

WRITTEN STATEMENTS
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
28 July 2020

**Item 10.2 Transition from Governance Local Law No: 1 to
Proposed Governance Rules 2020**

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1. Mr Hanna Elmouallem

Item 10.2

Transition from Governance Local Law No: 1 to Proposed Governance Rules 2020

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Dear Mayor and Councilors

It is imperative to remember that the purpose of the proposed Governance Rules 2020 is to determine how Council will make decisions "in a way that ensures any person whose rights will be directly affected by a decisions will be entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered".

My concern with the Governance Rules put forward on page 37 of 415 (limit of 10 speakers per item and limit speaking time to 2 minutes) is that they erode democracy and undermine existing Governance Local law. The limitation on the number of speakers and changing time allocation from 3 minutes to 2 minutes flies in the face of the purpose of the Governance Rules and is not in the best interest of our community.

It is of the utmost importance for the Governance Rules to encourage democracy and enhance transparency in decision making and that is not the case with the proposed changes for section 62.

The proposal to insert a sub-rule about nominating a spokesperson for groups or associations makes sense but the limitations on the number of speakers that are not part of associations and reducing their time limit will be detrimental to local democracy.

It is challenging to present a point in 3 minutes and reducing the time to 2 minutes will make it much harder for the ratepayers to present their case specifically if it encounters that of a Council Officer.

The municipality is craving enhancements to Governance and I trust your deliberations take community concerns on board and result in better local democracy and engagement.