



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM: LORD MAYOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR  
ELECTED MEMBERS**

## **COVID-19 EMERGENCY PROVISIONS**

**Meeting: City Planning Committee**

**Meeting date: 8 August 2022**

**Raised by:** Alderman Briscoe

### **Question:**

Can the Director advise when the emergency provisions will cease under the *COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020* and will this mean we cannot use Zoom for meetings?

### **Response:**

The process for the Notice to cease that was issued under the *COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020* in relation to the virtual attendance at Council meetings is as follows:

1. Director of Public Health advises the Premier that the emergency has ceased (S. 27 of COVID Act).
2. The Premier then has 90 days to declare the emergency cessation day.
3. The Notices allowing things such as remote meetings, electronic signatures and advertising etc cease 60 days after the emergency cessation day.

In short, there could be anywhere from 60 to 150 days before the notices cease from when the Director advises the Premier that the emergency has ceased.

LGAT has advised that the actions of the Director under point 1 above has yet to occur and so there is no change to the operation of the Notice under the legislation.

LGAT has also advised that there is work occurring on a Bill to incorporate things enabled through the legislation that it would be useful to continue beyond the acute phase of the pandemic. It's likely that consultation on that will occur and it would be open to suggest that virtual attendance at meetings be able to continue.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Jackson  
**MANAGER LEGAL AND  
GOVERNANCE**

Date: 30 August 2022  
File Reference: F22/81275