

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

(To Elected Members and CEOs)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PROCEDURES AT MEETINGS) REGULATIONS 2000

The final core set of regulations under the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2000 have now been made.

They are available in the Government Gazette of 4 May 2000, and will shortly become available in electronic form via the Office of Local Government website at www.localgovt.sa.gov.au.

The regulations come into operation on Wednesday 17 May, the day after the close of polling for the periodic elections currently underway. The substantive changes from the current regulations are set out below.

The regulations are in two Parts.

Part 1 applies to meetings of councils, to meetings of council committees performing regulatory activities, and to meetings of other key committees to which a council resolves to apply them (eg finance committees).

- Councils or key council committees can distinguish between core and non-core procedures set out in the regulations, and may resolve by a 2/3 majority to vary non-core procedures in certain, specified instances.
- Any discretionary procedures must be consistent with the governing principles of the regulations.
- A council would be required to set out and make publicly available any discretionary procedures adopted for council and council committee meetings.

Part 2 contains the minimum requirements for all other committees (eg community committees managing council property). These include enabling the requirements contained in the *Local Government Act 1999* for the calling and timing of committee meetings, and the issue of notice to the public, to be varied in ways that are consistent with the nature and purpose of the committee.

The Office of Local Government will shortly be issuing an "In Transition" Circular to councils setting out the requirements of the Act and regulations in relation to the structure, accountability and reporting of committees and subsidiaries of councils.

HON DOROTHY KOTZ MP
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

4 May 2000