Transition to new council term

Under the Local Government Act 2009 and City of Brisbane Act 2010, the current Council remains in place until the conclusion of the elections on or after 26 March 2020. After the election is decided, Councillors are unable to act in their roles until they make their declaration of office to the CEO of Council. This includes both new and re-elected Councillors and Mayors. However after the election is decided, Councillors are unable to act in their roles until they make their declaration of office to the CEO of Council. The CEO will make appropriate arrangements for Councillors to make their declarations of office as soon as possible.

Disaster management training

I am aware that all District Disaster Management Groups and Local Disaster Management Groups are at an advanced stage of disaster management training arrangements for the upcoming 2020 election. The regulation also includes amendments about candidate setup and the placement of signs at polling booths. The Regulation will allow returning officers and polling officials to give directions to candidates and scrutineers on polling day in order to facilitate appropriate social distancing measures.

Closing a meeting due to COVID-19

During the current COVID-19 pandemic it may not be practicable for health reasons for the public to come to council meetings in person. The local government non-essential community services such as libraries and swimming pools, and regional offices of the Department.

Phone and teleconference for Council and committee meetings

The following changes have been made to provisions of both the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the City of Brisbane Regulation 2012 to allow council meetings to occur via phone or teleconference.

- Arrangements for Councillors to participate in meetings by phone or teleconference may allow Councils to avoid additional costs and will be applicable to all future meetings as long as they are made, consistent with the requirement for Council meetings to be open to the public.

Regulation changes – Council meetings and 2020 Election

The local government elections and start of the new Council term during the COVID-19 pandemic brings challenges for our whole community, and unique challenges for candidates and Councillors.

On Thursday 26 March 2020 the Governor in Council approved the Local Government (COVID-19) Health Risk Measures 2020 Regulation (the Regulation) which makes provision for the suspension of certain meetings and events to allow Councils and Mayors to continue to work with councils to help with meeting their legislative and other responsibilities at this important time.

The Regulation also provides for relevant changes to the conduct of state elections in response to the spread of COVID-19.

For more information on these issues, please visit the Electoral Commission of Queensland website or contact your returning officer.

For more information about local government matters, send an email to lgreforms@dlgrma.qld.gov.au or contact your nearest regional office of the Department.

For further information about disaster management training, please contact your QFES Emergency Management Coordinator or contact the Emergency Management Training Command via DMtraining.Feedback@qfes.qld.gov.au.