



MAYORAL REPORT

10th October 2006

**MM6 ADDRESSING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS BY
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
FILE: 395 EAG {Folio No. * }**

SUMMARY:

To introduce a cut-off time for applications to address the Council meetings in Public Forum.



DESCRIPTION:

Council's current Code of Meeting Practice provides (clause 5.7):-

"That the Mayor may grant permission for individuals to address Council meetings on specific topics contained in the business paper at the Public Forum session of the Council meeting. People wishing to address Council on agenda items need to contact the Mayor prior to the meeting."

I wish to implement a more planned approach to our public forum session by requiring that applications to address the Council be made prior to 1.00pm on the Monday preceding Council meeting day. This will allow a completed list of speakers to be sent to Councillors on the Monday evening.

If, because of exceptional circumstances, a person cannot meet this requirement, a late application may be approved, but this will be in exceptional circumstances only.

Amendment to Code of Meeting Practice

It is proposed to commence this procedure at the November meeting. I believe it is only a minor procedural change and should not require public notification. Council can adopt an amended Code of Meeting Practice if the Council is of the opinion the amendments are not substantial.

Advertising of the new procedure for Public Forum speakers will be done through the Mayoral column and on the Council website.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

The Public Forum is an important segment for the public to have a say on Council matters prior to Council making its decisions.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Nil

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Section 5.7 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice is a local provision included by this Council to allow members of the public to address Council. Section 361 of the Local Government Act allows for Council to adopt an amended Code where amendments are not substantial.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1 That Council's Code of Meeting Practice be amended to include a requirement that people wishing to address Council need to make application before 1.00pm on the Monday prior to the meeting.**
- 2 That this amendment be adopted without public exhibition as it is an amendment that is not substantial.**

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E A Green
MAYOR