

ITEM 8

AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - EXTENSION OF TERM - MS DONNA RYGATE

The initial term of Donna Rygate, Independent member and Chair of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) expires on 31 October 2023. This report recommends that the appointment of Donna Rygate to the Committee be extended, in accordance with the ARIC Charter, for four years, for the period up to 31 October 2027.

RECOMMENDATION

The term of Ms Donna Rygate as an independent member and Chairperson of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee be extended for the period up to 31 October 2027.

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

The Council ARIC Committee has three appointed independent external members, one of which is appointed by Council as Chairperson.

The current independent members of the Committee are as follows:

- Donna Rygate (Chairperson) appointment expires 31 October 2023
- Carl Murphy appointment expires 31 October 2025
- Robert Lagaida appointment expires 31 October 2026

The ARIC Terms of Reference states the following in relation to term limits of independent members of the ARIC:

- 5.5 *Members will be appointed for a four-year period. Members can be reappointed for a further term, but the total period of continuous membership cannot exceed eight years and extension is at the discretion of Council. This includes any term as Chair of the Committee. Members who have served an eight-year term (either as member or Chair) must have a two-year break from serving on the Committee before being appointed again.*

Ms Rygate was appointed for an initial term of three years. Ms Rygate's appointment was made under a previous Charter of the ARIC that allowed initial terms of between three years and five years. The current Terms of Reference for the ARIC has moved to a 4 year with a 4-year extension approach.

Ms Rygate has a strong background in public sector management including previously holding the Chief Executive Officer roles with Local Government NSW and with the NSW Office of Communities, as well as senior executive roles with several NSW Government agencies. Ms Rygate also has experience in local government Audit Risk and Improvement Committees.

PROPOSAL

In accordance with the ARIC Terms of Reference it is recommended that Ms Rygate be appointed to an additional 4-year term as independent member and Chairperson of the ARIC for the period up to 31 October 2027.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 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 2023-2024.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications relating to the extension of term.

CONCLUSION

The Audit Risk and Improvement Committee is a key component of Council's governance framework. The objective of the ARIC is to provide independent assurance and advice to the General Manager and Council by overseeing and monitoring Council's governance, risk and control frameworks and its external accountability requirements. Extending the appointment of Ms Rygate on the Committee allows for continuity following the appointment of two new independent external members in October 2022.