

ITEM 1 ELECTION OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

Council at its meeting held on 24 September 2018 elected Councillor David Brown as Deputy Lord Mayor for a term of one year. Council is now required to elect a Deputy Lord Mayor for a term to be determined. The next general local government election in NSW will be held on Saturday 12 September 2020, and the determined term of the Deputy Lord Mayor cannot surpass this date.

The *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* establishes the process for electing a Deputy Lord Mayor, which is outlined in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council elect a Deputy Lord Mayor for a term determined by the Council, noting that the term cannot exceed the date for the next general local government election in NSW scheduled for Saturday 12 September 2020.
- 2 Council determine whether the method of election for the Deputy Lord Mayor is by open voting, ordinary ballot or preferential ballot.
- 3 Council proceed to conduct the election of Deputy Lord Mayor in accordance with the determined method and the requirements of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

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

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

Section 231 of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides for Councillors to elect a person from among their number to be the Deputy Lord Mayor.

The person may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.

A Deputy Lord Mayor assumes all the duties and powers of the Lord Mayor at the request of the Lord Mayor, or if the Lord Mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function or if there is a casual vacancy in the Office of Lord Mayor.

Clause 394 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* stipulates that 'if a Mayor or Deputy Mayor is to be elected by the Councillors of an area, the election is to be in accordance with Schedule 7' (of the Regulation). Council is therefore required to conduct the election of Deputy Lord Mayor in accordance with this Schedule, which is summarised below.

PROPOSAL

A call for nominations was provided to Councillors. Nominations must be submitted to the Returning Officer no later than the commencement of Council meeting at 6 pm on 23 September 2019.

The process to be followed in the election of the Deputy Lord Mayor in accordance with Schedule 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* is as follows –

- The General Manager has appointed the Manager Governance and Customer Service as the Returning Officer for the Election of the Deputy Mayor.
- A Councillor is to be nominated in writing by two or more Councillors, one of whom may be the nominee, and the nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.

- The nomination is to be delivered or sent to the Returning Officer.
- The Returning Officer for the election is to announce the names of the nominees at the Council meeting at which the election is to be held.
- Should more than one Councillor be nominated, Council is to resolve at the meeting at which the election is to be held, whether the election is to proceed by way of open voting, ordinary ballot or preferential ballot, with preferential ballots and ordinary ballots being secret ballots. Open voting means voting by a show of hands or similar means.
- Counting will be conducted in accordance with Parts 2 or 3 of Schedule 7, depending on the method adopted by Council.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Councillors have been provided with notification of this election together with a nomination form prior to receiving the business paper for this meeting.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal “We are a connected and engaged community”.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Governance and Customer Service Business Plan 2019-2020.

CONCLUSION

Council can elect a Deputy Lord Mayor to exercise the functions of the Lord Mayor at the request of the Lord Mayor, or if the Lord Mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function, or if there is a casual vacancy in the Office of Lord Mayor. It is appropriate for the election to proceed at this meeting.