

**Report on the Conduct of
the Newcastle State
By-election
25 October 2014**

The Hon. Mike Baird MP
Premier
Level 20
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

26 April 2016

Dear Premier

2014 Newcastle By-election Report

On 25 October 2014 the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) conducted a by-election for the Legislative Assembly Electoral District of Newcastle.

I am pleased to submit to you my report on the conduct of the Newcastle By-election. Copies will be available also on the NSWEC's website at www.elections.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Linda Franklin
Acting Electoral Commissioner

The New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC)

Address: Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Postal: GPO Box 832, Sydney NSW 2001 Australia
Telephone: +61 2 9290 5999
Fax: +61 2 9290 5991
Website: www.elections.nsw.gov.au
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm

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Foreword

This report provides information on the conduct of the by-election held for the Newcastle Electoral District on 25 October 2014.

The Writ for the Newcastle By-election was issued on Friday, 3 October 2014. This gave the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) three weeks to prepare the by-election.

The conduct of the election proceeded smoothly. The participation and informality rates for the Newcastle By-election were 80.8% and 5.3% respectively. The participation rate was higher than other recent State by-elections. As in other recent by-elections, iVote was provided as an early voting option and was used by 1.5% of electors who chose to vote before the election day.

The NSWEC provided the first preference count by 10.30pm on election night and declared the poll on Thursday, 30 October 2014, five days after the election. This was within the range for declaration of the poll for earlier State by-elections.

Delivering efficient, accurate and trusted elections according to electoral legislation relies heavily upon the capability of the NSWEC's staff. I thank my staff and the NSWEC's suppliers and contractors for their contribution and commitment to the successful conduct of the Newcastle By-election.



Linda Franklin

Acting Electoral Commissioner

Overview

By-election Outcome

The candidate elected at the Newcastle By-election on 25 October 2014 was Mr Tim Crakanthorp (Australian Labor Party) with 15,253 (36.9%) of first preference votes. The election was declared on 31 October.

Candidates Standing for Election

Candidate Name	Party Affiliation
O'Brien, Steve	Socialist Alliance
Crakanthorp, Tim	Labor
Osborne, Michael	The Greens
Haines, Jacqueline	Independent
Stefanac, Jennifer	-
Howard, Karen	Independent
Caine, Milton	Christian Democratic Party
Buckley Clare, Brian	Independent

Cost Data

Cost of By-election	\$686,903.57
Cost per Elector	\$12.71

By-election Summary

Enrolment	
Total Electors	54,032
Electors enrolled or re-enrolled via SmartRoll	3,667
Polling Booths	
Pre-poll voting centres	2
Polling Places	24
Election Officials	176
Voter Participation	
Formal votes	41,318
Informal votes	2,327
Total votes	43,645
Voter participation	80.8%
Formality rate	94.7%
Non-voting penalty notices issued	8,268
Penalty notices issued as % of Roll	15.3%
Voting Options used by Electors	
Ordinary	33,904
iVote	836
Postal	1,179
Pre-poll/Declared Institution	6,912
Enrol on the day and vote	368
Provisional/Silent	111
Candidates	
Total candidates	8
Female candidates	3
Male candidates	5

By-election Key Dates

Date	Matter
23 September 2014	Candidate Seminar
3 October 2014	Issue of Writ
3 October 2014	Close of Authorised Roll (6pm)
3 October 2014	Candidate nominations open
8 October 2014	iVote Registration opens (10am)
9 October 2014	Close of Nominations for Registered Political parties lodging forms with NSWEC Head Office (noon)
9 October 2014	Close of Nominations for candidates lodging forms with Returning Officer (12.00 noon).
9 October 2014	Registration of Electoral Material (how-to-vote) opened (noon)
13 October 2014	Pre-poll and iVote voting opened (8am)
17 October 2014	Close of applications to register Electoral Material (how-to-vote) (5.00pm)
20 October 2014	Close of receipt of Overseas Postal Vote applications (5.00pm)
22 October 2014	Close of receipt of Postal Vote applications (within Australia) (5.00pm)
22 October 2014	Close of iVote Registration (6pm)
24 October 2014	iVote and Pre-poll voting Close
25 October 2014	Election Day (8.00am-6.00pm)
29 October 2014	Close of receipt of Postal Vote declarations (6.00pm)
30 October 2014	Declaration of Poll
7 November 2014	Last day for Return of Writ

Features of the Newcastle By-election



1. Internet and Telephone Voting (iVote)

The amendments to the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* in December 2010 to provide iVote at State General elections enabled internet and telephone voting (iVote) to be used in Parliamentary by-elections. The Newcastle By-election was the sixth by-election where iVote was offered.

