

**Council Name**

Kempsey Shire Council

**Motion Category**

Governance and Accountability

**Motion Sub-Category – Governance & Accountability**

LG Elections

**Motion Title**

2021 Local Government Elections – COVID-19 Impacts

**Motion Wording**

That LGNSW advocates that the NSW Government undertake Council Elections by Universal Postal Voting should COVID-19 be likely to impact the conduct of the 2021 Local Government Election

**Motion Background**

Protecting our Local Democracy was negated by the unilateral decision of the State Government to extend the four year term of Councillors by another year. Local community participation in this decision was nil. Councillors were not asked. The decision was imposed. Community members understanding at the 2016/17 elections was that they were electing local representatives for a fixed term.

There is no surety that the pandemic will be concluded during 2021 to enable “normal elections” and therefore LGNSW needs to enable local democracy by supporting universal postal voting as soon as possible for Council Elections.

Other jurisdictions in Australia have successfully used Universal Postal Voting for Local Government elections.

**Fundamental Principles Conflict**

No