

## **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MINUTES – 14 December 2018 (Eligibility to Vote in Elector Poll)**

### **14.4**

#### **Letter to Residents and Ratepayers – Re Eligibility to Vote in Elector**

**Poll Author** – Acting General Manager

**Responsible Officer** – Acting General Manager

#### **Background**

Council resolved to conduct an Elector Poll at its November meeting. To ensure a fair and transparent process and to ensure participation is as high as possible Council should take reasonable steps both to inform all those eligible to vote of the Elector Poll, but also to ensure that people who may want to vote are suitably enrolled via the Tasmanian Electoral Commission or Council's General Manager's Roll.

In addition to media statements and standard advertisements for the Poll, it is considered a sound and inclusive process to write to every resident and ratepayer explaining the process and ensuring they know how to register. Ensuring broad awareness of the Poll and as high a participation level as possible will ensure the Poll's legitimacy.

#### **Consultation**

Consultation has occurred between the Acting General Manager, Mayor and representatives of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.

#### **Financial Impacts**

There are costs associated with such a broad scale mail out, approximately \$3,000. However, council could combine the mail out with the mid-January rates notice mail out, which would create a significant saving. Council could also utilise the opportunity to achieve some other requirements, such as seeking the email and phone contacts of people who are willing to transact with Council in this manner, as this could present a long-term saving.

If this process is endorsed, Council should consider the financial implications of this unbudgeted expense during the half year budget review in February.

#### **Discussion**

The letter should include a brief summary of the proposed Elector Poll and why Council is conducting it. It should also provide clear instructions on voting eligibility and how to register, both with the Electoral Commission and Council's General Manager's Roll.

#### **Risk Implications**

If council chooses not to send out such a letter some eligible electors could feel that they have not been adequately forewarned of the Elector Poll and of the process for registering.

#### **Resolution 08/12.2018/C**

Moved: Cr J Barwick

Seconded: Cr P Fenerty

That the Council resolve to undertake a mail out in accordance with this report.

Carried Unanimously