
Reappointment of Independent Voting Member - Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Organisational Services (Helen McNeil)

Report Contributor: Governance and Risk Manager (Lauren Edwards)

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Reappoint Andrew MacLeod as Independent Voting Member of Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a term of four (4) years.
2. Note that if reappointed, this will be the final consecutive term that Andrew MacLeod will be eligible to serve as a member of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

Key points

1. The four (4) year term of appointment for independent member of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, Andrew MacLeod, will conclude in April 2025.
2. Mr MacLeod is seeking reappointment for a further term and has completed a performance self-assessment in support of reappointment indicating that he continues to meet the independence and eligibility criteria required for the role.
3. Members may be appointed for two consecutive four (4) year terms.
4. The proposed reappointment is supported by the Chair of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and the General Manager.

Background

Council is required to have an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (Committee)¹ comprised of three (3) independent voting members in accordance with the '[Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW](#)' (the 'Guidelines') issued by the Office of Local Government.

Council's Committee is currently comprised of the following voting members each appointed for a four (4) year term:

1. Laurie Lefcourt – Chairperson – Commenced 2023 (Refer to the update in agenda item 15.4)
2. Andrew MacLeod – Independent Member – Commenced 2021
3. Raymond Wong - Independent Member – Commenced 2023

Voting Committee Members are permitted to serve two consecutive terms of four (4) years each.² A Committee Member who continues to meet the independence³ and eligibility⁴ criteria set out in the regulations⁵ is eligible to be reappointed.

¹ [Section 428A](#) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

² [Section 216G](#)(3) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

³ [Section 216F](#) Ibid.

⁴ [Section 216E](#) Ibid.

⁵ Reference is to the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

Andrew MacLeod's first term as an Independent Member on the Committee concludes in April 2025. Mr MacLeod is seeking reappointment for a second four (4) year term.

Reappointment of Committee Member

The Guidelines provide that Council may reappoint a Committee Member following an assessment of the Committee Member's performance and considering the views of the Committee Chair and the General Manager.⁶

A performance self-assessment has been completed by the Committee Member seeking reappointment and this has been endorsed by the Committee Chair and the General Manager.

The Committee Member has attested, within their performance self-assessment, to continuing to meet the independence and eligibility criteria required of the position holder.

Governance

A. Finance

The Committee Charter provides that the General Manager is authorised to negotiate a sitting fee payable to a voting Committee Member commensurate with the Committee Member's skills, experience and qualifications.⁷

Independent Members of the Committee are currently paid a sitting fee of \$349 and reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses incurred in attending Committee meetings.

Committee Member sitting fees and travel reimbursements are paid from a recurring annual Internal Audit budget which has sufficient funds to support the continued appointment of three (3) voting Committee Members. The Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) has also accounted for these fees and costs as ongoing expenses associated with maintaining three (3) voting Committee Members.

B. Environment

Not applicable

C. Legal

Appointment of a voting Committee Member must be made by resolution of Council.⁸

Consultation

The Committee Chair and the General Manager were consulted on the performance self-assessment of the Committee Member seeking reappointment and each subsequently provided their support for the reappointment.

Comment

Andrew MacLeod continues to meet the regulatory independence and eligibility requirements for holding a position as a voting member on the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. Support from the Committee Chair and the General Manager for the reappointment has been provided following a performance self-assessment. The reappointment of Andrew MacLeod as Independent Voting Member on the Committee is now recommended to Council.

⁶ Pages 25-26 of the [Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW](#)

⁷ Refer to page 6 of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee [Charter](#) adopted 21 February 2024.

⁸ [Section 216C](#)(3) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.