

8 April 2014

**Notice of Motion, Cr Mayne :Local Government Amendment
(Governance and Conduct) Bill 2014**

Motion

That the Future Melbourne Committee resolve that the Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee write to the Victorian Minister for Local Government to:

1. Convey Council's support for the proposed reforms contained in the *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Conduct) Bill 2014*.
2. Propose the following additional reforms be included in the legislation:
 - 2.1 Mandatory online disclosure of councillor expense claims.
 - 2.2 Pre-approval in open sessions of council or committee for proposed interstate and international travel by councillors.
 - 2.3 Where committee and council votes are not unanimous, the minutes record how individual councillors voted.

Background

On 1 April, the *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Conduct) Bill 2014* was introduced into Parliament.

The Bill proposes a number of key amendments, namely:

- Prohibits Councillor discretionary funds, such as ward grants.
- Mandates independent chairs of audit committees.
- Mandates an induction program for new councillors before they are sworn-in.
- Removes the ability of a councillor to abort a councillor conduct panel by making a VCAT application.
- Involvement of an independent person for the resolution of internal disputes.
- Involvement of an independent person on the new CEO employment committees.

The current amendment process provides an opportunity to make additional reforms some of which are currently good governance practices introduced by the City of Melbourne.

Moved: Cr Mayne