

8.1. MM01: Welcome to New Councillor John Lepouris

On 21 February 2023 the NSW Electoral Commission conducted a countback election for North Sydney Council (St Leonards Ward) and Mr John Lepouris was declared elected as the new Councillor representing St Leonards Ward.

Section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides

- “(1) A councillor must take an oath of office or make an affirmation of office at or before the first meeting of the council after the councillor is elected.
- (2) The oath or affirmation may be taken or made before the general manager of the council, an Australian legal practitioner or a justice of the peace and is to be in the following form—

Oath

I [name of councillor] swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of [name of council area] and the [name of council] and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the [Local Government Act 1993](#) or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Affirmation

I [name of councillor] solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of [name of council area] and the [name of council] and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the [Local Government Act 1993](#) or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

- (3) A councillor who fails, without a reasonable excuse, to take the oath of office or make an affirmation of office in accordance with this section is not entitled to attend a meeting as a councillor (other than the first meeting of the council after the councillor is elected to the office or a meeting at which the councillor takes the oath or makes the affirmation) until the councillor has taken the oath or made the affirmation.”

I now invite Councillor Lepouris to take the oath or affirmation of office before the General Manager in the following form:

I John Lepouris [swear/solemnly declare and affirm] *that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of **North Sydney** and the **North Sydney Council** and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the [Local Government Act 1993](#) or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.*

I therefore recommend:

- 1. THAT** Council notes that Councillor Lepouris took the oath or affirmation of office before the General Manager at this meeting; and

2. **THAT** Council keep a record of the taking of the oath or making of the affirmation by Councillor Lepouris as required under the *Local Government Act 1993* in the minutes of this Council Meeting.

COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER
MAYOR