The iVote service was provided at the State General Election in March 2011, the 2011 Clarence By-election, the 2012 Heffron and Sydney By-elections, the May 2013 Northern Tablelands By-election and the October 2013 Miranda By-election.

Both online and telephone voting were provided, although online voting has been found to be the preferred form.

The criteria applied to electors seeking to use iVote were the same as in other elections, that is, electors were eligible to use iVote if they:

- had a visual impairment;
- had another disability or disabilities;
- were 20 kilometres or more from a polling place; or
- were outside NSW on election day.

iVote is used as a means of early voting, therefore, it was not available on election day.

Registration was open between 8 October and 22 October 2014. Voting using iVote began 13 October and closed 24 October 2014.

The iVote process was fully encrypted and safeguarded. At close of poll, iVotes were unlocked by officials who printed and counted these votes.

The number of votes taken was 836 (1.9% total votes). This usage rate is 0.8% more than the 2011 State General Election.



2. Automatic Enrolment and Re-enrolment

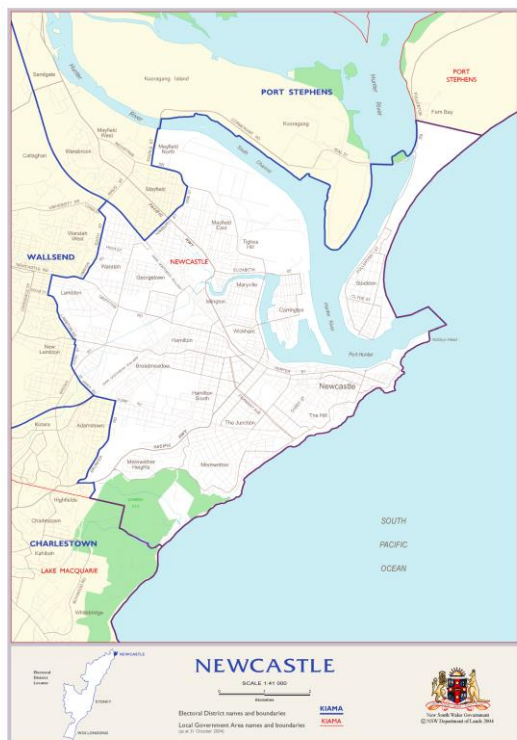
The NSWEC has led the way nationally in increasing elector enrolment through automatic enrolment, change of enrolment and re-enrolment using data held by other NSW public sector agencies such as licensing authorities and the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The use of automatic enrolment and re-enrolment processes was tested at the Penrith By-election in June 2010. SmartRoll was implemented for the March 2011 NSW State Election and is now a part of standard operations. At the time of the Newcastle By-election 54,032 electors were on the roll for this by-election.

Data from the NSW Roads and Maritime Services was supplemented with data from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and additional citizenship information. This work affected 3,667 newly enrolled or correctly re-enrolled electors for Newcastle, or 6.8% of total electors in the Newcastle district.

Newcastle Electoral District

Newcastle District Profile



Newcastle, Stockton, The Hill, The Junction, Tighes Hill, Waratah, Wickham.

This list is indicative only.

Demographic Profile

The 2011 census revealed that Newcastle had 67,920 residents (excluding overseas visitors) of which 49.7% were female (33,756) and 50.3% were male (34,164). 2.4% (1,628) were Indigenous people.

The median age was 37 years which is equal to the median age of people Australia-wide. 14.5% of the population was aged 65 or over and 20.6% were aged under 19.

81.8% of people were born in Australia. The most frequent countries of birth after Australia were England (2.2%), New Zealand (1.3%), Italy (0.6%), Scotland (0.5%) and the United States of America (0.4%).

Area

121.22 square kilometres

Postcodes

2289, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305.

Local Government Areas covered

Newcastle.

Localities

Broadmeadow, Carrington, Georgetown, Hamilton, Hamilton South, Islington, Lambton, Maryville, Mayfield North, Mayfield East, Merewether, Merewether Heights,

English was the only language spoken at home by the vast majority of people (87.5%), though two or more languages were spoken at home in 9.4% of households.

