



MEDIA RELEASE

7 August 2020

Acting Principal Member voted in at special meeting

At a special meeting of Alice Springs Town Council held last night, Thursday 6 August, Elected Members voted to appoint Jamie de Brenni as the interim acting Principal Member and Jimmy Cocking as Deputy.

With the resignation of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the NT Legislative Assembly Election qualifying period, this decision will take effect immediately and until the election results are formally determined. After the NT Election qualifying period, if unsuccessful, the candidates have the opportunity to be reinstated to their Council positions. However if this advice is not received or candidates were successful, then the acting Principal Member will retain this position until the next Local Government Election.

CEO Robert Jennings said *“There are provisions for this within the Local Government Act, of which Council has sought advice and is acting in accordance with. This allows Alice Springs Town Council to continue to work effectively with clear leadership, consistency and certainty for the community.*

This also means that expensive and unnecessary by-elections are not required in this case, as stipulated in the Local Government Act section 46 (5)(c).

I congratulate Mayor de Brenni and Deputy Mayor Cocking on their appointment” said Robert Jennings.

Casual vacancies for Principal and Deputy Principal Members are covered under section 46 of the Act (unlike other Elected Members, to whom the rules under section 39(5) apply). Under section 46(5)(c) of the Act, if Council does not fill a casual vacancy of an elected Principal Member, it may appoint any of its existing members to be its principal member for the remainder of its term if less than 18 months remaining of the term.

Ends

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