



BRIEFING NOTE

To:	All Councillors
From:	Sharon Bowman, Director Corporate
Date:	29 May 2026
Subject:	Code of Meeting Practice

Dear Councillors,

You may have heard that on Tuesday 26 May 2026 a motion was passed to disallow the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025*.

The *Local Government Act 1993* Act requires all NSW councils to adopt a Code of Meeting Practice that is consistent with the Model Code of Meeting Practice prescribed by regulations. The *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025* (Regulation) was passed in September 2025, and prescribed the 2025 Model Meeting Code. On 9 December 2025 Council adopted a Code of Meeting Practice that complied with the 2025 Model Meeting Code.

The disallowance of the Regulation means the 2025 Model Meeting Code is no longer prescribed for the purposes of the Act and the previous 2021 version of the Model Meeting Code now becomes the prescribed version. The effect of this is that the provisions of the Code of Meeting Practice adopted by Council in December 2025 that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code are no longer permissible.

The advice from OLG is:

- Each council should rescind its resolution adopting the 2025 Model Meeting Code as the first item of business at the next meeting, to minimise confusion and ensure compliance with the Act.
- This will reinstate the previous adopted code of meeting practice. Because more than 3 months have passed since the adoption of the Code of Meeting Practice, the signatures of 3 councillors are not required to rescind the resolution adopting the code.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 16 June 2026, officers will present a report recommending that Council rescind the resolution which adopted the current Code of Meeting Practice. If passed, the key effect of this resolution will be that the remainder of the Council Meeting on 16 June 2026 will be governed by the Code of Meeting Practice adopted by Council on 19 August 2025.

We have arranged training for Councillors from an external party on 9 June 2026. This will focus on the Code of Meeting Practice adopted by Council on 19 August 2025, which will take effect at the June 2026 Council meeting directly after Council has resolved to rescind the current Code of Meeting Practice.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sharon Bowman
Director Corporate