



POPULARLY ELECTED MAYOR ELECTION REFERENDUM 2024 CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

At the 14 September 2024 local Government elections, a constitutional referendum will be conducted to determine if Kyogle wants to have a Popularly Elected Mayor and reduce the number of wards.

OUTCOME OF REFERENDUM

Electors may choose how the Mayor is elected and the number of wards but only after a Constitutional Referendum is held.

A majority decision on the question is binding on the Council and will apply from the next general election of the Council scheduled for 2028.

A majority decision will see a Popularly Elected Mayor elected for 4 years by the voting public, rather than by the Councillors for a term specified in the Local Government Act which is currently the case.

A CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM REQUIRES A YES OR NO ANSWER TO THE QUESTION.

Do you favour the election of the Mayor by electors for a four (4) year term with the number of Wards reduced from three (3) to two (2), each Ward comprising of four (4) Councillors, plus a popularly elected Mayor?

The YES case

- ❖ Popular election of the Mayor excludes internal politics from the Mayoral Election.
- ❖ A popularly elected Mayor can lead Council with considerable independence.
- ❖ A popularly elected Mayor is elected by the people and as such is seen as the community's elected 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 reduction in Wards will help to better manage any imbalance of elector numbers between Wards.

The NO case

- ❖ The elected Council should not have a leader imposed upon them with whom they may not be able to work cooperatively or constructively.
- ❖ A change in leadership cannot occur during the term unless the Mayor resigns or dies and then a by-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.
- ❖ Having a popularly elected Mayor increases the administrative costs of elections and by-elections.
- ❖ A further Constitutional Referendum would be required if Council wished to return to the current system of election of Mayor.
- ❖ Councillors will have larger ward areas, with greater population to represent