section 451 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. This amendment provides for a councillor who has a pecuniary interest in a principal environmental planning instrument (applying to the whole or a significant part of the council's area), to participate in the discussion of and vote on the instrument, provided that they make a special disclosure.
- A special disclosure in relation to the interest must be made before the commencement of the council meeting or the council committee meeting, and must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- From 10 August 2012, the special disclosure must be in the form prescribed, and contain the information required, by the Regulation.
- A word version of the prescribed form is provided on the Division's website at: *Directory of Policy Advice for Councils: Pecuniary Interest: Other Resources: Special Disclosures Form*.

Action

General Managers should bring this Circular to the attention of councillors. It is suggested that General Managers, through their planning staff, should provide assistance to councillors to complete the information in the form that relates to the zoning of the properties in which the councillors have an interest.

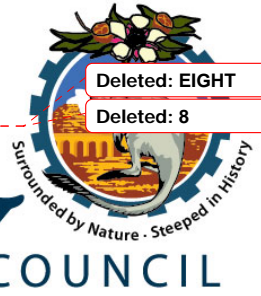
Ross Woodward
Chief Executive, Local Government
A Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet

Division of Local Government
5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209
E dlg@dlg.nsw.gov.au W www.dlg.nsw.gov.au ABN 99 567 863 195

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APPENDIX EIGHT (8) EVACUATION MESSAGE



Welcome to the meeting.

I note there are X people in attendance.

If you are asked to evacuate, the Chairperson will advise you:

- Use the stairs and do not use the lift
- The assembly point following evacuation is in the car park behind the Lithgow Court House and the map is on the wall to guide you.
- The Chairperson will ring 000 to report the emergency.

VERSION CONTROL

V1	Updated 4 January 2006
V2	<p>Draft – Resolved by Council to place on exhibition August 2006 (Minute 06-248) with these amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clause 2 Definitions updated; • Clause 5 correction • Clause 10A – specific resolution of Council required to grant leave of absence and correction to reference to Local Government Act 1993 to correct subclause; • Clause 11 – correcting to reflect new Regulation reference; • Clause 32- correct note reference to Regulation; • Clause 52 – correct to reflect new Regulation reference; • Clause 65 – Amend to identify Principal Committee as referred to in Appendices 2 and 3 rather than name the Committees for ease of future update; • Clause 69– correct to reflect new Regulation reference;
V3	<p>February 2007 (Min 07-56) Council resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alterations to Clause 16 changing “will” record to “may” record meetings; • Clause 19 (v) and (vi) added; • Inclusion of templates 4,5 and 6 • Action requests be lodged with Customer Service rather than through Council meetings to ensure actions can be investigated rapidly. • In the section of "Presentations and Questions from the Public Gallery", the time allocated for questions to be submitted to Council be changed from 12pm to 4pm the day of the meeting.
V4	<p>June 2007 (Min 07-252):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition mayoral minute template 7 and Evacuation message template 8 and alternation of the Schedule to reflect the change; • Clause 7 subclause (iv) taking out the reference that all Councillors must be present as this is not required in the legislation; • Clause 19 (i) amended to 10am Tuesday for Wednesday for lodgement of

