

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Administration Advisor
REFERENCE: C780
DATE: 19 October 2007
SUBJECT: Voting System for Certain Appointments

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

To advise the Council on the two systems of voting for the appointments of members, as set out in Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2007.

BACKGROUND

Clause 25, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 stipulates that local authorities must determine by resolution which voting system they will use for the election or appointment of Deputy Mayor, Chairperson or Deputy Chairpersons of committees, and the election or appointment of representatives of a local authority.

The two systems are as follows:

System A

- (a) *Requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee present and voting; and*
- (b) *Has the following characteristics:*
 - (i) *there is a first round of voting for all candidates; and*
 - (ii) *if no candidate is successful in the round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and*
 - (iii) *if no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and if necessary subsequent, round of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded; and*
 - (iv) *in any round of voting, if 2 or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.*

System B

- (a) *Requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives more votes than any other candidate; and*
- (b) *Has the following characteristics:*
 - (i) *there is only 1 round of voting; and*
 - (ii) *if 2 or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.*

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

Council has in the past used System B, which is simplistic and easy to administer.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT System B under Clause 25, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 be adopted by Council for the appointments of Deputy Mayor, Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of Committees and Community Boards, and the election or appointment of representatives of this local authority for the term of this Council.

Sandra Hartley
Administration Advisor