

# Western Australia Division Council Election 2025

## CANDIDATES

### **Please note:**

- Candidates are presented in alphabetical order.
- Biographies are supplied by the candidates.
- Where a \* appears at the start of a candidate's name, this means that the Council supports the re-election of this candidate.

The Council does not conduct an assessment process for new candidates seeking election to the Council or re-standing Councillors. However, where the Council considers a current Councillor to have made a valuable contribution to the Council or the AICD during their term, the Council has the discretion to indicate to members that it supports the re-election of that Councillor.

Where a Council supports the re-election of a current Councillor it does not constitute an assessment against other candidates. Members should consider the skills, experience and potential contribution of all candidates when casting their vote.

**Sidney Abiodun GAICD**

MBA FGIA FIEAust CPEng MRMIA



Sidney is an experienced governance and risk leader with over two decades of executive and board-level experience across the mining, energy, infrastructure and government sectors. As Principal Advisor at Rio Tinto, he supports strategic execution, risk-informed decision-making and project assurance across a global capital portfolio.

He serves as a Non-Executive Director of African Professionals of Australia Ltd and is the WA Chair of Engineers Australia's Risk Engineering Society. In these roles, he contributes to professional development, governance capacity-building and stakeholder engagement.

Sidney is committed to the AICD's vision of strengthening society through world-class governance. He brings deep technical and strategic expertise, and a collaborative, values-driven leadership style. With a strong interest in director education, policy input and inclusive leadership, he seeks to support the WA Division Council in delivering its strategic goals and representing the diversity of its membership.

A Graduate of the AICD and member since 2021, Sidney is a Fellow of both the Governance Institute of Australia and Engineers Australia. He is also a Chartered Professional Engineer. He holds an MBA and an MSc (Engineering) and is completing an LLM in Enterprise Governance.

**Nominators:** Winnie Lai Hadad GAICD and Manuel Buchy GAICD

**Glenn Bergsma FAICD**

Master of Business Leadership, GradCertBus



Glenn is an experienced chair and director with over 20 years of governance involvement across corporate, not-for-profit, and education sectors in Australia and the US. He currently serves as chair of Alta-1 College, RM Surveys, Space for Life, YouthCARE, and Lush – The Content Agency and also contributes to several advisory boards and subcommittees.

Glenn brings particular strength in strategic thinking, leadership development, culture transformation, and organisational design. His board experience spans a range of industries, including education, community services, professional services, communications, and technology.

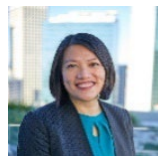
Alongside his board roles, Glenn is the Managing Director of Evolve Leadership Group, a consultancy focused on leadership and organisational development. He is deeply committed to contributing toward thriving corporate, not-for-profit, and education communities, and is passionate about empowering leaders to navigate complexity, build trust, and lead with clarity.

Glenn is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a graduate of the Company Directors Course. He has also completed the AICD Boardroom Mastery program and holds a Master of Business Leadership from Curtin University.

**Nominators:** Timothy Brewer MAICD and Aaron Gregory MAICD

**\*Cheryl Chan FAICD**

LLB (Hons), BCom, MAHRI



Cheryl is an experienced chair and non-executive director across various industries across Australia including resources, health, aged care, education, employment and the arts, including board roles at SilverChain Group, Access Care Network Australia, Melbourne International Film Festival and previously at BP Kwinana Refinery, Heath Support Services and Cancer Council WA.

Cheryl is an AICD Fellow and has recently served on the AICD WA Division Council, the national AICD Corporate Governance Committee and the WA events committee. Cheryl's director interests are on entities with a complex, high risk, regulatory and matrixed environment, with a focus on transformation, safety and culture.

Cheryl is a two-time Lawyer of the Year winner, with over 20 years' experience specialising in employment and discrimination law, across various industries including oil and gas, mining, retail, transport/logistics, shared services, government, health and medical research across the UK and the Asia-Pacific region. She runs her own business, *Remotely Legal* (recently awarded Best Employment and Industrial Law Firm, Australia <\$30m, 2025 Client Choice Awards).

Cheryl brings extensive experience in managing risk, safety, and culture and is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion, bringing a voice for aspiring and emerging directors to the WA Division Council.

**Nominators:** Fiona Payne FAICD and Derek La Ferla FAICD

**Mr James Curtis GAICD**

FAIM Grad.Dip Commercial Resources Law; B. Social Science; B. Commerce



James has diverse and extensive Board, Committee and executive leadership experience, leveraging his expertise in strategy, leadership, external affairs and ESG to support government, private and not-for-profit organisations in delivering value to their shareholders, communities and members.

James has more than 15 years' experience in leading and advising companies, from start-ups to national government corporations and across industries including professional services, tech, media, sport, cultural industries, mining, education, health and justice.

Supporting directors and companies to balance strategy, risk and innovation within complex ethical, regulatory and operating environments is a key driver for James' interest in contributing to the AICD WA Council and the broader director community.

Currently he is CEO and Director of Element Advisory (part of SLR), Non-Executive Director of Football Futures Foundation and Richmind WA, Advisory Board Member of SportsGrid, and Sub-Committee Member of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA (Economics & Productivity; and Climate & Energy).

James has also held key positions including Advisory Councils – Australian Broadcasting Corporation and UWA Sports, various State Government committees as an Executive Director in WA State Government, and CEO of Football West.

James is a Graduate of AICD and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

**Nominators:** Sherif Andrawes GAICD and Jamie Harnwell GAICD

**David Fraser FAICD**

MBA, GAICD, FGIA, FAIM, AMP (Harvard)



David is an accomplished chair and non-executive director with 25+ years of CEO and board leadership across ASX-listed and private entities fostering growth and navigating complex, multi-jurisdictional environments. Recognised for driving strategic growth, corporate governance excellence, people and culture transformation, capital and risk management, and stakeholder engagement.

