

7.2 Administration of the September 2024 Local Government Elections

REPORT BY THE MANAGER, CUSTOMER SERVICES & GOVERNANCE
TO 14 DECEMBER 2022 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400098, GOV400067, A0170031

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. receive the report by the Manager, Customer Services & Governance on the Administration of the September 2024 Local Government Elections; and
2. pursuant to s. 296(2) and (3) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (“the Act”), authorise the General Manager to enter into a contract for the Electoral Commissioner to administer all elections, council polls and constitutional referenda of the Council for the contract period including the September 2024 Elections.

Executive summary

The Office of Local Government issued circular 22–35 / 11 November 2022 informing Council of the extension of the deadline for Councils to make a decision on the administration of the 2024 election complying with section 296AA of the Local Government Act.

Council has historically contracted the NSW Electoral Commissioner to conduct council elections.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

Under section 296AA of the Act, each council must resolve by 13th March 2023 to either:

- enter into an agreement with the Electoral Commissioner by contract or otherwise to administer the Council’s elections, polls and referenda; or
- that the Council’s elections are to be administered by another electoral services provider engaged by the council.

Mid-Western Regional Council has historically engaged the NSW Electoral Commission to conduct the Elections. The cost of holding the 2024 local government election is expected to be well in excess of \$200,000.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Good Government
Goal	Strong civic leadership

Strategy	Provide strong representation for the community at Regional, State and Federal levels
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Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not Applicable

Council Policies

Not Applicable

Legislation

S 296AA Local Government Act 1993

Financial implications

Council accumulates a budget over the 4-year term of Council to fund the conduct of the general election of Councillors and holds these funds in an Election reserve. This will be adjusted as required based on the advised costs which are expected to be in excess of \$200,000.

The NSW Electoral Commission engagement contract will also provide for the conduct of other polls and constitutional referenda, there are no budget provisions at this time should council utilise these services.

Associated Risks

No compliance of statutory provisions to conduct the Councillor Election in 2024.

If Councils fails to engage the Electoral commission to conduct the election the General Manager will be required to administer Council's elections.

RICHARD CUSHWAY
MANAGER, CUSTOMER SERVICES &
GOVERNANCE

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

17 November 2022

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER