

5.8. *Establishment of committees*

A local government may establish* committees of 3 or more persons to assist the council and to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of the local government that can be delegated to committees.

** Absolute majority required.*

5.9. *Committees, types of*

(1) In this section —

other person means a person who is not a council member or an employee.

(2) A committee is to comprise —

- (a) council members only; or
- (b) council members and employees; or
- (c) council members, employees and other persons; or
- (d) council members and other persons; or
- (e) employees and other persons; or
- (f) other persons only.

5.10. *Committee members, appointment of*

(1) A committee is to have as its members —

- (a) persons appointed* by the local government to be members of the committee (other than those referred to in paragraph (b)); and
- (b) persons who are appointed to be members of the committee under subsection (4) or (5).

** Absolute majority required.*

(2) At any given time each council member is entitled to be a member of at least one committee referred to in section 5.9(2)(a) or (b) and if a council member nominates himself or herself to be a member of such a committee or committees, the local government is to include that council member in the persons appointed under subsection (1)(a) to at least one of those committees as the local government decides.

(3) Section 52 of the *Interpretation Act 1984* applies to appointments of committee members other than those appointed under subsection (4) or (5) but any power exercised under section 52(1) of that Act can only be exercised on the decision of an absolute majority of the local government.

(4) If at a meeting of the council a local government is to make an appointment to a committee that has or could have a council member as a member and the mayor or president informs the local government of his or her wish to be a member of the committee, the local government is to appoint the mayor or president to be a member of the committee.

(5) If at a meeting of the council a local government is to make an appointment to a committee that has or will have an employee as a member and the CEO informs the local government of his or her wish —

- (a) to be a member of the committee; or
- (b) that a representative of the CEO be a member of the committee,

the local government is to appoint the CEO or the CEO's representative, as the case may be, to be a member of the committee.

5.11A. Deputy committee members

- (1) The local government may appoint* a person to be a deputy of a member of a committee and may terminate such an appointment* at any time.

** Absolute majority required.*

- (2) A person who is appointed as a deputy of a member of a committee is to be —
 - (a) if the member of the committee is a council member — a council member; or
 - (b) if the member of the committee is an employee — an employee; or
 - (c) if the member of the committee is not a council member or an employee — a person who is not a council member or an employee; or
 - (d) if the member of the committee is a person appointed under section 5.10(5) — a person nominated by the CEO.
- (3) A deputy of a member of a committee may perform the functions of the member when the member is unable to do so by reason of illness, absence or other cause.
- (4) A deputy of a member of a committee, while acting as a member, has all the functions of and all the protection given to a member.

[Section 5.11A inserted by No. 17 of 2009 s. 20.]

5.11. Committee membership, tenure of

- (1) Where a person is appointed as a member of a committee under section 5.10(4) or (5), the person's membership of the committee continues until —
 - (a) the person no longer holds the office by virtue of which the person became a member, or is no longer the CEO, or the CEO's representative, as the case may be; or
 - (b) the person resigns from membership of the committee; or
 - (c) the committee is disbanded; or
 - (d) the next ordinary elections day,

whichever happens first.

- (2) Where a person is appointed as a member of a committee other than under section 5.10(4) or (5), the person's membership of the committee continues until —
 - (a) the term of the person's appointment as a committee member expires; or
 - (b) the local government removes the person from the office of committee member or the office of committee member otherwise becomes vacant; or
 - (c) the committee is disbanded; or
 - (d) the next ordinary elections day,

whichever happens first.

5.12. Presiding members and deputies, election of

- (1) The members of a committee are to elect a presiding member from amongst themselves in accordance with Schedule 2.3, Division 1 as if the references in that Schedule —
 - (a) to "office" were references to "office of presiding member"; and
 - (b) to "council" were references to "committee"; and

- (c) to “councillors” were references to “committee members”.
- (2) The members of a committee may elect a deputy presiding member from amongst themselves but any such election is to be in accordance with Schedule 2.3, Division 2 as if the references in that Schedule —
 - (a) to “office” were references to “office of deputy presiding member”; and
 - (b) to “council” were references to “committee”; and
 - (c) to “councillors” were references to “committee members”; and
 - (d) to “mayor or president” were references to “presiding member”.

