



14.2 Notice of Motion – Councillor Tim Baxter – Changes to Governance Rules

I, Councillor Tim Baxter, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Meeting of Council on 04 October 2023:

That Council:-

1. Authorises community consultation to occur from Thursday 5 October 2023 to Thursday 2 November 2023 on changes to its Governance Rules (as per Attachment 1) to amend the following meeting procedures:
 - a. Moving and voting en bloc for items is expressly prohibited
 - b. The names of Councillors who spoke on each motion are recorded
 - c. The names of Councillors who voted for and against each motion are recorded, regardless of whether a division was called
2. Notes that community engagement is required in relation to developing or amending the Governance Rules under section 60(4) of the Local Government Act 2020.
3. Notes that if feedback is received during community engagement, a second report will be brought to Council with the results of that process and any recommended changes to the Governance Rules for consideration by Council.
4. Notes that if no feedback is received via community engagement, the amended Governance rules will come into effect upon the conclusion of that process.

Supporting Information

The Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) handed down the Operation Sandon special report on 27 July 2023.

This special report detailed the outcomes of a six-year investigation into allegations of corrupt conduct involving Councillors and property developers in the City of Casey. It also examined the adequacy of Victoria's current systems and controls for safeguarding the integrity of the state's planning processes.

The findings of this report are serious and will have wide-spread implications for Local Government.

As part of the report, IBAC made 34 recommendations to address the risk of corruption and other forms of improper influence and the planning policy settings that incentivise corruption in Council decisions.

The implementation of the recommendations are proposed to be coordinated by the establishment of an Implementation Inter-departmental taskforce, to be chaired by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

A report is expected to be provided by the premier in response to the relevant recommendations by 27 January 2025.

While a number of recommendations require legislative change and could take up to two years to fully implement, it is prudent for Port Phillip Council to implement changes to our Governance Rules now, rather than wait for them to be mandatory.

MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 4 OCTOBER 2023



Amending the Governance Rules to prohibit en bloc voting and recording which Councillors spoke to items and how they voted, are changes within Council's control that can be made now.

Attachment 1 indicates amendments to sections 34.2, 64.1.7, and 64.1.8 that will be implemented should this motion be endorsed by Council.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Amended Governance Rules