

NAMBUCCA VALLEY COUNCIL

Ordinary Council Meeting - 19 March 2025

LATE AGENDA

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MAYORAL MINUTE

ITEM L.1 SF271 190325 MAYORAL MINUTE - REVIEW OF THE CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

AUTHOR/ENQUIRIES: Gary Lee, Mayor

SUMMARY:

There is an anomaly that has occurred with the Council resolution from Item 10.2 at Council's ordinary Council meeting 27 February 2025.

This Mayoral minute is a mechanism to resolve that anomaly.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council provide a report to review the Code of Meeting Practice to be presented to a Council meeting after the Office of Local Government has released their Model Code of Meeting Practice.

BACKGROUND

Council at its ordinary meeting held 27 February 2025 resolved the following with respect to item 10.2 *Proposed Frequency and Timing of Future Council Meetings;*

That Council:

- 1 *Meets once per month at 5:30pm on the third Wednesday of each month.*
- 2 *Hosts a public forum the day prior to a Council Meeting at 5:30pm.*
- 3 *Holds a briefing session (if required), at 4.30pm on the day prior to the Council meeting.*
- 4 *Amends the Code of Meeting Practice to reflect the changes adopted.*
- 5 *Provide a report to review the Code of Meeting Practice to be presented at the next Council meeting.*

The wording for resolution 5 is problematic because it is at odds with the implementation of resolution 1. The Local Government Act, requires the General Manager to 'implement, without undue delay' the lawful decisions of Council. Staff have proceeded to implement resolution 1, the change to meeting frequency, and to now the implementation of resolution 5 would create a conflict where the meeting schedule would have to revert back to the original Council meeting procedures whilst the Code of Meeting Practice is put on public exhibition and allow 42 days for public submissions. This review and public exhibition process will then have to be repeated when the Office of Local Government finalise their Model Code of Meeting Practice, which is due in July.

Deferring the implementation of resolution 5 would have a number of benefits, such as a trial period for Councillors and staff to experience how the monthly meetings and public forums work, how they are received by the public, and allow the fine tuning of meeting protocols prior to a full review of the Code in line with the Office of Local Governments Model Code of Meeting Practice which is due in July 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.