

**Item 4.1****Election of Deputy Lord Mayor****File No: S062388****Memorandum by the Chief Executive Officer**

To Council:

Sections 231(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) provide:

- (1) the councillors may elect a person from among their number to be the deputy mayor; and
- (2) the person may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.

At the Council meeting of 9 September 2019, Councillor Jess Scully was elected Deputy Lord Mayor in accordance with the provisions of section 231 of the Local Government Act 1993 for a term commencing immediately and ending on the day appointed for the next ordinary election of Council.

**Postponement of Local Government Elections**

In March 2020, the Minister for Local Government announced that the September 2020 local government elections would be postponed to address the risks posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Local Government Act 1993 has been amended to confer on the Minister, a time-limited power to postpone council elections.

The official Order under the Local Government Act 1993 deferring the local government election from 12 September 2020 for twelve months was made on 12 June 2020. The NSW Government has announced that the local government elections will be held on 4 September 2021.

Accordingly, given the postponement of the local government election, it is appropriate that Council declare the office of Deputy Lord Mayor vacant to enable it to elect a Deputy Lord Mayor for a new term of office commencing immediately and ending on the day appointed for the next ordinary election of Council, currently scheduled to be held in September 2021.

**Payment of Fees**

Section 249(5) of the Act provides:

- (5) a council may pay the deputy mayor (if there is one) a fee determined by the council for such time as the deputy mayor acts in the office of the mayor. The amount of the fee so paid must be deducted from the mayor's annual fee.

On 5 June 2000, Council resolved to:

“Pay Councillors the maximum of the range (as determined annually by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal) as a matter of standing policy.

Pay the Lord Mayor the maximum of the range (in addition to the fee as a Councillor) - as a matter of standing policy (less the Deputy Lord Mayor’s fee).

Pay the Deputy Lord Mayor, in addition to the fee as a Councillor, an amount equal to 10 per cent of the mayoral fee actually paid to the Lord Mayor as a matter of standing policy.”

### **Call for Nominations**

Nominations for the office of Deputy Lord Mayor are now invited. Nominations must be made in writing by two or more Councillors (one of whom may be the nominee). Nomination forms will be provided to Councillors.

### **Conduct of Election**

Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 provides the method of conducting an election for Deputy Lord Mayor (further details on election procedures will be provided to Councillors). The last time the Deputy Lord Mayor’s position was contested the method of voting selected by the Council was open, exhaustive voting.

### **Recommendation**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council declare the office of Deputy Lord Mayor vacant effective immediately;
- (B) Council elect a Deputy Lord Mayor for a term commencing immediately following the election and ending on the day appointed for the next ordinary election of Council;
- (C) the method of voting be by open, exhaustive voting; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer conduct the election forthwith.

**MONICA BARONE**

Chief Executive Officer