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	<p>Notice of Motion for the following meeting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clause 65 (x) is amended from 12 noon to 4pm on the day of the Council or Committee meeting for lodgement of public questions or advice questions will be asked on items in the business paper; • Clause 65 (xi) is added to reflect the process of making presentations to Council with a need for requests to be in writing and topics, meeting date and any special requirements for example audio visual equipment are to be included in the request. Council would consider legitimacy of all presentations and confirm to those seeking formal presentations in writing advice when the presentation can be made. It was noted that presentations are also subject to the requirements of proper notice; • Clause 65 (xii) be added to indicate the Council's determination of public sessions to be held prior to Committee and Council meetings where for 10 and 15 minutes respectively members of the public may ask Councillors any questions without notice; • Added Appendix 8 – After hours chair advising evacuation point in case of emergency; • Clause 66 (vii) note that the Department of Local Government LG Circular 07-08 will be applied.
V5	<p>4 February 2008 (Min P08-04) Council resolved to place on public exhibition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Policy and Strategy Committee commence at 6pm on the first Tuesday of each month; • Council's Finance and Services Committee commence at 6.30pm on the first Tuesday of each month; • The processes to suspend standing orders if Committee times need to be altered be included in the Code of Meeting Practice update; • Council meetings be held on the third Tuesday of each month commencing at 6pm.
V6	<p>21 April 2008 (Min O08-39) Council resolved that the Draft Code of Meeting Practice, Version 5 be adopted.</p>
V7	<p>21 October 2008 (Min O08-159) Council resolved "that Council adopt the Code of Meeting Practice, version 7".</p>
V8	<p>18 November 2008 (Min O08-190) Council resolved to:</p> <p>6.1 Remove the current sub-clauses (vi) to (xii) in Clause 65 relating to the current method for the asking of questions.</p> <p>6.2 Include within Clause 65 the ability to allow questions by the public for up to 15 minutes with the following subclauses being included:</p> <p>(vi) Up to 15 minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting will be made available for</p>

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members of the public to address the Council or submit questions, either verbally or in writing. Priority will be given to those addressing the Council or asking questions on matters included in the Business Paper. Members of the public will be permitted a maximum of 3 minutes to address or ask a question of the Council.

An extension of time may be granted if deemed necessary by the Council, such extension shall be by resolution of Council. Every such address or question is to be put directly, succinctly and without argument. Each member of the public wishing to use this Public Forum Session be required to state their name and shall be permitted to make an address or to ask two questions.

If time permits members of the public may be permitted to make further addresses or ask further questions of Council. A précis of the address or question by a member(s) of the public shall be recorded in the Council minutes. Questions may be answered at the meeting or taken on notice and dealt with in accordance with Clause 249 of the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

- (vii) Members of the public will not be permitted to use the Public Forum for the purpose of abusing, vilifying, insulting, threatening, intimidating or harassing Councillors, Council staff or other members of the public. Conduct of this nature will be deemed to be an act of disorder and the person engaging in such behaviour will be ruled out of order by the Mayor and may be expelled from the Council Meeting.
- (viii) Members of the public will not be permitted to raise matters or provide information which involves:
 - a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals;
 - b) personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer, (unless with the written permission of the subject person(s)).
 - c) information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;
 - d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or
 - reveal a trade secret;
 - e) information that would, if disclosed prejudice the maintenance of law;
 - f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property;
 - g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege;

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	<p>h) on balance, be contrary to the public interest.</p> <p>(ix) Members of the public addressing the Ordinary Council Meeting may be sound recorded. [LP]</p> <p>6.3 Amend the Code of meeting Practice Schedule 'General Order of Business' to read:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apologies 2. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings 3. Public Forum 4. Declaration of Interest 5. Mayoral Minute 6. Notices of Motion 7. Notices of Rescissions 8. Correspondence and Reports 9. Reports from Delegates 10. Business of Great Urgency (as identified by Clause 241 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005) 11. Closed Meeting
V8	<p>27 January 2009 (Min 10-09) Council resolved to:</p> <p>THAT the Council adopts the Draft Code of Meeting Practice and makes the Code of Meeting Practice Version 8 with the following changes made to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Amend the Code of Meeting Practice Schedule 'General Order of Business' to read: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apologies 2. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings 3. Public Forum 4. Declaration of Interest 5. Mayoral Minute 6. Notices of Rescissions 7. Notices of Motion 8. Reports 9. Reports from Delegates 10. Business of Great Urgency (as identified by Clause 241 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005) 11. Closed Meeting
V9	<p>Addition of Clauses 17(IV) and 17(V)</p> <p>Amendment of Clause 19 (i)(a) changing notice by Councillors to 7 working days.</p>

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- (v) Council's Principal Committees comprise those as listed in the Appendices.
- (vi) Up to 15 minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting will be made available for members of the public to address the Council or submit questions, either verbally or in writing. Priority will be given to those addressing the Council or asking questions on matters included in the Business Paper. Members of the public will be permitted a maximum of 3 minutes to address or ask a question of the Council.

