

7.1 ADOPTION OF DRAFT GOVERNANCE RULES INCLUDING THE ELECTION PERIOD POLICY

Recommendations from Committee of Council

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. The Council adopts the recommendations of the Committee comprising all Councillors, appointed to consider public submissions received on the draft Governance Rules, including the Election Period Policy, to adopt the draft Governance Rules, incorporating the Election Period Policy, as attached to this report.*
- 2. The adopted Governance Rules, incorporating the Election Period Policy, be made publicly available on Council's website and provided to each Councillor.*

INTRODUCTION

On 30 June 2020 Council resolved to release the draft Governance Rules, including the Election Period Policy, for public consultation and to appoint a committee comprising all Councillors to consider any submissions received.

The Committee met at 7.00pm on Tuesday 18 August 2020 and is submitting its recommendations to Council.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Councils to adopt Governance Rules, including an Election Period Policy, by 1 September 2020.

These Rules will govern meeting procedures for Council meetings and meetings of delegated committees.

The Act requires a council to submit its draft Governance Rules and Election Period Policy to a public consultation process, prior to adoption.

A public consultation process was therefore undertaken for the draft Governance Rules, and the Election Period Policy, with submissions open from early July 2020, for a period of 28 days, with anyone making a written submission able to be heard in support of their submission, if requesting to do so.

DISCUSSION

The committee appointed by Council, met on 18 August 2020, at 7.00 pm, to consider submissions. The meeting was open to the public and webcast.

One submission was received. The submitter did not request to be heard in support of their submission.

The submission stated that adoption of the Governance Rules was important as they would govern the conduct of Council meetings and meetings of delegated committees. It also proposed that candidates for Mayor and Deputy Mayor should be allowed to speak to their nomination which would assist efforts for greater transparency around how these decisions are made.

The Committee also considered the inclusion of a part (c) to Rule 2 of Chapter 1, as proposed by the Mayor.

The committee resolved to recommend that the draft Governance Rules be adopted subject to the inclusion of Rule 2 part (c) in Chapter 1 of the Governance Rules. The text appears in red type. Refer to Attachment 1.

IMPLEMENTATION

The approved Governance Rules, incorporating the Election Period Policy, will form one consolidated document, with the Election Period Policy incorporated as Chapter 7 of the Governance Rules.

A copy of this new document will be provided to each Councillor and made available on Council's website.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this matter.

CONCLUSION

The committee recommends that the draft Governance Rules, incorporating the Election Period Policy, be adopted subject to the inclusion of Rule 2 part (c) in Chapter 1 of the Governance Rules.