

GNSW Councillor's Report

Golf New South Wales' Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017 key focus 7.2 that states, "implement the adopted governance recommendation from the independent review and adopt Australian Sports Commission Good Governance Principles," has taken much of Council meeting time this year.

At June council meeting Board Chairman, John Robinson, presented a paper entitled 'Improving Our Governance'. Mr Robinson outlined the situation of Council structure as follows:

- Currently there are 65 Councillors who represent 375 affiliated golf clubs and 33 District Golf Associations;
- 33 Councillors retire this year after serving their six year terms; and
- 17 retire next year which will include me.

Since GNSW Council will lose about 80% of Councillors in the next 15 months Mr Robinson suggested a unique window of opportunity existed for improvement in GNSW governance model and implement changes set out in key focus 7.2.

The model he proposed for the future governance of GNSW comprised 3 elements:

- Give members (clubs and Districts) a voice;
- Create an Advisory Committee; and
- Launch a Golf Forum.

An expression of interest was sort from Councillors present at that meeting whether to continue with the new proposal. A majority vote was received which put in motion the movement toward change.

How would this change take place?

All Councillors and Club Presidents received detailed information on what GNSW governance changes would mean, how they were to be implemented and requested clubs to vote, forward a proxy or a representative attend an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 27th July.

A Council meeting was also convened on 27th July Council prior to the EGM to consider constitutional amendments. Councillors voted but a 75% yes vote was not achieved. I voted YES for the resolution for change.

The EGM followed where votes sent by clubs, proxies and those present tallied to give an 85.4% Yes to the Constitutional change. However, for Constitutional change 75% in the affirmative of both Council and clubs is required. Therefore change to implement the new proposal for restructure failed. Nominations were called for Council 2017 representatives in the usual manner.

My nomination has been accepted for RLGA 2017 Councillor.

At this stage nothing has changed. When the new Council is convened for its first meeting the Board intends to present the same Special Resolution. If the Council supports the Special Resolution with the required 75% majority, the Council will no longer exist in accordance with the changes to the Constitution and as such cease operating at the close of that meeting.

There is no need to hold another EGM for clubs and Districts as their approval of the Special Resolution on 27th July 2016 continues to retain its validity. We will all be interested in the outcome of the first 2017 and perhaps last Council meeting.