

PUBLIC FORUM GUIDELINES

REQUEST TO SPEAK ON NON-COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Anyone who would like to address the Council Meeting on matters that are not included in the Business Paper for a Council Meeting may do so at a Public Forum. Public Forums are not public meetings, but an opportunity for members of the public to address the Councillors.

Public Forums are held on the second Tuesday of each month, which is the first Council Meeting of the month. Public Forums run for 30 minutes from 6:00pm and take place in the Function Room of Ray Walsh House.

If you would like to address the Public Forum you must register online by 4:30pm on the day prior to the Public Forum.

Persons not registered to speak will not be able to address Council.

Members of the public will be permitted a maximum of three minutes to address Council. An extension of time may be granted if deemed necessary.

Councillors may ask questions of the speaker. The speaker will not be able to ask questions of Councillors or Council staff in relation to the matter.

Members of the public seeking to represent or speak on behalf of a third party must satisfy Council that he or she has the authority to represent or speak on behalf of the third party.

Council will only permit six speakers to be heard in Public Forum.

Speakers will only be allowed to address Council on the same issue no more than three times in each calendar year.

Only issues relating to Tamworth Regional Council or Local Government may be raised.

Members of the public will not be permitted to raise matters or provide information which involves:

- personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors);
- personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;
- commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council; or
 - reveal a trade secret;
- information that would, if disclosed prejudice the maintenance of law;
- matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property;
- advice concerning litigation or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege;
- information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land;
- alleged contraventions of any Code of Conduct requirements applicable under Section 440; or
- on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Members of the public will not be permitted to use Public Forum to abuse, vilify, insult, threaten, intimidate or harass Councillors, Council staff or other members of the public. Conduct of this nature will be deemed to be an act of disorder and the person engaging in such behaviour will be ruled out of the order and may be expelled.