5.13. Deputy presiding members, functions of

If, in relation to the presiding member of a committee —

- (a) the office of presiding member is vacant; or
- (b) the presiding member is not available or is unable or unwilling to perform the functions of presiding member,

then the deputy presiding member, if any, may perform the functions of presiding member.

5.14. Who acts if no presiding member

If, in relation to the presiding member of a committee —

- (a) the office of presiding member and the office of deputy presiding member are vacant; or
- (b) the presiding member and the deputy presiding member, if any, are not available or are unable or unwilling to perform the functions of presiding member,

then the committee members present at the meeting are to choose one of themselves to preside at the meeting.

5.15. Reduction of quorum for committees

The local government may reduce* the number of offices of committee member required for a quorum at a committee meeting specified by the local government if there would not otherwise be a quorum for the meeting.

* *Absolute majority required.*

5.16. Delegation of some powers and duties to certain committees

- (1) Under and subject to section 5.17, a local government may delegate* to a committee any of its powers and duties other than this power of delegation.
 - * *Absolute majority required.*
- (2) A delegation under this section is to be in writing and may be general or as otherwise provided in the instrument of delegation.
- (3) Without limiting the application of sections 58 and 59 of the *Interpretation Act 1984* —
 - (a) a delegation made under this section has effect for the period of time specified in the delegation or if no period has been specified, indefinitely; and
 - (b) any decision to amend or revoke a delegation under this section is to be by an absolute majority.
- (4) Nothing in this section is to be read as preventing a local government from performing any of its functions by acting through another person.

5.17. Limits on delegation of powers and duties to certain committees

- (1) A local government can delegate —
 - (a) to a committee comprising council members only, any of the council's powers or duties under this Act except —
 - (i) any power or duty that requires a decision of an absolute majority or a 75% majority of the local government; and
 - (ii) any other power or duty that is prescribed;and
 - (b) to a committee comprising council members and employees, any of the local government's powers or duties that can be delegated to the CEO under Division 4; and
 - (c) to a committee referred to in section 5.9(2)(c), (d) or (e), any of the local government's powers or duties that are necessary or convenient for the proper management of —
 - (i) the local government's property; or
 - (ii) an event in which the local government is involved.
- (2) A local government cannot delegate any of its powers or duties to a committee referred to in section 5.9(2)(f).

[Section 5.17 amended by No. 49 of 2004 s. 16(2).]

5.18. Register of delegations to committees

A local government is to keep a register of the delegations made under this Division and review the delegations at least once every financial year.

Subdivision 3 — Matters affecting council and committee meetings

5.19. Quorum for meetings

The quorum for a meeting of a council or committee is at least 50% of the number of offices (whether vacant or not) of member of the council or the committee.

5.20. Decisions of councils and committees

- (1) A decision of a council does not have effect unless it has been made by a simple majority or, if another kind of majority is required under any provision of this Act or has been prescribed by regulations or a local law for the particular kind of decision, by that kind of majority.
- (2) A decision of a committee does not have effect unless it has been made by a simple majority or, if another kind of majority has been prescribed by regulations or a local law for the particular kind of decision, by that kind of majority.
- (3) This section does not apply to elections —
 - (a) by a council of the local government's mayor or president under section 2.11; or
 - (b) by a council of the local government's deputy mayor or president under section 2.15; or
 - (c) by a committee of the committee's presiding member or deputy presiding member under section 5.12.

5.21. Voting

- (1) Each council member and each member of a committee who is present at a meeting of the council or committee is entitled to one vote.
- (2) Subject to section 5.67, each council member and each member of a committee to which a local government power or duty has been delegated who is present at a meeting of the council or committee is to vote.
- (3) If the votes of members present at a council or a committee meeting are equally divided, the person presiding is to cast a second vote.
- (4) If a member of a council or a committee specifically requests that there be recorded —
 - (a) his or her vote; or
 - (b) the vote of all members present,on a matter voted on at a meeting of the council or the committee, the person presiding is to cause the vote or votes, as the case may be, to be recorded in the minutes.
- (5) A person who fails to comply with subsection (2) or (3) commits an offence.

