

Councillor Abrahamzadeh - QoN - Motions and Questions

Tuesday, 24 March 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Arman Abrahamzadeh

Public

Contact Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Chief Operating
Officer

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Arman Abrahamzadeh will ask the following Question on Notice:

'In relation to Motions and Questions submitted by Elected Members, what policy framework constitutes:

- the maximum number of Motions and Questions on Notice; and
- the relevant authority, including relevant provisions, that can impose such a limit?'

REPLY

1. The policy framework relating to motions and questions on notice is established through the following instruments:
 - 1.1. *Local Government Act 1999* (SA)
 - 1.2. *City of Adelaide Act 1998* (SA)
 - 1.3. *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* (SA)
 - 1.4. City of Adelaide Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures
2. These documents collectively set the rules under which Council meetings are conducted. Importantly, there is no provision within this framework that places a limit on the number of motions or questions on notice that may be submitted by Council Members.
3. However, as Presiding Member, I provide the following advice to support the effective functioning of Council meetings.
4. As Presiding Member, I have a responsibility to provide leadership and guidance to ensure Council meetings operate efficiently and in accordance with their intended purpose. This includes mitigating the impact of numerous or unnecessary questions and motions on the organisation's capacity and resources. Our collective focus must remain on matters properly before the Council.
5. I take this opportunity to remind Councillors of the provisions of Regulation 9 of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*. Regulation 9(6) provides that the Presiding Member may rule that a question, with or without notice, not be answered if it is "vague, irrelevant, insulting or improper." These terms

operate as a composite test; a single question may fall within one or more of these categories or be improper in its own right.

6. The purpose of Regulation 9 is to ensure that questions asked by Council Members seek information relevant to the functions of the Council or its committees. It is not intended to facilitate questions of a personal nature or those that fall outside the powers, functions, or responsibilities of Council.
7. Examples of questions that may be considered improper under Regulation 9 include those that:
 - 7.1. are unreasonably lengthy in number or scale, such that they impede the meeting’s proceedings or demand disproportionate administrative resources;
 - 7.2. repeat content already asked or answered, or which is otherwise publicly available;
 - 7.3. are structured in a way that does not make sense within the roles and functions of Council or Council Members;
 - 7.4. contain statements, assertions, or implications that may be untruthful;
 - 7.5. involve personal matters or rely on personal knowledge of individual members;
 - 7.6. request speculative or hypothetical information or answers; or
 - 7.7. fall outside matters properly before Council or outside Council’s lawful responsibilities.
8. I trust this clarifies the regulatory framework and the principles I apply in managing questions and motions on notice.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 3.5 hours.
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