

# Local Government Victoria Bulletin

## BULLETIN: 21/2022

### REGULATORY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) ACT 2022

The *Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2022* (the Amendment Act) received Royal Assent on 29 March 2022 and is available for viewing on the Victorian Legislation website: <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/regulatory-legislation-amendment-reform-act-2022>.

Included in the Amendment Act are reforms relating to virtual council meetings.

### CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

As outlined in Bulletin 06/2022 (28 January 2022), Part 12 (COVID-19 temporary measures) of the *Local Government Act 2020* allows councillors and members of delegated committees, and governing bodies of regional libraries, to participate in meetings remotely by electronic means of communication.

The Amendment Act will extend the COVID-19 temporary measures provisions through to **1 September 2022**.

#### **From 2 September 2022:**

From 2 September 2022 onwards, councils and regional libraries will be permanently enabled to conduct meetings by electronic means in accordance with relevant Governance Rules (or Local Laws in the case of regional libraries).

This will include enabling meetings to be live streamed on the internet and, in the case of council delegated committee meetings, the recording of the meeting being made available as soon as practicable after the meeting.

These new amendments will be incorporated in Division 2 of Part 3 of the Local Government Act, which relates to council decision making.

LGV is developing guidelines to assist councils in updating their Governance Rules to reflect these permanent changes. New guidelines will be issued by LGV in May.