

Mayor and Councillors
COUNCIL

26 APRIL 2018

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

POSSIBLE VOTING IN THE ELECTRA TRUST ELECTION 2018

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks Council's decision on whether or not to exercise its voting right in the 2017 Electra Trust election.

DELEGATION

- 2 Only Council may make this decision.

BACKGROUND

- 3 Electra is locally owned and controlled. The Trust represents households and businesses in Kāpiti and Horowhenua who are connected to the local power lines provided by its operating company Electra Ltd. Electra is wholly-owned by its consumers (the beneficiaries) who, in 2018, totalled 44,450 from Paekakariki in the south to Foxton and Tokomaru in the north. The 'shares' are held on behalf of the consumers by a Trust, elected under a Trust Deed to represent the owner's interests and protect their asset.
- 4 In accordance with the provisions of the Electra Trust Deed once a year, two of the six Trustees (the longest in office) must on a rotating basis either retire or restand for election, thus providing an annual opportunity for change in representation.
- 5 Nominations for the candidacy will close on 27 April 2018 but Council is invited to consider in advance the question of whether or not to exercise its voting right. The closing date for voting is 15 June 2018.
- 6 In 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 Council resolved not to vote.

ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Issues

- 7 The Electra Trust has advised the following dates:

Call for nominations – 23 February

Nominations close – 27 April

Voting papers sent to beneficiaries – 21 May

Voting closes – 15 June

Results announced – 16 June.

- 8 The Trustees elect a Chair after each AGM. Sharon Crosbie CNZM OBE was elected Chair in July 2017. The current trustees are Lindsay Burnell QSM, John Yeoman BBS ACA FCIS, Ray Latham, Brendan Duffy ONZM,JP and Chris Turver MNZM JP.
- 9 If Council decides to vote it may wish to do so in a public excluded session. 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'.
- 10 If the Council decides not to exercise its right to vote no further action will be required.
- 11 For the 2018 election, as Council has 287 ICPs¹ it will receive 287 voting papers on which two votes each could be cast (or a total of 574 votes). For the year ending 30 June 2017 Council spent \$2,046,750 including GST on electricity (compared with \$2,209,037 in the previous financial year).

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy considerations

- 12 There are no policy considerations.

Legal considerations

- 13 There are no legal considerations.

Financial considerations

- 14 There are no financial considerations.

Tāngata whenua considerations

- 15 There are no tāngata whenua considerations.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Significance policy

- 16 This matter has a low level of significance under Council policy.

Consultation already undertaken

- 17 No consultation is required.

Engagement planning

- 18 An engagement plan is not needed to implement this decision.

Publicity

- 19 There will be public interest in this decision so the decision will be communicated via the Councils regular communication channels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20 That Council exercise / will not exercise its right to vote in the 2018 Electra Trust election.

Report prepared by Approved for submission Approved for submission

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