[Section 5.21 amended by No. 49 of 2004 s. 43.]

5.22. Minutes of council and committee meetings

- (1) The person presiding at a meeting of a council or a committee is to cause minutes to be kept of the meeting's proceedings.
- (2) The minutes of a meeting of a council or a committee are to be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the council or the committee, as the case requires, for confirmation.
- (3) The person presiding at the meeting at which the minutes are confirmed is to sign the minutes and certify the confirmation.

5.23. Meetings generally open to public

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the following are to be open to members of the public —
 - (a) all council meetings; and
 - (b) all meetings of any committee to which a local government power or duty has been delegated.
- (2) If a meeting is being held by a council or by a committee referred to in subsection (1)(b), the council or committee may close to members of the public the meeting, or part of the meeting, if the meeting or the part of the meeting deals with any of the following —
 - (a) a matter affecting an employee or employees; and
 - (b) the personal affairs of any person; and
 - (c) a contract entered into, or which may be entered into, by the local government and which relates to a matter to be discussed at the meeting; and
 - (d) legal advice obtained, or which may be obtained, by the local government and which relates to a matter to be discussed at the meeting; and
 - (e) a matter that if disclosed, would reveal —
 - (i) a trade secret; or
 - (ii) information that has a commercial value to a person; or
 - (iii) information about the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of a person,

where the trade secret or information is held by, or is about, a person other than the local government; and

- (f) a matter that if disclosed, could be reasonably expected to —
 - (i) impair the effectiveness of any lawful method or procedure for preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with any contravention or possible contravention of the law; or
 - (ii) endanger the security of the local government's property; or
 - (iii) prejudice the maintenance or enforcement of a lawful measure for protecting public safety;
 - and
 - (g) information which is the subject of a direction given under section 23(1a) of the *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971*; and
 - (h) such other matters as may be prescribed.
- (3) A decision to close a meeting or part of a meeting and the reason for the decision are to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

5.24. Question time for public

- (1) Time is to be allocated for questions to be raised by members of the public and responded to at —
 - (a) every ordinary meeting of a council; and
 - (b) such other meetings of councils or committees as may be prescribed.
- (2) Procedures and the minimum time to be allocated for the asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public at council or committee meetings are to be in accordance with regulations.

5.25. Regulations about council and committee meetings and committees

- (1) Without limiting the generality of section 9.59, regulations may make provision in relation to —
 - (a) the matters to be dealt with at ordinary or at special meetings of councils; and
 - (b) the functions of committees or types of committee; and
 - (ba) the holding of council or committee meetings by telephone, video conference or other electronic means; and
 - (c) the procedure to be followed at, and in respect of, council or committee meetings; and
 - (d) methods of voting at council or committee meetings; and
 - (e) the circumstances and manner in which a decision made at a council or a committee meeting may be revoked or changed (which may differ from the manner in which the decision was made); and
 - (f) the content and confirmation of minutes of council or committee meetings and the keeping and preserving of the minutes and any documents relating to meetings; and
 - (g) the giving of public notice of the date and agenda for council or committee meetings; and
 - (h) the exclusion from meetings of persons whose conduct is not conducive to the proper conduct of the meetings and the steps to be taken in the event of persons refusing to leave meetings; and

- (i) the circumstances and time in which the unconfirmed minutes of council or committee meetings are to be made available for inspection by members of the public; and
 - (j) the circumstances and time in which notice papers and agenda relating to any council or committee meeting and reports and other documents which could be —
 - (i) tabled at a council or committee meeting; or
 - (ii) produced by the local government or a committee for presentation at a council or committee meeting,are to be made available for inspection by members of the public.
- (2) Regulations providing for meetings to be held by telephone, video conference or other electronic means may modify the application of this Act in relation to those meetings to the extent necessary or convenient to facilitate the holding of those meetings in that way.

[Section 5.25 amended by No. 64 of 1998 s. 28.]