

ITEM 6

ELECTION OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE

The Office of Local Government (OLG) has released the Guideline “*Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW*” that comes into effect from 1 July 2024. The Guidelines along with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* now prescribes under s216C that only one Councillor, who must not be the Mayor, can be appointed to the ARIC. Council may now appoint a Councillor as a non-voting Councillor observer to the ARIC for the period from 1 July 2024 to 13 September 2024, noting that local government elections are held on 14 September 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

Council appoint a Councillor as a non-voting Councillor observer to the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee for the period from 1 July 2024 to 13 September 2024.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer and Business Integrity
 Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

The Office of Local Government (OLG) has released the “*Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW*”. The Guideline outlines minimum requirements for how Councils carryout and engage Internal Auditors, Audit Risk and Improvement Committees and provides minimum requirements for a Risk Management Framework.

At the Council meeting of 26 February 2024 Council considered a report in relation to the new guidelines and regulations and resolved to adopt an updated Internal Audit Charter and Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Terms of Reference. In addition, Council resolved to that the terms of appointment for Councillor Tania Brown and Councillor Dom Figliomeni as current members of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee conclude on 30 June 2024.

PROPOSAL

The Guidelines along with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* now prescribes under s216C that only one Councillor, who must not be the Mayor, can be appointed to the ARIC. This position is now prescribed as an observer only and is not a voting member.

Council will need to resolve to appoint a Councillor as a non-voting Councillor observer to the ARIC for the period from 1 July 2024 to 13 September 2024, noting that local government elections are held on 14 September 2024.

If more than one Councillor wishes to nominate for the Councillor observer position a vote will be required to be undertaken at the council meeting to determine the Councillor representative. Clause 11.5 of Council’s adopted Code of Meeting Practice stipulates that voting in an election at a Council meeting, other than an election for Deputy Lord Mayor, is to be by open means such as by voice or a show of hands.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 4. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032		Delivery Program 2022-2026	
Strategy		Service	
4.7	Demonstrate responsible decision-making based on our values, collaboration, and transparent and accountable leadership	Governance and Administration	

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is a fundamental component of decision making in all Council activities. The Audit Risk and Improvement Committee is a key component of council's risk management framework and assists in providing the elected council and the community on the activities of Council in relation to the delivery of all six of our interconnected Community Goals outlined in the Community Strategic Plan.

CONCLUSION

The appointment of a Councillor (as an observer) to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee will contribute towards providing assurance to the elected Council and the community on Council's risk management practices.