

ITEM 6

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

This report recommends the appointment of an independent member to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) to fill a vacancy arising from the conclusion of the current appointment of Mr Terry Clout.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Approve the appointment of Ms Donna Rygate to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for an initial term of three years, expiring on 31 October 2023.
- 2 Thank Mr Terry Clout for his service and advice to Council as an independent member and Chairperson of the Committee.

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

Following the conclusion of the term of appointment of Mr Terry Clout, Council invited Expressions of Interest from suitably experienced and qualified persons to fill the independent member vacancy on the Committee.

A total of 28 submissions were received from interested persons.

PROPOSAL

A selection panel was appointed to consider the applications received. The selection panel comprised Cathy Hudson (ARIC independent member), Cr Mithra Cox (ARIC Councillor member), Renee Campbell (Director Corporate Services), and Todd Hopwood (Manager Governance and Customer Service).

The selection panel invited a shortlist of five applicants to interview, and following the interview process the panel unanimously endorsed that Donna Rygate be recommended for appointment as an independent member of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for an initial term of three years.

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 a number of NSW Government agencies. Ms Rygate is an experienced member of Audit Risk and Improvement Committees and is currently a member of the Audit and Risk Committees of NSW Local Land Services, City of Parramatta, Mid Coast Council, Blayney Council, Cabonne Council, Central Tablelands Water, and Shoalhaven City Council.

As Mr Clout also held the role of ARIC Chairperson, the Chairperson role will also need to be appointed once the existing vacancy is filled. The ARIC Charter states that the voting members of the Committee will endorse one of the independent members as chairperson for an initial term of at least three years, with a maximum period of five years.

Once the replacement member for the current vacancy has been confirmed, the voting members of the ARIC will meet to endorse an independent member as Chairperson. A report will be provided to Council to confirm the appointment by resolution.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Appropriate reference checks were undertaken by the selection panel and no issues or areas of concern were raised, and those parties contacted confirmed Ms Rygate's professionalism and strong knowledge of the functions of Audit Risk and Improvement Committees.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 Goal 4.3 "Our council is accountable, financially sustainable and has the trust of the community".

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Governance and Customer Service, Service Plan 2020-21.

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. Filling the current vacancy on the Committee with a new independent external member will ensure that these important oversight functions continue to occur.