

Governance Rules proposed amendments 2025

Community Engagement Summary Report

Consultation for the Governance Rules proposed amendments 2025 was run online in accordance with Section 60 (4) of the *Local Government Act 2020* from 19 November until 2 December 2025.

The proposed amendments to the Governance Rules are intended to support good governance by strengthening decision-making processes, improving accountability, and ensuring Council operates in a transparent and efficient manner.

The proposed amendments reflect a commitment to robust governance that balances representation with effective administration. The amendments align with the principles of the *Local Government Act 2020* and best practice governance standards, ensuring decisions are made collectively and in the best interests of the community

The proposed amendments to the Governance Rules that Council sought community feedback on included:

- Rule 21 Notices of Motion (NoM) requiring one third of the total number of Councillors to sign a NoM prior to it being submitted with the CEO – which would encourage collaboration among Councillors and reduce duplication, helping meetings run more effectively
- A Councillor cannot be the signatory on more than two NoMs at any one meeting – limiting the number of motions per meeting would ensure Council can focus on strategic priorities and maintain orderly conduct of business
- Increased speaking times for Councillors when speaking to a motion, and officers introducing a report – clarifying procedural elements such as speaking times would provide consistency and fairness in debate
- Clarification around when a Councillor has a right of reply – clarifying procedural elements such as rights of reply would provide consistency and fairness in debate and
- Clarification around lodgement of electronic petitions or joint letters.

Participation overview



406 visits to the project
Engage page



57 submissions received, 14
of which were identical



Submissions were received
from across the municipality
with the majority from Eden
Park (15), Whittlesea (13) and
Doreen (6)

What we heard

The overall sentiment of participants opposed the proposed changes to the Governance Rules. They felt the proposed changes would reduce local democracy, limit Councillors' ability to speak up for residents, and make it harder for community issues to be raised and discussed at Council meetings.

Main concerns raised by the community

The main concerns raised by majority of participants through the community engagement included:

- **Loss of community voice**
Many indicated they feared the proposed changes could make it harder for residents to have their concerns heard.
- **Harder for Councillors to act for residents**
The proposed change to require one-third of Councillors to sign a Notice of Motion was widely opposed by those who provided feedback. Participants were concerned the change would stop individual Councillors from raising issues on behalf of their residents.
- **Perceived increase in the power of Council administration**
There was concern around a perceived increase to the power of Council administration to reject Notices of Motion.
- **Limits on Notices of Motion**
Participants opposed limiting Notices of Motion to officer reports only and restricting Councillors to signing only two Notices of Motion per meeting. Respondents expressed concern that this could slow down responses to important or urgent community issues.
- **Perceived centralisation of authority with Council administration**
Overall, many of the submissions received indicated they had concerns that the combined effect of the proposed changes could centralise authority with Council administration, rather than with elected Councillors and the community.

What participants supported

A small number of participants supported:

- increasing speaking times for Councillors and officers
- minor procedural clarifications.

Summary

Through the community engagement we heard that community expects Governance Rules to support democracy, transparency, and strong community representation. The majority of participants were concerned that the proposed changes would negatively impact these principles. Participants indicated that they want to ensure community voices and elected Councillors remained central to Council decision-making.