



CANCELLATION OF AUGUST 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

Central Tablelands Water wishes to advise that its ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 18 August 2021 had to be cancelled due to the current "Stay at Home" rules under the NSW Public Health Order applying across NSW, and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* amendment of utilising audio-visual links to conduct meetings not applying to county councils.

The Office of Local Government advised, "in [Circular 21-02](#) issued on 1 April 2021, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* had been amended to temporarily exempt councils from the requirement under clause 5.2 of the *Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW* and the equivalent provision in each council's code of meeting practice for councillors to be personally present at a meeting in order to participate in it.

This means that there is currently nothing to prevent any and all councillors from participating in meetings by audio-visual link. There is also nothing to prevent staff from attending meetings by audio-visual link.

The Regulation amendment does not apply to county councils and any county councils in areas subject to the "stay at home" order may need to consider cancelling meetings while the Public Health Order is in force."

Central Tablelands Water is continuing to lobby the Office of Local Government and understands that amendments to the *Model Code of Meeting Practice* are imminent, allowing county councils the ability to hold future meetings by audio-visual link.

Gavin Rhodes
General Manager
Central Tablelands Water

18 August 2021