

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.1.2
REPORT TITLE:	Nomination to Regional Capitals Australia for a General Board Membership (NT)
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 19 November 2024
AUTHOR:	Executive Support Officer, Jodi Holden
APPROVER:	Chief Executive Officer, Amelia Vellar

COMMUNITY PLAN

Governance: Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council approval to endorse City of Palmerston Mayor's nomination for a general board membership Northern Territory (NT) with Regional Capitals Australia (RCA).

KEY MESSAGES

- In June 2024, Council resolved to join the Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) for 2024-2025 and to seek to become a Board Member.
- City of Palmerston Mayor and CEO have received correspondence from the RCA Board, inviting nominations for a general board membership (NT) for the coming year.
- City of Palmerston is currently the only member from the Northern Territory.
- RCA is a pre-eminent regional federal advocacy organisation with a 13-year history of putting the needs of regional cities on the national policy and funding agenda.
- By gaining a board seat on RCA City of Palmerston will be able to advocate for Council's priorities with a collective group of 20 Councils at an Australian Government level and is able to play a more active role in direction, issues and priorities ensuring adequate representation of issues for our region.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Nomination to Regional Capitals Australia for a General Board Membership (NT) be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse Mayor Pascoe-Bell's nomination to Regional Capitals Australia for a general board Membership (NT).

BACKGROUND

City of Palmerston (CoP) has and continues to proactively advocate for our community directly and through various groups with the Australian and Northern Territory Government.

CoP has been successful in many areas it has advocated for including delivery of projects and programs and has a proven track record in delivering these projects and programs on time and within budget. Nomination to the board of RCA will maximise our membership and enable us further access to policy makers and ensure adequate representation for our region.

More information on RCA and the various policy, advocacy and report work they have done can be found at <https://www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org/>.

City of Palmerston Mayor and CEO have received correspondence from the board of RCA, inviting City of Palmerston to nominate to the board of RCA.

RCA mission states: To provide a national alliance that champions maximum growth and prosperity for Australia's regional capital cities.

RCA vision states: To see Australia's regional capital cities attain the investment needed to reach their full social and economic potential.

This provides another opportunity for CoP to advocate on both local and national issues for our community.

This report seeks Council consideration of the invitation to nominate to the board of RCA.

At the 1st Ordinary Council Meeting of 4 June 2024 Council made the following decisions:

13.1.2 Invitation to Join Regional Capitals Australia

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh

Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. *THAT Report entitled Invitation to Join Regional Capitals Australia be received and noted.*
2. *THAT Council endorses City of Palmerston joining Regional Capitals Australia for 2024-2025 with the Mayor as Council's representative.*
3. *THAT Council seek to become a Board Member of Regional Capitals Australia.*
4. *THAT the Mayor be authorised to travel within Australia for Regional Capitals Australia business while City of Palmerston is a member of Regional Capitals Australia*
5. *THAT a report on the 2024-2025 Regional Capitals Australia activities and City of Palmerston membership for 2024-2025 be provided to Council at the First Ordinary Meeting in May 2025.*

CARRIED 10/1369 – 4/06/2024

DISCUSSION

RCA has written to CoP inviting it to nominate for a general board position for the coming year, **Attachment 13.1.2.1.**

RCA is a pre-eminent regional federal advocacy organisation with a 13-year history of putting the needs of regional cities on the national policy and funding agenda.

RCA states that in the halls of Federal Parliament, the term 'regional capital' has become synonymous with regional cities that are not only highly liveable and productive but are also experiencing a new wave of growth.

RCA membership currently consists of 20 Councils from around Australia consisting of:

- Albury City Council
- Armidale Regional Council
- Ballarat City Council
- Broken Hill City Council
- City of Bunbury
- City of Busselton
- City of Greater Geelong
- City of Greater Geraldton
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- City of Karratha
- City of Palmerston
- City of Port Lincoln
- City of Wagga Wagga
- Dubbo Regional Council
- Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Greater Geelong City Council
- Griffith City Council
- Latrobe City Council
- Shire of Broome
- Town of Port Hedland

Becoming a board member provides an opportunity to advocate for Palmerston and the Northern Territory, including for Australian Government partnerships to deliver on outcomes from the Community Plan. It provides additional opportunities to deliver for our community whilst ensuring sustainability through financial partnerships.

As we head into a federal election being a board member of RCA will provide CoP with greater advocacy power and potential Australian Government commitments.

Nominations for a Board position are to be made in writing to the Regional Capitals Australia Secretariat by Tuesday 26 November 2024. Details of the voting process are included at **Attachment 13.1.2.2**.

It is being recommended that Council endorse Mayor Pascoe-Bell's nomination to Regional Capitals Australia for a general board membership (NT).

CONSULTATION AND MARKETING

There was no consultation or marketing required during the preparation of this Report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this Report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

If CoP becomes a Board Member this will involve three face to face meetings in Canberra including advocacy work with Government and up to six virtual meetings. It is acknowledged that CoP may not be able to attend all meetings depending on timing and other factors.

