7.4. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT AUTHOR	Executive Assistant
EXECUTIVE	Chief Executive Officer
DEPARTMENT	Office of the Chief Executive Officer
TEAM	Executive Office
DATE	24 November 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That, in accordance with the requirements of Section 195 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council appoint Arun Pratap, General Manager Corporate and Communities, to the appointment of Acting Chief Executive Officer during any absences from duty of the Chief Executive Officer for the period 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 195 of the *Local Government Act 2009* enables Council to appoint a qualified person to act as Chief Executive Officer during periods when the Chief Executive Officer is absent from duty or otherwise unable to perform the responsibilities of the role. This report seeks Council's consideration of the appointment arrangements for an Acting Chief Executive Officer.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

At the Ordinary Meeting held 9 December 2025, it was resolved that in accordance with the requirements of Section 195 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council appoint Derek Langman, Chief Engineer TC Jasper Infrastructure and Recovery, to the appointment of Acting Chief Executive Officer during any absences from duty of the Chief Executive Officer for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026.

REPORT/BACKGROUND

To ensure appropriate delegations and leadership continuity are maintained during periods when the Chief Executive Officer is absent from duty or otherwise unable to perform the responsibilities of the role, it is appropriate for Council to appoint a suitably qualified officer as Acting Chief Executive Officer.

General Manager Corporate and Communities, Arun Pratap, is a suitably qualified person with previous local government Chief Executive Officer experience. It is proposed that Mr Pratap be appointed as Acting Chief Executive Officer for the period 1 January 2027 to 31 December

2027. This appointment will ensure business continuity and remove the need for Council to consider a separate resolution each time the Chief Executive Officer is absent.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The appointment of an Acting Chief Executive Officer mitigates the risk of disruption to organisational operations and decision-making by ensuring appropriate leadership and delegated authority are maintained during periods of CEO absence.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Liveability
To deliver community activities to promote safe, healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities with an environmental conscious.
1.5 - *Keep the community informed.*

Theme 3 - Service Delivery
We deliver Council services effectively and efficiently to meet community expectations, focusing on the wellbeing of both the community and our employees.
3.6 - *Deliver Council services to meet community expectations.*

Operational Plan 2026-2027 Actions:

Legislative requirement.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- *Local Government Act 2009*

CONSULTATION

Not applicable

CONCLUSION

The appointment of an Acting Chief Executive Officer will ensure appropriate governance, leadership continuity and delegated authority are maintained during periods when the Chief Executive Officer is absent or unable to perform the responsibilities of the role.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil