

ITEM 3 ELECTION OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

Council is required to elect a Deputy Lord Mayor who would assume all the duties and powers of the Lord Mayor in their absence.

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 outlines 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.
- 2 Council determine whether the method of election for the Deputy Lord Mayor is by preferential ballot, ordinary ballot or open voting.
- 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: Clare Phelan, Manager Governance and Information (Acting)
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services (Acting) – Connected to Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

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.

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 Council term or a shorter term.

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'. Council is therefore required to conduct the election of Deputy Lord Mayor in accordance with this Schedule.

PROPOSAL

The process to be followed in the election of the Deputy Lord Mayor in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Government regulation is as follows:

- 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 General Manager, or a person appointed by the General Manager, is the Returning Officer for the election and that person 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 preferential ballot, ordinary ballot or open voting, 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.

The term of the Deputy Lord Mayor will need to be determined by Council. In recent times at Wollongong City Council, the Deputy Lord Mayor has been elected on an annual basis.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

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 Wollongong 2022 goal “We are a connected and engaged community”.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Governance and Administration Service Plan 2017-18.

CONCLUSION

Council is able to 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. This election should proceed at this meeting and, in line with past practice, could be conducted by way of open voting on a show of hands.