

BULLETIN: 33/2021

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION MEETINGS

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary provisions were inserted in the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA 2020) to allow councils and regional libraries to conduct their meetings virtually. These provisions have been extended twice by Parliament and will expire on 27 April 2022.

There has since been support for virtual meetings to be made permanent by councils after having experienced the flexibility these temporary provisions provide. In light of this, it is proposed that councils and regional libraries be permanently allowed to conduct meetings virtually.

The policy reform focuses on developing a regulatory framework for virtual meetings to ensure standards of transparency and integrity in decision making are maintained. The policy will also contribute towards the Victorian Government's Gender Equality Strategy, Safe and Strong i.e. to achieve 50/50 target gender representation for councillors and mayors by 2025.

Details of the policy can be found in the attached Consultation Paper.

If you have any questions or feedback on the proposed virtual participation meeting policy, please contact Michael Concas, Senior Manager, Local Government Victoria at local.government@ecodev.vic.gov.au by 5pm Wednesday, 30 June 2021.

Regards

Julie Reid
Executive Director
Local Government Victoria

Authorised by Emily Phillips, Deputy Secretary
Local Government and Suburban Development
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions



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