

Report No.	19-154
Decision Required	

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON - PROCEDURES AND ELECTION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to recommend the procedures as outlined in the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) to be adopted for the election of the Chairperson, Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council (trading as Horizons Regional Council) at the first meeting of the eleventh triennium of the Council on Tuesday, 22 October 2019. It is suggested that the same procedure be used for the election of the Deputy Chairperson of Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-154 and Annexes;
- b. resolves that either System A or System B of the procedures as set out in Schedule 7, clauses 25(3) and 25(4), of the Local Government Act 2002 (at Annex A), be adopted for the election of the Chairperson;
- c. resolves that Councillor/s (to be named) be nominated for the position of Chairperson of Council;
- d. declares that Councillor (to be named) be elected as Chairperson of Council.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. There is no financial impact.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. The community was fully involved in the elections process.

5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no significant business risk associated with this item

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. In accordance with Schedule 7, clause 21(4) of the Act, the Chief Executive as principal administrative officer, shall preside over the meeting while the Chairperson is being elected. Under Schedule 7, clause 21(5)(b) of the Act, the chairperson shall be elected by Council from among its Members at the first meeting following the election.
- 6.2. The procedures for the election of the Chairperson of a Regional Council are set down in Schedule 7, clause 25 of the Act, which is attached at Annex A. Councillors must first determine by resolution, which system of voting they will use.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. **Under System A** for the election of the Chairperson of a Regional Council, Councillors may determine that the person be elected by a system of voting that requires that the person to be elected receives the votes of a majority of the membership of the Council present and voting. Where more than one round of voting is required, the least successful candidate in a round of voting shall not be a candidate in the next round of voting. This system ensures that the successful candidate has the support of a majority of Councillors.
- 7.2. Where there is an equality of votes in any round for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.
- 7.3. **Under System B**, there is only one round of voting and the person is appointed if he or she has more votes than any other candidate.
- 7.4. When there is an equality of votes for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.

8. COMMENT

- 8.1. Under System B, where there is a tie which must be resolved by lot, the most common procedure is for the names of the candidates receiving an equal number of votes to be placed in a container, and the name of the person drawn out by an independent person, is deemed to be elected.
- 8.2. Once the procedural questions have been decided, nominations for Council Chairperson will be called.
- 8.3. It is also suggested that the procedures adopted for the election of the Chairperson of Council, also be adopted for the election of the Deputy Chairperson.
- 8.4. Upon appointment of the Chairperson, he/she will sign the declaration (attached at Annex B).

9. SIGNIFICANCE

- 9.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Michael McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNEXES

- A Schedule 7, Clause 25, LGA
- B Sample Declaration - Chairperson