

ABORIGINAL CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

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Three 'R's required for four year terms says ACC Chair

Reliability, responsibility and results are on call for the DOGIT communities first election of new Councillors for a four-year terms says out-going ACC Chair Wayne Connolly.

Mr Connolly said the new terms were going to make a big difference not only to the commitment new Councillors must make to their position but also to the Councils as a whole.

"They will be able to get longer term plans and policies in place and maybe achieve better results," he said.

"But the downside is if there is a bad council or Councillor they have to put up with them for four years."

He said voters should therefore choose from their candidates very carefully.

"They need to make sure they are picking people who are going to make that commitment to addressing all the issues," Mr Connolly said.

"They need to be reliable and turn up to all the meetings because they are expected to represent the community which voted them in.

"And they need people who are familiar with community issues and the people themselves, as well as make sure they are able to perform all the duties that are entailed in being a community Councillor.

"So it must be someone who's committed to the work, and also someone who is stable because they are also committing to council meetings at least one or two days a fortnight and people who understand the issues within the communities."

He said new Councillors would need to be prepared to look at a number of issues within communities such as housing, land, women's and family issues, health and justice.

"On an Aboriginal council I believe there is much more responsibility than mainstream councils because you are dealing with issues from the cradle to the grave, not just roads, rates and rubbish," he said.

"You are there because you are the trustees to the land, you've got to make decisions on land, local government, tribal and clan group issues and all those ceremonial things which affect the whole community when they happen.

"They also need to be fair in their dealings within the community, even though culture has a big impact on our decision-making, we also need to rise above that and see ourselves as part of the whole community so we are making decisions fair to everyone, not just certain groups or family groups."

Mr Connolly said he wished all candidates the best in the elections and also asked those who were successful to consider representing their region from a position within the ACC.

"Here at the ACC we are looking for good leadership qualities because the executive are representing all the communities at state level which is very important," he said.

"After the council elections this month there will be the first meeting of the Aboriginal Coordinating Council and from there they will be choosing a chair person, and members of the executives to represent each of the regions."



Welcome to the first edition of the ACC Newsletter for 2000. Elections are happening this weekend on all DOGIT communities and in this issue you will find a complete list of candidates as well as the usual focus on community news, the November ACC Full Council Meeting and more besides. Pictured above are the Councillors who attended the November Full Council Meeting - the last of the century and the last before the new councils will be formed.

