

**Mayor and Councillors**  
COUNCIL

17 APRIL 2014

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

## **POSSIBLE VOTING IN THE 2014 ELECTRA TRUST ELECTION**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report seeks Council's decision on whether or not to exercise its voting right in the 2014 Electra Trust Election.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION**

- 2 This report does not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

### **BACKGROUND**

- 3 In accordance with the provisions of the Electra Trust Deed two trustees are required to retire by rotation each year. The trustees are then required to arrange an election each year, to be held by postal vote. The Trustees who are to retire in 2014 are Mr Lindsay Burnell of Ohau, Levin, and Mr George Sue of Paraparaumu. Both have indicated their intention to seek re-election.
- 4 Nominations for candidacy will not close until 1 May 2014, but Council is invited to consider in advance the question of whether or not to exercise its voting rights. While the closing date for voting is not yet known, based on previous years' timing it is likely that voting, if decided upon, will have to be completed by mid-June.
- 5 If Council decides to exercise its voting right, all candidates could be invited to the 5 June Council meeting to address Council during Public Speaking Time and answer any questions. This was the format followed by Council for the 2013 Election.
- 6 For the 2014 Election, as Council has 258 ICPs<sup>1</sup> it will receive 258 voting papers on which two votes each could be cast (or a total of 516 votes). For the year ending 30 June 2013 the Council spent \$1,939,965 excluding GST on electricity.
- 7 In the 2012 and 2013 Elections Council decided to vote. In 2013 the Council's consideration also included the decision not to go into public excluded session to cast its votes. The Council apportioned its votes in public session, and as a number of Councillors abstained from voting the total voting pool was reduced in proportion. The voting preferences of individual Councillors were not made public, although the names and allocation of votes to candidates were.

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<sup>1</sup> ICP = Installation Control Point: the point of connection on a local network or embedded network that the distributor nominates as the point at which a trader will be deemed to supply electricity to a consumer.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Issues

- 8 If it decides to vote, the Council may wish to proceed using the same process for voting as happened in 2013; conversely it may choose to go into public excluded session to do so. The grounds for public exclusion could be under Clause 7(2)(f)(i) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987: to “maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through...the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of any local authority...”
- 9 If the Council decides not to exercise its right to vote no further action will be required.

### Financial Considerations

- 10 There are no financial considerations.

### Legal Considerations

- 11 There are no legal considerations.

### Delegation

- 12 Only Council may consider this matter.

### Consultation

- 13 Candidates, once confirmed, could be invited to the 5 June Council meeting to address Council.
- 14 If Council does not wish to make a decision today, the matter could be referred to the 5 June meeting agenda.

### Policy Implications

- 15 There are no policy implications.

### Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 16 There are no tāngata whenua considerations.

### Publicity Considerations

- 17 There will be public interest in Council's decision and a media release will be prepared.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

18 That Council exercises / does not exercise its right to vote in the Electra Trust Election 2014.

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