

## Circular to Councils

<b>Subject/title</b>	<b>Councillor conduct and meeting practices – a discussion paper</b>
Circular Details	24-17 / 05 September 2024 / A913035
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Strategic Policy Unit / 02 4428 4100 / <a href="mailto:councillorconduct@olg.nsw.gov.au">councillorconduct@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
Action required	Response to OLG

### What's new or changing?

- The Councillor Conduct Framework is under review with the aim to facilitate and support local decision making.
- The Councillor conduct and meeting practices – A new framework discussion paper (discussion paper) has been prepared to seek the views of the community, key stakeholders, and the local government sector about the proposed changes.

### What will this mean for council?

- The general public, councils, individual councillors and council staff, are encouraged to make written submissions in response to the discussion paper.
- The discussion paper provides information about how to make a submission.
- Submissions should be made by **15 November 2024**.

### Key points

- Strong and thriving communities need effective local government.
- The Councillor Conduct Framework is under review to ensure that it delivers on the need for transparency and ensures that councillors are visibly in control of their councils.

- Councillors should act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community. They should be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.
- It is intended that the revised Councillor Conduct Framework will be based on the following principles of change:
  - council leadership and decision making is paramount
  - freedom of speech is fundamental
  - transparency and accountability are maintained
  - issues are dealt with at the most immediate or local level
  - a strong and proportionate local government regulator
  - justice is timely and proportionate
  - significant penalties should only be imposed by a judicial or quasi-judicial body.

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## Where to go for further information

- A copy of the discussion paper and information about how to provide feedback is available on OLG's website [here](#).
- For further information about the Councillor Conduct Framework review, please contact OLG's Strategic Policy Unit on 02 4428 4100 or by email at [councillorconduct@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:councillorconduct@olg.nsw.gov.au).

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