An extension of time may be granted if deemed necessary by the Council, such extension shall be by resolution of Council. Every such address or question is to be put directly, succinctly and without argument. Each member of the public wishing to use this Public Forum Session be required to state their name and shall be permitted to make an address or to ask two questions.

If time permits members of the public may be permitted to make further addresses or ask further questions of Council. A précis of the address or question by a member(s) of the public shall be recorded in the Council minutes. Questions may be answered at the meeting or taken on notice and dealt with in accordance with Clause 249 of the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

- (vii) Members of the public will not be permitted to use the Public Forum for the purpose of abusing, vilifying, insulting, threatening, intimidating or harassing Councillors, Council staff or other members of the public. Conduct of this nature will be deemed to be an act of disorder and the person engaging in such behaviour will be ruled out of order by the Mayor and may be expelled from the Council Meeting.
- (viii) Members of the public will not be permitted to raise matters or provide information which involves:
- a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals;
 - b) personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer, (unless with the written permission of the subject person(s)).
 - c) information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;
 - d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or
 - reveal a trade secret;
 - e) information that would, if disclosed prejudice the maintenance of law;
 - f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property;
 - g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege;
- on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
- (ix) Members of the public addressing the Ordinary Council Meeting may be sound recorded. [LP]

SCHEDULE

General Order of Business

Welcome and evacuation message

1 Apologies

2 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

3	Public Forum
4	Declaration of Interests - Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary
5	Mayoral Minute
6	Notices of Rescissions
7	Notices of Motion
8	Correspondence and Reports
9	Reports from Delegates
10	Business of Great Urgency (as identified by Clause 241 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005)
11	Closed Meeting

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Purpose: To determine and / or recommend to Council on matters relating to the strategic direction of the organisation, business activities, performance and audit in accordance with the authority delegated by the Council under Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Delegated Functions:

- Management Plan Review (excluding new budget)
- Corporate Plan
- Strategic Planning
- Land use Planning (Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) Development Control Plans (DCPs), Contribution / Developer Servicing Plans)
- Capital projects
- Natural resource management
- Business activity
- Economic development
- Policy Development and Review
- Organisational performance and audit
- Community development and partnering
- Recreation Planning
- Tourism and Marketing

For a resolution of the Policy and Strategy Committee to be effected, a minimum number of 5 Councillors in favour of the matter must be recorded. If less in number

than a recommendation or referral to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council for determination of the matter is to occur.

Membership: Full Council - Nine (9) Councillors

Quorum: Five (5) members

Chairperson: to be elected / appointed

Deputy Chairperson: to be elected / appointed

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APPENDIX THREE (3) – PRINCIPAL COMMITTEE – Finance and Services

Meeting date: As resolved by the Council.

Purpose: To determine and/or recommend to Council on matters relating to the provision of services and facilities and reporting of Council finances in accordance with the functions to the Committees delegated role under Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Delegated Functions:

- Development Applications
- Regulatory Compliances
- Sports Advisory
- Community Services
- Cultural Services
- Community Health and Safety
- Public Buildings
- Events
- Roads, Bridges and Drainage
- Waste management
- Water and wastewater
- Traffic management and parking
- Emergency services
- Flood plain management and mitigation
- Budget Review
- Certificates of expenditure / investments

For a resolution of the Finance and Services to be effected, a minimum number of 5 Councillors in favour of the matter must be recorded. If less in number than a recommendation or referral to the next ordinary meeting of Council for determination of the matter is to occur.

Membership: Full Council - Nine (9) Councillors

Quorum: Five (5) members

Chairperson: to be elected / appointed

Deputy Chairperson: to be elected / appointed

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