

**Question Time at Council meetings provides an opportunity for members of the public in the gallery to address questions to the councillors and/or officers of the Greater Dandenong City Council. Questions must comply with clause 31 of Council's current Meeting Procedure Local Law.**

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY

Questions are limited to a maximum of three (3) questions per individual. Where time constraints deem it likely that not all questions can be answered within the time allowed for Question Time, the Mayor at his/her discretion may determine only the first question may be presented verbally with others deferred to be managed in the same manner as public questions not verbally presented. Priority will be given to questions that relate to items on the Council Agenda for that meeting. Questions including any preamble should not exceed 300 words.

- b) All such questions must be received in writing on the prescribed form or as provided for on Council's website and at Ordinary meetings of Council. Where there are more than three (3) questions received from any one individual person, the Chief Executive Officer will determine the three (3) questions to be considered at the meeting.
- c) All such questions must clearly note a request to verbally present the question and must be received by the Chief Executive Officer or other person authorised for this purpose by the Chief Executive Officer no later than:
  - i) the commencement time (7.00pm) of the Ordinary meeting if questions are submitted in person; or
  - ii) noon on the day of the Ordinary meeting if questions are submitted by electronic medium.
- d) A question can only be presented to the meeting if the Chairperson and/or Chief Executive Officer has determined that the question:
  - i) does not relate to a matter of the type described in section 89(2) of the Act (confidential matters);
  - ii) does not relate to a matter in respect of which Council has no power to act;
  - iii) is not defamatory, indecent, abusive or objectionable in language or substance, and is not asked to embarrass a Councillor or Council officer; and
  - iv) is not repetitive of a question already asked or answered (whether at the same or an earlier meeting).
- e) If the Chairperson and/or Chief Executive Officer has determined that the question may not be presented to the Meeting, then the Chairperson and/or Chief Executive Officer:
  - i) must advise the Meeting accordingly; and
  - ii) will make the question available to Councillors upon request.
- f) The Chairperson shall call on members of the gallery who have submitted an accepted question to ask their question verbally if they wish.
- g) The Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer or delegate may then direct that question to be answered by a nominated Councillor or member of Council staff.
- h) No debate on, or discussion of, a question or an answer will be permitted other than for the purposes of clarification.
- i) A Councillor or member of Council staff nominated to answer a question may:
  - i) seek clarification of the question from the person who submitted it;
  - ii) seek the assistance of another person in answering the question; and
  - iii) defer answering the question, so that the answer may be researched and a written response be provided within ten (10) working days following the Meeting (the question thereby being taken on notice).
- j) Question time for verbal presentations is limited in duration to not more than twenty (20) minutes. If it appears likely that this time is to be exceeded then a resolution from Council will be required to extend that time if it is deemed appropriate to complete this item.
- k) The text of each question asked and the response will be recorded in the minutes of the Meeting.