Until 2024, David was the Group CEO of Capricorn Society, Australia and New Zealand's largest Automotive Co-operative. Before joining Capricorn in 2006 David was Group General Manager of Supply Direct, a wholly owned subsidiary of ASX listed Ausdrill. He was also a former Associate Director and Group General Manager of ASX listed Coventry Group Ltd.

David has held several executive and non-executive directorships over the past 20 years and is the current Chair of the Western Australia Motor Industry Foundation, an independent director and Chair-elect of Tyre Stewardship Australia and a non-executive director of Major Loss Builders.

David holds a Master of Business Administration, is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has completed Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program. He is a Fellow of each of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (member since 2007), the Australian Institute of Management and the Governance Institute of Australia.

**Nominators:** Greg Wall AM FAICD and Trent Bartlett FAICD

**Valerie Hodgins GAICD**

B. Laws (Hons)(Murdoch), M. IR (UWA), B. Arts (UWA)



Valerie is a skilled executive with significant experience in governance, assurance and risk and as a corporate lawyer has practised across several sectors including mining, local government and the public sector.

Valerie is currently the Executive Manager Governance at the City of Swan, which is Perth's largest local government area and in addition to being responsible for its Governance functions manages its legal, procurement and audit and risk functions.

Valerie has been a non-executive director of an ASX listed exploration company Trek Metals Pty Ltd, a Board Member of the Australian Association of Corporate Counsel, a Board Member of the Legal Practice Board, Board Member of Heritage WA and is currently on the Western Australian Cricket Association's Nominations, Remuneration and Governance Committee.

Valerie is committed to excellence in governance and wishes to volunteer her strong skills in governance, assurance and risk to the AICD's State Division Council. Valerie has been a member of the AICD since 2016 and is a graduate of the AICD Company Directors Course.

**Nominators:** Denise McComish FAICD and Avril Fahey GAICD

**Janelle Marr FAICD**

IDP-C, GASID, FGIA, GCB.D, MBA (UQ), BA (UWA)



Janelle is an experienced company director and leading strategic advisor who has resided on a wide range of private company, government and not-for-profit Boards. She has extensive board and committee experience, including chairmanship, in diverse industries and situations.

She is passionate about sustainable growth and fostering innovation that delivers long-term value and is deeply committed to the economic diversification and liveability of Western Australia.

With a background in international management consulting and employment law, Janelle has advised and held senior executive roles with listed and non-listed entities across energy, resources, ports, transport, utilities, financial services, insurance, agribusiness, health, community and education.

She currently serves as Commissioner Tourism WA, Independent Chair Risk and Audit Committee Department of Energy and Economic Diversification and Independent Director Battery Stewardship Council and Foundation Housing. She is also Founding Director StepBeyond Strategy. Her past directorships include Edith Cowan University, CCIWA, Burswood Park, Screenwest and Ability WA.

Janelle is a Fellow AICD, certified INSEAD International Director, Associate SID, Fellow GIA, ESG Governance micro-credentialled and former Telstra Business and WABN 40Under40 Award winner. She was a Board member of the inaugural AICD Biggest Boardroom Lunch, is a regular governance speaker and panellist and an AICD Member since 2006.

**Nominators:** Kelly Hick FAICD and Fiona Payne FAICD

**Ms Yasotha Ponnuthurai GAICD**

Bcom MBA



Yaso is an experienced leader across public and private sectors, who connects business and community through governance and strategy expertise, infused with a deep commitment to championing the advancement of multicultural contributions to society.

Yaso has held board and leadership roles in Western Australian resources and local government organisations for over 20 years, focused on major projects, health and international trade.

Yaso is currently a board member of WA Health Support Services and Vice President of Australia India Business Council. She is also a former councillor at the City of Canning and has been an independent board member of Thalanji Trustee Advisory Council and Whadjuk Noongar Corporation. In the Not for Profit sector she has been a board member of Multicultural Service Centre, Fairbridge Festival and Perth Festival Community Advisory Committee.

A role model demonstrating that ethnicity barriers can be overcome, Yaso passionately champions the advancement of CaLD women and is an advocate for investment in services that empower marginalised groups. She is also an Indian classical musician who performs internationally and organises and promotes classical concerts in Australia.

Her strong ties to government and immigrant community networks enable her to bring people together to achieve common objectives.

**Nominators:** Mark Stickells AM GAICD and Aswin Kumar GAICD

**Ms Efthalia Samaras GAICD**

FCA, B.Bus (Acc & Fin)



Efthalia is a non-executive director at Tennis West and Gosnells Financial Services Ltd, serving on the Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk Committee at Tennis West, and the Audit and Risk Committee at Gosnells Financial Services Ltd. She previously held a governance role as Commissioner at the WA Speedway Commission, where she was also a member of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Efthalia currently serves as Senior Director Practice Management at the Office of the Auditor General, where she leads the delivery of the financial audit program, drives strategic reform and overseas professional development and stakeholder engagement. Her leadership has resulted in improved practice management, streamlined processes, enhanced reporting, and strengthened governance frameworks.

Recognised for her strategic insight, collaborative leadership style, and values- driven approach.

She brings a strong focus on ethical governance, innovation, and sustainable outcomes, with a deep commitment to integrity, accountability, and continuous improvement. Efthalia is passionate about contributing to the community and supporting teams that make a difference.

A member of the AICD since 2020, Efthalia is a graduate of the Company Directors Course and a Fellow of Chartered Accountants ANZ.

**Nominators:** Jonathan Grant Robinson FAICD and Nayna Raniga GAICD