Draft Governance Rules – Summary of Changes – September 2026

Section	Current Rules (Clause)	Draft Model Rules (Clause)	Comments
Part 4 – Meeting administration 16. Additional Council Meeting	3.8	16	Removed reference to Special Council Meeting to reflect current language of Additional Council Meeting
Part 4 – Meeting administration 18. Emergency Meeting changes	Not included	18	Included Emergency Meeting Changes
Part 4 – Meeting administration Division 2 – Business of meetings 21. Notices of Motion	3.18	21	Provides clarity when a report from officers is needed if it meets certain criteria.
Part 4 – Meeting administration Division 2 – Business of meetings 22. Notices of rescission	3.22	22	No material change
Part 4 – Meeting administration Division 2 – Business of meetings 23. Urgent Business	3.21	23	Provides clarity when a report from officers is needed if it meets certain criteria.
Part 4 – Meeting administration Division 3 - Physical and Remote attendance 24. Mode of attendance	3.1	24	Must seek CEO's approval to attend remotely.
Part 4 – Meeting administration Division 3 - Physical and Remote attendance 25. Meetings conducted remotely	3.1	25	Change to include ability to adjust applications of rules or order of business in a meeting conducted remotely.
Part 4 – Meeting administration Division 4 – Minutes of meetings 26. Form and availability of minutes	3.40, 3.41, 3.42	26	Improvement and clarity on what will be included in minutes and process of confirmation of minutes.
Part 5 - Public Participation in meetings	Division 5		Updated tile from 'Visitors and behaviour' to "Public Participation in meetings"

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Section	Current Rules (Clause)	Draft Model Rules (Clause)	Comments
Part 5 - Public Participation in meetings Division 1 - Terms of entry into Council meetings 28. Terms of entry into Council meetings	3.43 3.44 3.45 3.46 3.47 3.48	28.1, 28.2	Addition of Terms of Entry into Council meetings
Part 5 – Public Participation in meetings Division 2 - Public Question Time	Division 6 – Community Question Time		Updated title, from 'Community Question Time' to 'Public Question Time'.
Part 5 – Public Participation in meetings Division 2 – Public Question Time *29. Receiving public question time submissions*	Division 6 – Community Question Time	29	Includes explicit details in respect of receiving questions.
Part 5 – Public Participation in meetings Division 2 - Public question time 30. Treatment of public questions in the Council meeting	Division 6 – Community Question Time	30	Includes explicit details in respect of treatment in the meeting.
Part 5 – Public Participation in meetings Division 3 - Submission 31. Receiving submissions	Not included	31	Not included in current Rules.
Part 5 – Public Participation in meetings Division 4 – Petitions 32. Petitions	Not included	32	Includes explicit details in respect of receiving petitions.
Part 5 – Public Participation in meetings Division 4 - Petition 33. Meeting procedures for receiving petitions	Not included	33	Includes explicit details in respect of treatment of petitions in the meeting.

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Section	Current Rules (Clause)	Draft Model Rules (Clause)	Comments
Part 6 – Council meeting procedures Division 2 - Expected meeting behaviour 38. Addressing the meeting	3.43 3.44 3.45 3.46 3.47 3.48	38	Introduction of meeting conduct standards for both councillors and public.
Questions directed to Council staff	3.53 Reply to subsequent meeting	N/A	Remove this section: 'Any member of Council staff to whom a question is directed will have a right to reply to a subsequent meeting of the Council.' As questions directed to officers are taken on notice if they can't be answered at the time and not brought back to a subsequent meeting.
Part 6 – Council meeting procedure Division 4 – Debate	Division 3 - Debate	43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52	More comprehensive on altering, amending, withdrawing, foreshadowing and separating and combining motions.
Division	3.31	N/A	Removed. Division no longer exists as covered by voting and requirements to record for and against for every motion.
Part 6 – Council Meeting procedure Division 6 – Procedural Motions 58. Procedural motions	Not included	58	Procedural Motions not included in current rules.
Part 6 – Council Meeting procedure Division 7 - Points of Order	3.33 3.33 3.34 3.35	59, 60, 61, 62	Clearer valid points of order and inclusion of procedure to raise a point of order.
Part 6 – Council Meeting procedure Division 9 - Miscellaneous	Not included	66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71	Inclusion of meeting break and time limits for meetings. Improved procedure on suspending standing orders. Inclusion of provision for the CEO to make a statement in the meeting.
Part 7 – Conflicts of Interest 74. Disclosure when not in attendance at a meeting	Not included	74	Inclusion that must make declaration that you are entitled to attend but did not attend due to the Conflict of Interest.
Part 9 – Community Asset Committees	Chapter 7	81,82,83	Clearer language on the governance rules applying to these committees. Removal of comment that Council can resolve they don't apply for CAC's and removal that minutes of the committees must be reported to Council.

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Section	Current Rules (Clause)	Draft Model Rules (Clause)	Comments
Part 10 – Council elections 85. Election Period policy	Chapter 8	84,85	• New clarity and accountability in roles and responsibilities. • New control & probity around staff as candidates. Mirrors Act's prohibited decisions and codifies them; adds a broad list of "significant decisions" to be avoided (e.g., plan/policy adoptions, local laws, budget, borrowings, rates, grants, major scheme amendments, road discontinuance). • New guidance to officers acting under delegation—how to assess urgency/financial repercussions/controversy; consult CEO where uncertain. • Move from "suspend meetings" to "run with constraints". • Tighter: no s223 public consultation during the period; only operational/low-risk engagement allowed. • New operational control on signage. Not in current policy. • New section on External elections (Councillors running for State/Federal etc.)