There will be some travel involved for the Mayor accompanied by the CEO, this will be accommodated from within the approved operational budget.

In addition to RCA meetings and advocacy, CoP will seek opportunities with any travel to Canberra for the Mayor to advocate for Palmerston with Government and Opposition members on a direct and individual basis for the Palmerston community.

There are no additional financial costs in nominating for a board position on RCA.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Failure to participate in such collectives may result in CoP missing opportunities for our community and development of Palmerston.

Becoming a board member provides an opportunity to advocate for Palmerston and the Northern Territory, including for Australian Government partnerships to deliver on outcomes from the Community Plan. Failure to advocate may result in missed opportunities to deliver for our community whilst ensuring sustainability through financial partnerships. It will provide CoP with collective support and outcomes; work being undertaken by RCA could also inform future CoP plans and strategies.

As we head into a federal election being a board member of RCA will provide CoP with greater advocacy power and potential Australian Government commitments. In addition, being on the RCA Board provides an opportunity to directly influence RCA priorities and directions.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

3. **Economic Development**
Failure to articulate, provide and promote the value proposition for Palmerston as an economic centre to attract investment.
6. **Governance**
Failure to effectively govern.

STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

CoP strategies, plans, and frameworks (e.g environmental sustainability frameworks, playground, creative industries, etc) will inform CoP engagement with RCA and advocacy work.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Mayor Athina Pascoe- Bell and Ms Amelia Vellar, City of Palmerston [13.1.2.1 - 2 pages]
2. RCA Nomination for Executives 2024 [13.1.2.2 - 1 page]



11 October 2024

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell and Ms Amelia Vellar
City of Palmerston
PO Box 1
Palmerston NT 0831

Via: Mayor@palmerston.nt.gov.au, palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Dear Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell and Ms Amelia Vellar,

Re: Regional Capitals Australia – Notice of Annual General Meeting

Regional Capitals Australia would like to provide notice to all members of the details of the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Please find details below:

Meeting details:

Date: Tuesday 10 December 2024

Time:

4:00pm– 5:00pm AEDT

3:00pm– 4:00pm AEST

2:30pm– 3:30pm ACST

1:00pm– 2:00pm AWST

Location: Videoconference

Registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/regional-capitals-australia-2024-annual-general-meeting-tickets-1035378423737>

The agenda for the AGM will be as follows:

1. Welcome;
2. Confirmation of Quorum;
3. Meeting Minutes;
4. Annual Statement and Financial Audit;
5. Appoint Returning Officer;
6. Board Nominations;
7. Announcement of Board Members;
8. Member Motions; and
9. General Business.

We ask that member motions and nominations to the Board be advised by Tuesday 26 November 2024, 2 weeks prior to the meeting to allow for inclusion in the agenda.

Regional Capitals Australia

PO Box 320, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

M: 0422 280 456 – E: secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org



During the Annual General Meeting, the following positions are required to be filled in alignment with the Regional Capitals Australia Constitution (The RCA AGM voting process is attached to this letter for further information):

- Chairperson;
- Deputy Chairperson;
- Secretary; and
- Treasurer.

In addition to the Executive positions, nominations will also be sought for six (6) general Board Positions. These positions will fill the role of State/ Territory Representatives:

- New South Wales;
- Victoria;
- Queensland;
- Northern Territory;
- South Australia; and
- Western Australia.

Nominating for the Committee:

If you are interested in nominating for a Board position please do so in writing to the Regional Capitals Australia Secretariat on secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org by **Tuesday 26 November 2024**. Please provide your name and desired position in the email.

Nominations will also be accepted during the AGM, however it is recommended to nominate early to allow other members to consider your nomination.

If you have any questions in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact our Secretariat Rachael Sweeney on 0422 067 858 or email secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Peter Carter", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mayor Peter Carter
Deputy Chair, Regional Capitals Australia
Mayor, Town of Port Hedland Council

Regional Capitals Australia
PO Box 320, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650
M: 0422 280 456 – E: secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org



Nomination for Executive Positions on RCA Board

Voting process

1. Positions will be declared vacant by the RCA Chair, as per Rule 50 of the Constitution:
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/gl9bdjao5xtzucn0w7ogi/RCA_Constitution_Model-rules-for-an-incorporated-association.pdf?rlkey=u7izxdxxlihkefsnuth2kfi76&dl=0
2. Confirmation of existing nominations will be tabled and a call for further nominations will be made as per Rule 51 of the Constitution.
3. If more than one person is nominated, a ballot is required as per Rule 54 of the Constitution.
The following process will take place:
 - Chair will appoint a member as a returning officer to conduct the ballot (in this case the RCA Secretariat);
 - As the vote will be held in teleconference, members are to email the Returning Officer (RCA Secretariat) to cast their vote at rsweeney@collectiveposition.com;
 - The email must contain the name of the candidate and the position they are being nominated for; and
 - Please note there is one vote per council.
4. Members to cast their vote for each position as required.
5. Secretariat will advise the outcome once all nominations have been received.