

Item 13.9

Notices of Motion

Public Forums

By Councillor Forster

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 in August 2017 under the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Act 2016 provide for a model code of meeting practice (Model Meeting Code) to be prescribed by regulation;
- (ii) the Office of Local Government, in consultation with councils, has prepared a consultation draft of the proposed Model Meeting Code which, once it is finalised, will replace the meeting rules currently prescribed in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005;
- (iii) the draft Model Meeting Code includes provisions for NSW councils to hold public forums prior to meetings of committees of the council, as well as prior to the council's ordinary meeting, for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting;
- (iv) it has been the City's practice only to allow members of the public to address meetings of the committees of Council;
- (v) the City's submission on the draft Model Meeting Code did not support the proposal for public forums before ordinary meetings of Council;
- (vi) the City's submission did support voluntary public forums before submissions on items of business to be considered at the meeting; and
- (vii) other councils across NSW already hold public forums prior to ordinary meetings in order to promote transparency and accountability, broaden avenues for public consultation and assist with to the decision-making process; and

(B) request the Chief Executive Officer:

- (i) make provision for a public forum to be held prior to each ordinary meeting of Council, in addition to the provision for the public to address meetings of the committees of Council;
- (ii) establish the rules under which the public forum will operate and advise Councillors via a CEO update; and
- (iii) introduce the public forum prior to the May ordinary meeting of Council.