



8.7

**VICTORIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION
REPORT ON 2016 PORT PHILLIP CITY
COUNCIL ELECTION**

LOCATION/ADDRESS:

WHOLE OF MUNICIPALITY

CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER:

DORON KARLINER

PREPARED BY:

**MURRAY CHICK, COORDINATOR
GOVERNANCE**

TRIM FILE NO:

27/01/34

ATTACHMENTS:

1. VEC report on the 2016 Port Phillip City Council election

PURPOSE

For Council to receive a report on the 2016 election from the Victorian Electoral Commission.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1.1 Receives and notes the October 2016 Election Report provided by the Victorian Electoral Commission dated 20 January 2017 (attachment 1).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) requires the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to be the election services provider for all of the Victorian Councils.
- 2.2 The Act allows Council to determine the method of voting for each election, i.e. attendance or voting. Council on 9 March 2016 resolved that the 2016 election be conducted by way of attendance voting.
- 2.3 Election day was 22 October 2016 and the VEC's appointed Returning Officer for the Port Phillip election was Jane Bennett. The Returning Officer's office was located at the Port Melbourne Town Hall.
- 2.4 Clause 14 of schedule 3 of the Act requires the VEC to prepare a report to the Chief Executive Officer on the conduct of the election within the period of 3 months after election day and for the CEO to submit a copy of this report to Council. The election report from the VEC was received by Council on 20 January 2017.

3. KEY INFORMATION

- 3.1 The election agreement required the VEC provide the following services:
 - 3.1.1 Preparation of the voters roll;
 - 3.1.2 Promotion of the election;
 - 3.1.3 Appointment of the Returning Officer and the setup of the election office

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- 3.1.4 Conduct a candidate information session;
- 3.1.5 Process candidate nominations and how to vote card registrations;
- 3.1.6 Organise voting centres for voting on election day and early voting;
- 3.1.7 Counting of votes on and after election day; declaration of results.



FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 4.1 The conduct of the 2016 election was consistent with Council's key direction of an engaged and well governed city.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The 22 October 2016 Port Phillip election was subject to a comprehensive advertising and communications campaign coordinated by the VEC including:
 - 5.1.1 Public notices placed in local newspapers;
 - 5.1.2 State-wide advertising campaign in major metropolitan newspapers and radio;
 - 5.1.3 VEC website with a dedicated webpage specific to the Port Phillip City Council election;
 - 5.1.4 Laminated election information placemats were placed at our three Town Hall counters;
 - 5.1.5 Media releases between August and October 2016; and
 - 5.1.6 Dedicated telephone enquiry service at both the VEC and Returning Officer's office.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 N/A

7. SUSTAINABILITY – Triple Bottom Line

- 7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS
 - 7.1.1 N/A
- 7.2 SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS
 - 7.2.1 The VEC worked with a number of partners to provide suitable communication services for blind and low vision voters, voters with a disability, and culturally and linguistically diverse voters.
- 7.3 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS
 - 7.3.1 N/A
- 7.4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
 - 7.4.1 The actual cost for the provision of election services was \$500,364.42 (excluding GST).

8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- 8.1 TIMELINE
 - 8.1.1 N/A

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8.2 COMMUNICATION

8.2.1 N/A

9. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

9.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.