
POLICY REGISTER

Title:	CONDUCT OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS
MOSPLAN Reference:	Program 4
Date Adopted:	7 September 2010 (GM/23)
Date Reviewed:	N/A

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that technical experts who address the Council at Council meetings on behalf of applicants and objectors to development applications or other matters address the Council in an impartial manner and maintain their professional integrity by not becoming an advocate for a particular party.

Application

This policy applies to technical experts including town planners, architects, engineers and the like when addressing the Council or a Committee of the Council.

Policy

On many occasions applicants and objectors or other interested parties retain professional technical experts to address the Council at its meetings on their behalf to make submissions in support of, or in objection to, development applications or other matters being considered by Council.

While Council appreciates hearing from its residents and other interested persons, the Council is concerned that technical experts have become advocates for parties and may misrepresent the facts.

Accordingly, when technical experts seek to address the Council they will be required to comply with this policy and to sign an acknowledgement that they agree to be bound by it prior to addressing the Council.

General Conduct

When addressing the Council or a Committee of the Council a technical expert must abide by the following:

- A technical expert has an overriding duty to assist the Council impartially on matters relevant to the expert witness' area of expertise.
- A technical expert must act with honesty, integrity and impartiality, and respect the role that Council officials play in the local government decision making process.
- In addressing the Council in relation to a development application under the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979 a technical expert must have regard to the provisions of s79C of that Act.
- A technical expert is not an advocate for a party.

Reference(s):	2461363
Responsible Department(s):	Environment and Planning