

ITEM 4

AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - EXTENSION OF TERM - MR CARL MURPHY

The initial term of Carl Murphy, Independent member of Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) expires on 31 October 2025. This report recommends that the appointment of Carl Murphy to the Committee be extended, in accordance with the ARIC Charter, for the period up to 31 December 2028.

RECOMMENDATION

The term of Mr Carl Murphy as an independent member of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee be extended for the period up to 31 December 2028.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

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

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning
ARIC	Audit Risk and Improvement Committee
CPA	Certified Practicing Accountant
GAICD	Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors

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 2027
- 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.

5.6 To preserve the Committee's knowledge of Council, ideally, no more than one member should leave the Committee because of rotation on any one year.

5.7 Notwithstanding Clause 5.5, Council may determine that a member serve a term of less than 4 years to ensure that membership renewal dates are staggered so knowledge of the council's operations, financial reporting structure and other important aspects are not lost to the audit, risk and improvement committee when members change.

PROPOSAL

Mr Murphy was appointed for an initial term of three years on 1 November 2022 and has indicated that he would like to be considered for a further term of three years only. Whilst the standard term under the ARIC Terms of Reference is four years, a three-year term is considered acceptable as it will still permit Council to maintain a stagger of membership terms between independent members that will allow a planned phasing in and out of members without a detriment to accumulated knowledge of the Committee.

All independent member terms generally expire at the end of October in the relevant year. It is noted that Council elections are scheduled for September 2028, so it is recommended as a one-off that Mr Murphy's re-appointed term expire on 31 December 2028 to allow the newly constituted council to make a decision on further renewing or appointing another member.

Mr Murphy has a strong background of close to 40 years in public administration previously holding the role of Chief Operating Officer with the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities and the role of First Assistant Secretary, Corporate Services Division with the Commonwealth Department of Finance. Mr Murphy is an experienced member of Audit Risk and Improvement Committees across the public sector. Mr Murphy is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and is a Certified Practicing Accountant (CPA).

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Goal 4 – 'We are a connected and engaged community'. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032		Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy		Service
4.7	Demonstrate responsible decision-making based on our values, collaboration, and transparent and accountable leadership	Governance and Administration

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

The Audit Risk and Improvement Committee plays a vital role in Council's governance framework. Its primary objective is to provide independent assurance and strategic advice to the General Manager and Council, ensuring robust oversight of governance, risk management, control processes, and external accountability requirements. Extending Mr. Murphy's appointment to the Committee supports continuity, allowing the existing members to maintain momentum while further embedding best practices within Council's governance structures.