

### **10.5.3. LATE REPORT - F&G - 25/09/2023 - Appointment of Independent ARIC Member & Chair**

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**Department** Governance  
**Authorised by** Chief Financial & Information Officer

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#### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of Deborah Goodyer as an independent voting member of the Lithgow Council Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC). The report also recommends the appointment of independent member Ron Gillard as ARIC Chair.

#### **Commentary**

The adopted ARIC Terms of Reference state that the Committee consists of one independent voting Chair, two independent voting members, the Mayor as a voting member and one Councillor voting member (usually the Deputy Mayor). The governing body is to appoint the Chair and members of the Committee. Independent members are appointed for a four-year period.

An independent member vacancy arose following Neil Maltby's resignation from the Committee due to his personal time constraints. Neil was appointed by Council as Committee Chair from July 2023 which results in a vacancy for the Chair role.

As an Independent Member EOI process was conducted in April 2023, the General Manager and Chief Financial & Information Officer conducted an interview with Deborah Goodyer, who was interviewed during the earlier process. Deb is a suitably skilled and qualified candidate for the vacant independent member role on the ARIC. Deb has many years of experience in internal audit and forensic accounting. Deb is currently serving on five NSW Council ARICs.

It is recommended that Deborah Goodyer be appointed as an independent voting member of the Lithgow Council ARIC for a four-year term.

It is also recommended that current independent member Ron Gillard be appointed as ARIC Chair. Ron has been a valued member of the ARIC since May 2022.

#### **Policy Implications**

The composition and tenure of the Lithgow Council Audit Risk and Improvement Committee are set in the adopted Committee Terms of Reference.

#### **Financial Implications**

- Budget approved - the ARIC independent member fee for 2023/24 has been set at \$1,500 per meeting plus reasonable travel expenses.
- Cost centre - PJ 800167
- Expended to date - \$4,047
- Future potential impact – funded from the recurrent operating budget.

#### **Legal and Risk Management Implications**

The functions of the ARIC assist in the management and mitigation of risk.

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**Attachments**

Nil

**Recommendation**

THAT Council:

1. Appoint Deborah Goodyer as an independent voting member of the Lithgow Council Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for a four-year term, in accordance with the ARIC Terms of Reference.
2. Appoint current independent member Ron Gillard as ARIC Chair, with the appointment to be reviewed at the end of the current Council term (September 2024).