The most common languages spoken at home, other than English, were:

Greek	0.9%
Italian	0.8%
Macedonian	0.7%
Mandarin	0.3%
German	0.3%

Historical Electoral Representation

Previous recent State representation for the Newcastle District has been:

Tenure	Name	Party
2011-2014	Owen, Timothy	Liberal Party
2007-2011	McKay, Jodi	Australian Labor Party
1991-2007	Gaudry, Bryce	Australian Labor Party
1988-1991	Keegan, Ernest	Independent

Services to Electors

Maximising Participation in the Newcastle By-election

The NSWEC undertook an advertising and communication campaign to raise awareness of the Newcastle By-election and provide necessary information to electors and candidates. The major aspects of this strategy involved advertisements placed in State and local newspapers, some internet and regional press advertising of iVote and provision of information via the NSWEC website and the Returning Officer.

In addition to advertising, the NSWEC provided an elector brochure and email or SMS notifications sent to registered electors.

Elector Brochure

An elector brochure was sent to enrolled electors in the Newcastle District. The brochure provided information on the date of the election, the opening hours, locations and the accessibility of polling places, the mandatory nature of participation in the by-election, voting options if unable to vote on election day, and how to get assistance for electors not confident in written English or unable to read the brochure for other reasons.

53,708 brochures were provided at a cost of \$45,201 including postage. A copy of the brochure is provided at Appendix A.

Advertising

The *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* prescribes that certain advertising must occur. The advertising strategy for the Newcastle By-election was comprised of the following phases:

- Enrol to vote/Candidate information seminar
- Issue of Writ/Nominations Seminar
- Notice of election 1/registration of electoral registration
- Notice of election 2
- Remember to vote
- iVote

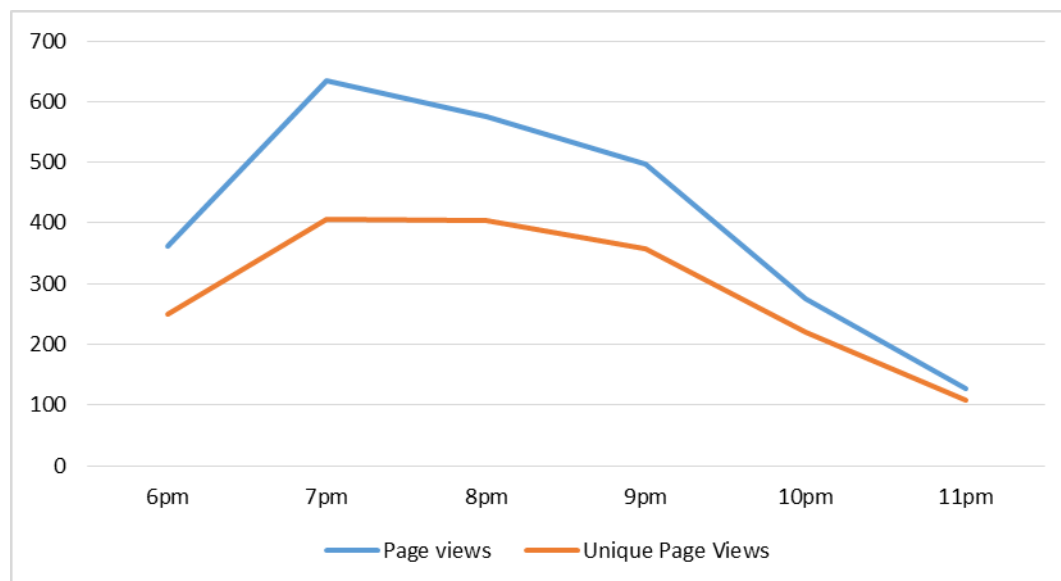
The schedule of advertising is provided in Appendix B and copies of the advertisements at Appendix C.

NSWEC Website

The NSWEC's website provided information that all stakeholders, not just electors, needed in order to participate in the by-election. It provided information on the election timetable, employment opportunities, enrolment, polling places, candidate requirements, names of candidates and poll results.

Use of the NSWEC's website is typically greatest on election night when users seek information on results. On election night, the Newcastle By-election results page had 2,470 unique page views.

