

**Mayor and Councillors**  
COUNCIL

13 APRIL 2017

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

## **POSSIBLE VOTING IN THE ELECTRA TRUST ELECTION 2017**

### **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 the 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 (totalling around 43,600). The 'shares' are held on behalf of the consumers by the Trust, elected under a Trust Deed to represent the owners' 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 28 April 2017 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 16 June 2017.
- 6 In 2014, 2015 and 2016 Council decided not to vote.

### **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

#### **Issues**

- 7 The Electra Trust has advised the following dates:  
Call for nominations – 24 February  
Nominations close – 28 April  
Voting to occur – between 15 May and noon 16 June  
Results announced – 17 June.
- 8 The current trustees are George Sue QSM JP, Lindsay Burnell QSM, John Yeoman BBS ACA FCIS, Ray Latham and Sharon Crosbie CNZM OBE. Mr Sue is retiring this year and Mr Burnell is standing for re-election.

- 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 2017 election, as Council has 277 ICPs<sup>1</sup> it will receive 277 voting papers on which two votes each could be cast (or a total of 554 votes.) For the year ending 30 June 2016 the Council spent \$1,920,902 excluding GST on electricity (compared with \$1,873,903 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**

### Degree of significance

- 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 a media release will be prepared.

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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.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

20 That Council will exercise / will not exercise its right to vote in the 2017 Electra Trust election.

**Report prepared by**

**Approved for submission**

**Approved for submission**

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