



Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

Council Meetings – Audio/Visual Recording and Live Streaming

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

To provide an electronic recording and live streaming service of open Council meetings for the public to access.

To promote transparency, accessibility and engagement with local government decision making amongst the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council communities.

1.2 Scope

This policy covers recording and live streaming of all open Ordinary and Special Meetings of Council i.e. those parts not being held “in closed session”. “Closed sessions” as determined by the *Local Government Act 1993*, under regulation 15 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 Statutory Rules 2015, No.38 will not be recorded.

1.3 Statutory Requirements

The Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 No.38 do not preclude the introduction of live streaming of open Council meetings or the availability of the audio/visual recording for public viewing post a meeting.

1.4 References

- Risk Assessment of Audio Recording, Live Broadcasting and Publishing of Open Council Meetings: July 2015, Hobart City Council.
- Evaluation of the Council Meeting Audio and Live Broadcasting Service: November 2016, Hobart City Council.
- Council Meetings – Audio Recording Policy, City of Launceston (May 2011).
- COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020
- Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Remote Meeting Guide

1.5 Reporting

Data related to the number of people clicking through to watch live and view Council meetings will be reported to Council on a quarterly basis as part of the quarterly Information Briefing Document.

1.6 Policy Review and Update Cycle

Implementation of this policy will reside with the General Manager’s office. The Policy will be reviewed in conjunction with State and Federal compliance requirements associated with COVID-19.

2 Procedure

1. The agenda for both Ordinary and Special Meetings of Council will note at the beginning that meetings are streamed live using audio/visual technology and that the audio/visual recordings are made available to the public post the meeting (a maximum of 5 business days post a meeting). This allows time for the recordings to be checked.
2. Signs will be placed in prominent positions within the Council Meeting Room to inform the public entering the room that the meeting is being audio/visually streamed and recorded.
3. The technology for live streaming is configured so that there is a one (1) minute delay. Essentially the software has a 'panic button' whereby the Council staff operating the streaming and recording can stop the streaming or recording should anything occur that requires this action e.g. unexpected adjournment, closed session or inappropriate behaviour that cause the Mayor to adjourn or close the meeting.
4. A prominent note will be included in the Agenda of all Ordinary and Special Meetings of Council that the Mayor will read aloud to ensure that the live streaming and audio visual recording of meetings is stopped should Council move into a "closed session" or as soon as an open meeting is formally closed by the Mayor.
5. The streaming platform utilised for recording and streaming is YouTube. This is setup as a specific Glamorgan Spring Bay Council YouTube account, over which Council has full control of which meetings are streamed or uploaded for viewing. There is no ability for the public to comment, edit or download recordings in anyway. They can only be viewed via the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council YouTube account.
6. A link to the live streaming and the recording of meetings will be made available on Council's website for ease of access.
7. The audio/visual recording of Council meetings does not replace the written minutes and a transcript of any of the recordings is not prepared
8. The recording may be used by staff to assist with the preparation of the minutes, particularly in relation to Public Question Time
9. The audio/visual recording of Council meetings will be retained for a minimum of 6 months and stored via Council's YouTube account
10. The existence of this policy does not override the requirement for public questions and motions to be submitted in writing.
11. Local communication and advertising to inform the community that live streaming of Council meetings is available will be undertaken for at least the first 3 months of live streaming. The need for advertising/communication of audio recording and live streaming of open Council meetings will be reviewed on a regular basis. Based on the number of people clicking through to view and listen to Council meetings, it will be determined if communication of this service should be advertised from time to time to remind residents and ratepayers of its availability.

3 Special Provisions – COVID-19

These special provisions will override points i. through vi and ix. of the “Procedures” outlined within the Policy and remain in place until further notice.

To make provision to deal with certain risks arising from the COVID-19 disease Council will, in conducting ordinary and special Council meetings, take into consideration Part 4 – “Reduction of Public Physical Contact” as stipulated in the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020.

Ordinary and Special Council meetings will be held in accordance with relevant COVID-19 or other State Government advised regulations and restrictions at the time.

Where it is not possible for members of the public to attend any ordinary or special Council meetings, an audio/visual recording of the open part of any ordinary or special Council meeting will be made available via Council’s website following the meeting.

Should any technical issues preclude a live stream or visual recording of any open ordinary or special Council meeting, an audio recording will be made available via Council’s website following the meeting in accordance with the requirements of the Policy.

In accordance with the GSBC Remote Meeting Guide, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council will allow questions by the public for the next ordinary meeting of Council to be provided by written notice by 12 noon the day before the meeting by either emailing general.manager@freycinet.tas.gov.au or alternatively left in the post box outside the Council Chambers located at 9 Melbourne Street, Triabunna

4 Implementation

Implementation of this Policy rests with the General Manager.