

REFERENDUM ON ELECTION DAY 2016

CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

In conjunction with the Council elections on 10 September 2016, a constitutional referendum will be conducted to determine if Wollondilly wants to have a **Popularly Elected Mayor and reduce the number of wards.**

OUTCOME OF REFERENDUM

Electors may choose how the Mayor is elected and the number of wards but only after a Constitutional Referendum is held.

The majority decision on the question is binding on the Council and will apply from the next general election of the Council scheduled for 2020.

A Popularly Elected Mayor is elected for 4 years by the voting public, rather than by the Councillors for a term specified in the Local Government Act which is currently the case.

A CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM REQUIRES A YES OR NO ANSWER TO THE QUESTION.

DO YOU FAVOUR THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM WITH THE NUMBER OF WARDS REDUCED FROM 3 TO 2, EACH WARD COMPRISING OF 4 COUNCILLORS PLUS A POPULARLY ELECTED MAYOR?

THE 'YES' CASE

- ❖ Popular election of the Mayor excludes internal politics from the Mayoral Election.
- ❖ A popularly elected Mayor can lead Council with considerable independence.
- ❖ A popularly elected Mayor is elected by the people and as such is seen as the community's elected leader.
- ❖ Popular election of the Mayor enables the residents an opportunity to consider the candidates' policies and vote accordingly thus providing the Mayor with an election mandate.
- ❖ The possibility of the Mayor being elected "out of the hat" is avoided in the event that two or more Councillors receive equal votes.
- ❖ A reduction in Wards will help to better manage any imbalance of elector numbers between Wards.

THE 'NO' CASE

- ❖ The elected Council should not have a leader imposed upon them with whom they may not be able to work cooperatively or constructively.
- ❖ A change in leadership cannot occur during the term unless the Mayor resigns or dies and then a by-election is required.
- ❖ Councillors are closest to their fellow Councillors and therefore have a greater appreciation of their capabilities and credentials to fulfil the role of Mayor.
- ❖ Having a popularly elected Mayor increases the administrative costs of elections and by-elections.
- ❖ A further Constitutional Referendum would be required if Council wished to return to the current system of election of Mayor.
- ❖ Councillors will have larger ward areas, with greater population to represent

**Authorised by – L Johnson
General Manager
62-64 Menangle Street, Picton NSW 2571**