

## BULLETIN: 12/2021

### CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Justice Legislation Amendment (System Enhancements and Other Matters) Bill 2021 was introduced to the Victorian Parliament on 17 February 2021. It proposes an extension to the COVID-19 temporary measures provisions in Part 12 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) through to 26 April 2022.

If passed, the extension will continue to allow councillors and members of delegated committees, special committees, and governing bodies of regional libraries, to participate in meetings remotely by electronic means of communication. Additionally, any requirement that certain council meetings be 'open to the public' could be satisfied by live streaming the meeting on the Council website or placing a recording of the meeting on the Council website as soon as practicable after the meeting.

The change will make these provisions available until 26 April 2022 and repealed from the Act on 27 April 2022.

The Ministerial Good Practice Guideline for Virtual Meetings, approved by the Minister for Local Government, will be updated shortly. The current version is available on the Local Government Victoria website at:

[https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0032/492764/Ministerial-Good-Practice-Guidelines-No-1-Virtual-Meetings.pdf](https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/492764/Ministerial-Good-Practice-Guidelines-No-1-Virtual-Meetings.pdf)

The further extension of these provisions will provide clarity and certainty to councils and allow councils to put the safety and wellbeing of the community and councillors as a priority whilst allowing continued governance in relation to key meetings.

Regards

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Authorised by Sara Harbidge, Acting Deputy Secretary, Local Government and Suburban Development  
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