Graph 1: Newcastle State By-election – Usage of the NSWEC Website for Poll Results, 25 October 2014



Voter Reminder Service

This reminder service provided electors the opportunity to request to be kept informed of electoral activities and information by SMS messaging or email. This service commenced with the Penrith By-election in 2010 and has been maintained since then. This service was also in place for the NSW State Election in 2011.

In the Newcastle By-election, 151 electors were notified of the event, with 123 by email and 113 by SMS (some electors receiving both). These electors had subscribed to the notification service and provided preferred contact details.

Service Standards

The NSWEC seeks to meet the expectations of electors about its electoral services and to this end has developed a Service Charter to outline the NSWEC’s election service standards. The 2011 NSW State Election Service Commitments Charter was maintained as the overall service standard for this by-election.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Electors

The Newcastle electoral district is not considered to be a high culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) district, so materials were not produced in languages other than English.

Electors with Disabilities and Access to Polling Places

The NSWEC sought to provide the most accessible and appropriately sited polling places possible for the Newcastle By-election. Detailed information was provided, allowing electors with mobility issues or other disabilities to locate the most suitable polling place. This access information was provided on the NSWEC’s website, in the elector brochure and by the NSWEC’s staff.

The NSWEC again used the Assisted Access rating system. This system rates the accessibility of each of the polling places in the Newcastle District, and allows people to make more informed choices about which polling place to use. Appendix D provides the list of all polling places and the access rating.

Arrangements for Voting before Election Day

Electors unable to vote on election day had the opportunity to vote early using iVote, postal or pre-poll voting. Early voting included voting in Declared Institutions.

A total of 9,023 electors voted early, representing a fifth of total votes. This high volume is in line with a general trend of early voting across NSW and other jurisdictions.

Postal Voting

Electors unable to attend a polling place on election day were able to apply for a postal vote. Postal vote application forms were available from the Returning Officer and the NSWEC's website.

Electors registered as 'General Postal Voters' received ballot papers sent by post to their address.

No political parties applied to send out postal vote applications.

A total of 1,179 postal votes (2.7% total votes) were received.

Pre-poll Voting

Pre-poll voting occurred from Monday, 13 October 2014, until Friday, 24 October 2014, at two locations: the Charlestown Returning Officer's office and the Newcastle Returning Officer's office in Cooks Hill.

Pre-polling was not provided overseas or at interstate Electoral Commissions as electors could vote using iVote.

The pre-poll locations were listed in the elector brochure and on the NSWEC website.

Pre-polling times

- Monday, 13 October, to Friday, 17 October – 8am to 6pm
- Saturday, 18 October, 9am to 5pm
- Monday, 20 October to Friday, 24 October – 8am to 6pm excluding Thursday, 23 October, which was from 8am to 8pm.

Pre-poll Returning Officer's Office

158 Darby Street, Cooks Hill NSW 2300

Access: Assisted Access.

Polling Places

Securing appropriate premises for polling places and the Returning Officer's office can be difficult. The NSWEC does not own facilities within electoral districts. The pool of available rental premises is limited by the short-term nature of the lease and the NSWEC's space, accessibility and location criteria applied to meet requirements such as workplace health and safety.

There were 20 polling places for the Newcastle By-election.

Hospitals and Declared Institutions

The *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* allows hospitals or similar institutions to be appointed by the Electoral Commissioner as polling places for election day. Similarly the Electoral Commissioner has the power to appoint nursing homes, retirement villages and like facilities as Declared Institutions from which votes can be taken by election officials on the Monday to Friday in the week preceding the election.

In the conduct of the Newcastle By-election, seven Declared Institutions were visited on 22 and 23 October 2014.

Services to Candidates and Registered Political Parties

Candidate Information Seminar

A Candidate Information Seminar was held on 23 September 2014 at the Newcastle Returning Officer's office and all intending candidates were invited. The fourteen attendees were given information covering the election timetable, nomination, election advertising and 'how-to-vote' material, voting and formality, scrutineering, vote counting, registration and appointment of candidates and official agents, campaign accounts, political donations, campaign expenditure and disclosure obligations.

Nominations

Nomination forms were available from the NSWEC website and could be lodged after the issue of the Writ (Friday, 3 October 2014). The Writ set 9 October 2014 as the date for close of nominations for political parties lodging forms with the NSWEC's head office and 10 October 2014 for candidates lodging forms with the Returning Officer.

