



NOTICE OF MOTION

2 February 2010

NOM1	CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE
	FILE: 395 KEO (NRN) {Folio No. *}

I hereby give notice that I intend to move the following motion at the Ordinary meeting of Kempsey Shire Council to be held on Tuesday, 2 February 2010.

"That Council's Code of Meeting Practice be amended to ensure that members of the community are treated impartially and equitably when applying to speak in the public forum.

That if members of the public comply with Council's guidelines in relation to speaking in the Public Forum at Council meetings, then the Mayor MUST allow them to speak, subject to the limitation in the Code of Meeting Practice on the number of speakers to be heard.

That the Mayor adhere strictly to the Code of Meeting Practice."

NOTE:

Council developed some guidelines and produced a form for those members of the public wishing to address a council meeting in the Public Forum section.

The Code of Meeting Practice indicates that the Mayor **MAY** allow a member of the community to speak in the public forum, given certain criteria, eg that there is to be one speaker for and one speaker against the proposal and it must be an issue which is listed on the Agenda for that meeting.

At last month's meeting, Mr Colin McNeill from Turners Flat was refused his application to speak. Mr McNeill met all the criteria, but the Mayor chose to refuse his request.

The Code of Meeting Practice must be amended to ensure the community has unencumbered access to address Council, free of personal or political views.

All councils have adopted their own Code of Meeting Practice. Wise heads put this together and for very good reasons – the smooth running of meetings and a guarantee that every councillor has the opportunity to speak. We need to put this Code into practice.

Note to Councillors: *The Code of Meeting Practice is readily available on the Kempsey Shire Council website, or perhaps a hard copy could be arranged through the office if you do not have a copy.*

MOTION IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

Will allow a broader range of people greater access to Council.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Nil

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Will require a change to the Code of Meeting Practice which will necessitate the amended Code be placed on exhibition for comment.

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COUNCILLOR J A C HAYES