

Report 14.376  
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Committee Wellington Water Committee  
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## Procedure to elect the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

### 1. Purpose

To advise the Wellington Water Committee (the Committee) of the procedure to elect the Committee Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

### 2. Background

Under Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act), the Committee may appoint its own Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. The Committee's Terms of Reference provide for this to occur once all Committee members have been appointed. As all Committee members have been appointed, it is appropriate for the Committee to appoint its Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson at its inaugural meeting on 11 September 2014.

The Committee must adopt the voting system for these elections, in case there is more than one nomination for the position of Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson. Standing Orders outline two options for the Committee's consideration:

- a) Election by the majority of members present and voting, or
- b) Election by receiving a greater number of votes than any other candidate.

#### 2.1 Characteristics of election by majority (voting system A)

The person who is elected received the votes of a majority of the members of the Committee.

- There is a first round of voting for all candidates.
- If no candidate is elected in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded.
- If no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and so on. Each time the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded.

- If, in any round, two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.
- Rounds of voting will only be required where there are more than two candidates.

## **2.2 Characteristics of election by greatest number of votes (voting system B)**

- A person is elected if they receive more votes than any other candidate.
- There is only one round of voting.
- If two or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.

## **3. Comment**

The Committee can choose either of the two voting systems described above to elect the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. The Committee is entitled to adopt different systems for the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. However, for reasons of ease and practicality, it is suggested that the Committee adopt the same procedure for the election of both the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

### **3.1 Determining by 'lot' where there is a tie**

Both voting systems require a resolution by 'lot' if two candidates receive an equal number of votes and no one else is elected. The most common procedure is for the names of the candidates with the same number of votes to be placed in a container and the name of the person drawn out by an independent person is deemed the winner i.e. elected or not excluded from the next round. It is recommended that this process be used in the event that there is a tie between candidates.

### **3.2 Which voting system is best?**

If the Committee wants to guarantee that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson receive the votes of a majority of the members of the Committee it should adopt voting system A, i.e. election by majority. This is because the alternative voting procedure, where a candidate is elected by receiving the greatest number of votes, does not ensure that the winning candidate has the support of more than half the members of the Committee in every instance.

### **3.3 Newly elected Chairperson to take the chair before Deputy Chairperson is elected**

Once the voting procedure has been decided the presiding officer will call for nominations for the office of Committee Chairperson. Once elected, the newly-elected Chairperson shall take the chair for the rest of the meeting.

Election of the Deputy Chairperson will proceed after the Chairperson takes the Chair.

## **4. The decision-making process and significance**

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

#### 4.1 **Significance of the decision**

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

### 5. **Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Chooses** either
  - (a) Voting system A (election by the majority of members)

*OR*

  - (b) Voting system B (election by the greatest number of votes)

*for the election of the Committee Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.*
4. **Agrees** that, in the event of a tie under voting system A, the candidate to be excluded from the next round of voting shall be resolved by lot as described in section 3.1 of this report.
5. **Agrees** that, in the event of a tie under voting system B, the candidate to be elected shall be resolved by lot as described in section 3.1 of this report.

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