



ABOUT LOCAL COUNCILS

The Hills Shire Council has 12 Councillors and a Mayor who are elected by the Shire's residents and ratepayers every four years. The Shire is divided into four wards with each ward represented by three Councillors. The current Council was elected in September 2017.

The first stage of electing a new Council involves calling for nominations. Anybody who is allowed to vote in the Council election can stand for election. They must be nominated by at least two other people in the community.

WHO CAN VOTE?

The Local Government Act 1993, makes voting in Local Government elections compulsory.

People are entitled to vote in Council elections if they are a resident of a Council ward or they own a property in the Shire but do not live here. To vote you must:

- be 18 years old or over;
- be an Australian citizen;
- have lived in the area for at least three months;
- have your name on the electoral roll.

THE MAIN DUTIES FOR THE COUNCIL ARE:

- to make decisions about the running of the community and the Council;
- to listen and respond to the problems and ideas of local people and make sure Council does what they need.

Councillors stand for election because of an interest in the well-being and welfare of the district. They receive \$31,640 each year as an allowance for their civic duty. Being an elected community representative requires many hours of commitment at Council meetings, task groups, community consultation, civic ceremonies and public meetings.

THE MAYOR

The Councillors have a leader who is called the Mayor. The Mayor is a Councillor elected by the people (following a Constitutional Referendum held on 8 September 2012 - before which the Mayor was elected by their fellow Councillors). Local voters determine who the Mayor will be for a four year term.

The Mayor performs both an administrative and ceremonial role. The Mayor chairs all Council Meetings and has a casting vote when the vote is tied (a deadlock). The Mayor makes sure the General Manager and Council staff carry out the decisions Council makes. The Mayor also performs duties such as presenting awards, making speeches on Council's behalf and attending official and community functions.

The Mayor receives an allowance of \$92,180 a year.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR

The Deputy Mayor is also a Councillor elected by peers to fulfil the role of Mayor in the Mayor's absence.

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES

How Council decides on matters concerning the community.

Building a new library?

Residents and ratepayers tell their Councillors they want a new library.



The Councillors discuss the library and then make a decision on behalf of residents and ratepayers.



At a council meeting, Councillors vote on whether the community needs a new library. The majority of Councillors vote in favour of building the library.



The decision to build the library is recorded in the Minutes of the Council Meeting.



The Councillors instruct the **GENERAL MANAGER** to build the library.



Council Officers begin the work required to build a new library.



The community begins using the new library facility they wanted.

