

Report No.	19-120
Decision Required	

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS - OCTOBER 2019

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This report is to inform Members of the full list of candidates standing for election to Horizons Regional Council, the process up to and including the day of election, and asks Members to consider the need of Council to undertake urgent business between the day after the day when the official results of the election are declared, and the date of the Inaugural meeting of Council.
- 1.2. This report is also to ensure MWRC Holdings Ltd is able to continue operating between the day after the day when the official results of the election are declared, and the date of the Inaugural meeting of Council, as the Horizons Regional Council appointed director is the 'Chair' of Horizons Regional Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-120 and Annex.
- b. approves delegated authority to the Chief Executive to make urgent business decisions on Council's behalf and be the Council's spokesperson, only on decisions within the delegated authority of the Chief Executive of \$400,000. This delegated authority applies for the period between the day after the day when the official results of the election are declared, and the date of the Inaugural meeting.
- c. approves delegated authority to Chair of Council Bruce Gordon to continue to act in the capacity of Director for MWRC Holdings Limited for the period between the day after the day when the official results of the election are declared, and the date of the Inaugural meeting.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. There is no additional financial impact.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. The list of candidates is on Council's website, www.horizons.govt.nz, and the names will also be publicly notified as legislatively required.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1. The names of candidates for each constituency of Horizons Regional Council are being advertised in papers throughout the Region between 19 August and 24 August (depending on publication dates) as required by the Local Electoral Act, and a list of the candidates is attached at Annex A.

6. COMMENT

- 6.1. Members are advised that voting papers will be posted out between 20 and 25 September 2019.

- 6.2. All candidates' profile statements and photos have been placed on Council's website following the close of nominations on 16 August 2019, in accordance with section 29(2) of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001.
- 6.3. It is likely that 'Meet the Candidates' meetings will be organised throughout the Region by community groups and organisations to provide an opportunity for members of the public to meet and listen to candidates. Candidates have been encouraged to contact these groups and organisations about possible meetings.
- 6.4. Postal voting closes at 12 noon on Saturday, 12 October 2019, and it is hoped preliminary results will be available by 6.00pm on that day. All candidates will be advised of the preliminary results of the election by telephone that evening. The Horizons Regional Council website will be progressively updated on 12 October as results are received from the electoral officers of the territorial authorities. Final results are expected by 17 October 2019.
- 6.5. Providing the official count has been completed, and publicly notified as required by legislation, the inaugural meeting of the eleventh triennium of Horizons Regional Council will be held on Tuesday, 22 October 2019.
- 6.6. All candidates who are declared to be elected (whether elected unopposed or not) come into office on the day after the day on which the official result of the election is declared by public notice under section 86 of the Local Electoral Act 2001. However, no persons are able to act as a member of Horizons Regional Council and undertake any business of council until they have made their Declaration at the inaugural meeting (Schedule 7, s.14 Local Government Act 2002).
- 6.7. Accordingly, Council must consider whether or not to give delegated authority to the Chief Executive to make urgent business decisions on Council's behalf and be the Council's spokesperson for the period between the day after the day when the official results of the election are declared, and the date of the Inaugural meeting. Decisions on any expenditure above the delegated authority of the Chief Executive of \$400,000 will be held over until the new Council has been sworn in.
- 6.8. In the event that delegation is not approved, the Chief Executive will not be able to make urgent business decisions on Council's behalf nor will he be able to be the Council's spokesperson. The Chief Executive will however, still be able to make operational decisions within the delegated authority of the Chief Executive of \$400,000.
- 6.9. It should be noted that it is still necessary for the Minister to declare any states of local emergency required during the period where there are no elected representatives sworn in by Council.
- 6.10. In addition to the Chief Executive receiving delegation to manage urgent decisions in the absence of Council, MWRC Holdings Ltd, also needs to continue to operate during the period between the day after the day when the official results of the election are declared, and the date of the Inaugural meeting. Currently the Horizons Regional Council appointed director for MWRC Holdings Ltd board is the "Chair" of Council. Accordingly, Council must consider whether or not to give delegated authority to the current Chair of Council to maintain this position during the period between the day after the day when the official results of the election are declared, and the date of the Inaugural meeting.
- 6.11. In the event that delegation is not approved, MWRC Holdings Ltd will not be able to make any board decisions, which could be crucial during the final phase of the building of the Victoria Avenue development

7. SIGNIFICANCE

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

Craig Grant
ELECTORAL OFFICER

ANNEXES

A 2019 Horizons Regional Council Candidates