

MEETING DETAILS	
Councillor name:	Stuart Larkins
Council meeting date:	15 August 2023
<p>Note: As per the Code of Meeting Practice – clause 3.11</p> <p>A councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be <i>in writing</i> and must be submitted to the chief executive officer or the public officer not later than 12 noon on Monday in the week preceding the meeting (ie one (1) week and one (1) day prior to the meeting).</p>	
MOTION: Directly Elected Mayor	
Motion:	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Supports a change from a councillor elected to a directly elected mayor by 2028. 2) Resolves to undertake a council referendum to voters at the September 2024 elections, pursuant to section 228 of the Local Government Act 1993. 3) Instructs the CEO to formally advise the Minister for Local Government of the resolution of Council, along with a summary of any submissions received during the 42-day public notice/consultation period.
Purpose:	The purpose of the motion is to allow the community to directly elected their mayor.
Background:	<p>Kiama Municipal Council has been undertaking a number of reforms and changes, such as the organisational restructure and has been determining a new future pathway. This motion is in keeping with those changes, and seeks to ensure we have a transparent and accountable political leadership from the mayor and councillors at election time.</p> <p>In the Illawarra-South Coast, Kiama Council voters are the only Local Government Area that does not directly elect their mayor. Wollongong, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and recently, Bega, all directly elect their mayor.</p> <p>Bega Council went to a council referendum in 2021 to seek to change the election process and will be directly electing their mayor in 2024.</p> <p>In a similar comparison, Kiama Council falls into the Office of Local Government Category 4 Councils. Out of these councils, a slim majority have a directly elected mayor in place (12). Several Category 4 councils have been, and are, moving towards the directly elected mayor. They also have a number of councillors similar to our own – between 5 to 11 councillors.</p> <p>Item 17.6 in the June 2023 council meeting agenda, outlines the process for conducting Council referendums and the cost associated with it. If a council referendum were to be conducted outside of an election event, it would cost somewhere between \$100,000 to \$200,000. Holding this question, and any other</p>

	<p>required council referendums at the 2024 Local Government Elections substantially reduces the costs.</p> <p>Holding this referendum in 2024, with the change being implemented in 2028, is in line with the projections that Council will be meeting in its Long-Term-Financial Plan for financial sustainability and Council will be able to make any further financial adjustments associated with having a directly elected mayor moving forward after 2028.</p> <p>The office of Local Government also provides the information regarding council referendums: https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/council-circulars/19-23-constitutional-referendums-and-council-polls/</p> <p>Council referendums are not conducted regularly and if our council undertakes a referendum for change on one thing, it should use it as an opportunity to conduct referendums for multiple changes as required.</p> <p>This may be the only chance to make this change.</p> <p>If this motion and referendum were successful it would not only hand over the responsibility to directly elect the mayor to the community, it will also give the community the opportunity to better shape the future political leadership of the LGA</p>	
Link to Council Plans:	<p>Does the motion link to:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Operational Plan</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Strategic Plan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Capital Works Program</p>	
<p>Note: As per the Code of Meeting Practice – clause 3.14</p> <p>A notice of motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council’s current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the notice of motion.</p>		
Costing/budget:	Requires a 2024/25 budget allocation to meet the referendum question costings.	
AUTHORISATION		
Councillor signature:	<i>S Larkins</i>	Date: 29 June 2023