

6.1. MM01 - Election of Deputy Mayor

As Councillors will be aware, the North Sydney local government election this year will be the first since the early 1980s at which the Mayor will not be popularly elected. The newly elected Council will be required to elect a Mayor at its first meeting in September for a two year term.

Section 231 of the Local Government Act 1993 states that:

(1) The Councillors may elect a person from among their number to be the Deputy Mayor.

(2) The person may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.

Council's *Deputy Mayor Policy* provides that the election of the Deputy Mayor (for the period 1 October to 30 September) will take place at the Council meeting held in September annually. Traditionally the Deputy Mayor has been elected for yearly terms.

This year I propose that the election of the Deputy Mayor be deferred until the October Council meeting. That way, Councillors will not have to complete a ballot paper for both positions at the same time and can consider who would be a good choice as Deputy Mayor to complement the Mayor when that position has been filled.

I do not believe that this proposal requires an amendment to the *Deputy Mayor Policy* as it is a practical measure designed to provide the new Council with clarity as to who to support in the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Any change of procedure can be considered in the future when the policy is next reviewed.

I therefore recommend:

1. THAT the election of the Deputy Mayor for the 2021/22 term be deferred until the October Council meeting.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON
MAYOR**