

Case for and Case Against Popularly Elected Mayor from Other Councils

POPULARLY ELECTED MAYOR

CASE FOR:

- Popular election of the Mayor removes the internal politics of Councillors which surrounds the annual election of the Mayor
- A popularly elected Mayor can independently lead Council without 'fear' or 'favour' including times of political conflict
- A popularly elected Mayor is elected by the people and as such is seen as the community's 'true' 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 possible reduction in the number of Councillors will provide ongoing cost savings for the Council
- A possible reduction in the number of Councillors may lead to greater cohesion and improved decision making

CASE AGAINST

- The elected Council not have a leader imposed upon them with whom they may not be able to work cooperatively or constructively
- The elected Council should determine the leader of the Council
- A change in leadership cannot occur during the term unless the Mayor resigns or dies then an extraordinary 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
- Councillors' workloads would increase with a reduction of Councillor numbers or if the Shire became undivided area
- A popularly elected Mayor increases the administrative costs of elections and extraordinary elections
- A further Constitutional Referendum would be required if Council wished to return to the current system of election of Mayor