

**Item 4.3****Central Sydney Planning Committee - Election of Councillors****File No: S062388****Memorandum by the Chief Executive Officer**

To Council:

The Central Sydney Planning Committee (CSPC) is constituted by the City of Sydney Act 1988 (the Act).

Section 34(1) of the Act provides that the Committee shall consist of seven members:

- (a) the Lord Mayor of Sydney;
- (b) two councillors of the City of Sydney elected by the City Council; and
- (c) four persons (two of whom are senior State government employees and two of whom are not State or local government employees) appointed by the Minister administering Part 4 of the Planning Act, each having expertise in at least one of architecture, building, civic design, construction, engineering, transport, tourism, the arts, planning or heritage.

The persons currently appointed by the Minister pursuant to clause (c) are Ms Abbie Galvin, Ms Alex O'Mara, Mr Dick Persson AM and Mr Richard Horne.

Previously, the Council has chosen to hold a separate election for each of the two Council-elected members; the elections were by open, exhaustive voting (that is, by a show of hands or similar means for candidates duly nominated).

At the Council meeting of 9 September 2019, Council elected Councillors Philip Thalys and Jess Scully to the two positions on the Central Sydney Planning Committee, effective immediately until the day appointed for the next ordinary election of Council.

The Act provides that Council may appoint an alternate for each of the elected members. At the Council meeting of 9 September 2019, Council appointed Councillor Robert Kok as alternate to Councillor Thalys and Councillor Linda Scott as alternate to Councillor Scully until 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 offices of Central Sydney Planning Committee member vacant to enable it to elect Central Sydney Planning Committee members 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.

### **Recommendation**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council declare the offices of Central Sydney Planning Committee member vacant effective immediately;
- (B) Council elect two Councillors to be members of the Central Sydney Planning Committee commencing immediately following the election and ending on the day appointed for the next ordinary election of Council;
- (C) the method of voting be open, exhaustive voting;
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer conduct the election forthwith; and
- (E) Council appoint alternates for each member elected.

**MONICA BARONE**

Chief Executive Officer