

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Georges River Council has four (4) Committees to assist with making decisions for the Georges River Council area:

- Environment and Planning Committee
- Finance and Governance Committee
- Community and Culture Committee
- Assets and Infrastructure Committee

Committee Meetings are held monthly, on the second Monday of every month.

The dates and times of the Committee Meetings are advertised to the public on [Council's website](#).

At each Committee Meeting, reports and recommendations, are submitted by Council Officers and are reviewed and considered by the Councillors who are appointed to that Committee.

Committees make recommendations on each report, which are then considered at the next scheduled Council Meeting.

The business papers for each of the Committee Meetings are available for the public prior to the meeting, via [Council's website](#).

Council Meetings are held monthly, on the fourth Monday of every month, commencing at 7.00pm.

The dates and times of the Council Meetings are advertised to the public on [Council's website](#).

At each Council Meeting, reports and recommendations are reviewed and considered by Council. Council determines all matters on the business paper. Decisions of Council are known as resolutions of Council.

All meetings of Council are held in accordance with Council's [Code of Meeting Practice](#) and are open to the public to attend, with the exception of closed sessions. In addition to in person attendance, Council also webcasts all Committee and Council Meetings, allowing the public to watch the meetings from home.

Council Meetings will, on occasion, have to be closed to the public where specific matters or information is deemed to be of a confidential nature. Section 10(a) of the NSW *Local Government Act 1993* mandates what matters can be dealt with in closed session (please refer to page 2 of this fact sheet).

Georges River Council encourages public participation at its meetings. If you would like to speak at a Council or Committee Meeting, you must register by completing a [Request to Speak Form](#) and submit it no later than midday of the day of the meeting.

Each meeting of Council is minuted, and the Minutes are published on [Council's website](#) the week after the meeting.

CLOSURE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC

(from Council's Code of Meeting Practice)

GROUNDS ON WHICH MEETINGS CAN BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

13.1 The council or a committee of the council

- a) may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises the discussion or the receipt of any of the following types of matters:
- b) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors), the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,
- c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,
- d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret,
- e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,
- f) matters affecting the security of the council, Councillors, council staff or council property,
- g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege,
- h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land,
- i) alleged contraventions of any code of conduct requirements applicable under section 440.

13.2 The council, or a committee of the council of which all the members are Councillors, may also close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public.

Note: Clause 13.1 and 13.2 reflects section 10A(3) of the NSW LG Act 1993.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN CLOSING MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC

13.3 A meeting is not to remain closed during the discussion of anything referred to in Clause 13.1:

- a) except for so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security, and
- b) other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret – unless the council or committee concerned is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Note: Clause 13.3 reflects section 10B(1) of the NSW LG Act 1993.

REPRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

13.9 The council, or a committee of the council, may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

Note: Clause 13.9 reflects section 10A(4) of the NSW LG Act 1993.