
Item 5: Mayoral Minute

5.1.1 Code of Meeting Practice – Amendment

MAYORAL MINUTE TO 5 FEBRUARY 2014 COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting procedures

GOV400038, GOV400020

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the Mayoral Minute regarding Code of Meeting Practice – Amendment be received; and
2. Council delete existing clause 35 of the Council's Code of Meeting Practice and replace with the following:

“35 MODE OF ADDRESS

- (1) All Councillors and staff, other than the Chairperson, who are invited to speak at a Council meeting must stand to address Council, unless prevented from doing so by disability or injury;
- (2) When Councillors wish to address the Council, they shall indicate by raising their hand and await the invitation by the Chairperson to speak;
- (3) A Councillor will not be required to stand when moving or seconding a motion only;
- (4) When the Chairperson stands any Councillor and/or staff who are speaking shall cease speaking and resume their seats immediately;
- (5) Where the Chairperson, a Councillor or staff member is speaking, all others present in the Chamber shall remain silent unless raising a point of order;
- (6) In addressing the Council, Councillors, staff and other persons addressing the Council shall at all times address other Councillors by their official designation, as Mayor or Councillor, as the case may be;
- (7) Councillors shall at all times conduct themselves in accordance with the general conduct obligations contained in the Council's Code of Conduct and shall respect the right of their fellow Councillors to speak without interruption.

I have been giving some consideration to how the meetings proceed in our Council Chambers, and now wish to seek Council's approval to introduce a process where Councillors stand to speak. It is my understanding that this used to occur in a number of Councils around Australia. This Mayoral Minute changes Clause 35 of the Code of Meeting Practice that will require Councillors and Staff to stand while addressing Council other than for the moving and seconding of motions. I believe this will give the authority to Councillors addressing the Council to speak without interruption unless of course a point of order is raised during the discussion.

I have been advised by staff that this change to the Code of Meeting Practice will require public advertisement for 28 days, however I am seeking from Council that we commence this process of standing when addressing the Council from this meeting onwards as a matter of good meeting practice and governance in the Chamber.



GR DES KENNEDY, MAYOR