Registered Officers (or Deputy Registered Officers) of registered political parties could nominate candidates at the NSWEC's office in the city or at the Returning Officer's office in Newcastle. Independent candidates could only nominate at the Returning Officer's office.

There were eight nominated candidates. Following the close of nominations the Returning Officer conducted a draw to

determine the order of candidates on the ballot paper.

'How-to-Vote' Material

Registration of 'How-to-Vote' material opened on Thursday, 9 October 2014, and closed on Friday, 17 October 2014.

Postal Vote Applications

Registered political parties planning to send postal vote applications to electors were requested to submit these forms to the NSWEC prior to distribution.

Electoral Material

In the Newcastle By-election, there were no reported incidents of electoral material displayed or distributed on election day not complying with the legislative requirements.

Conducting the Newcastle By-election

Returning Officer Arrangements

Ms Judith McGowan was the Returning Officer for the Newcastle By-election. The Returning Officer's office was situated at 158 Darby Street, Cooks Hill.

Returning Officer's duties include:

- set up and decommissioning of the (temporary) office;
- training of office staff and polling place managers;
- arranging voting at polling places and Declared Institutions;
- issuing and processing postal and pre-poll votes;
- dealing with enquiries from candidates and electors and other feedback;
- processing candidate nominations and how-to-vote material; and
- counting votes and declaring the results of the election.

Ms Sue Park was appointed as Returning Officer Support Officer in the NSWEC's head office to provide support on electoral matters and procedures. This officer was experienced in the Returning Officer role and had worked also in the head office of the NSWEC over many elections.

Election Costs

The expenditure on the Newcastle By-election was \$686,903.57. The cost per elector was \$12.71. (The expenditure figures are inclusive of iVote expenditure.)

Logistical and Other Support

Staffing

The majority of staff were employed to work on election day in polling places as Polling Place Managers or Election Officials. In addition casual staff were employed in the Returning Officer's office to pack materials for each polling place, operate pre-poll voting, visit Declared Institutions, count votes and pack materials after the election.

Recruitment of election staff was carried out using the NSWEC online registration system. 176 staff were employed. The Polling Place Managers received face to face training and their Deputies and Declaration Vote Issuing Officers all received online training. All Election Officials were issued a manual to study and use on election day.

The entire employment process is undertaken online including the provision of bank, tax and superannuation details.

Supplies

The ballot papers were printed by the NSWEC's preferred security printer. There were 67,600 ballot papers printed. A copy of the ballot paper is at Appendix E.

Waste Management

The NSWEC is bound by the NSW Government's waste management policy. In providing electoral services the NSWEC seeks to use, wherever possible, paper and cardboard comprising recycled content and to ensure that the paper and cardboard materials are recycled.

All ballot papers are printed in the most efficient way to minimise cost and paper wastage.

In the Newcastle By-election, standard cardboard materials were used in polling places. These included voting screens, wheelchair screens, ballot boxes, caution signs and recycle bins.

After the election, the materials were taken to the nearest council recycling facility. Unused items were returned to the NSWEC warehouse for possible future use.

IT Support

For the Newcastle By-election the Election Management Application was used. An internet based application for the use of Returning Officers, office assistants and head office staff, it consists of a suite of software modules to assist with managing election processes such as enquiries, election day staffing, candidate nominations, the distribution and return of declaration votes, results and non-voter administration.

In addition, IT equipment was provided to the Returning Officer's office and polling places.

Results

On election night, the NSWEC provides the result of counts conducted at each polling place for the first preference vote for each candidate, and the result of the notional count for the two candidates considered most likely to receive the greatest number of votes. The results are shown on election night from 6.30pm and progressively updated.

On the day after polling day, all the ballot papers from every polling place are recounted to ensure the election night count is accurate (the check count).

Declaration votes are added progressively with postal votes accepted up to Wednesday afternoon after election day. At this point, the final distribution of preferences is conducted.

Candidates' scrutineers are welcome to attend all counts.

Table 1: Final Results Newcastle By-election held 25 October 2014

Candidates	Votes	
Crakanthorp, Tim	15,253	ELECTED
Howard, Karen	10,796	
Osborne, Michael	8,236	
Haines, Jacqueline	3,019	
Stefanac, Jennifer	1,332	
O'Brien, Steve	1,086	
Buckley Clare, Brian	862	
Caine, Milton	834	
Absolute Majority	No	
Total Formal Votes	41,318	
Total Informal Votes	2,327	
Total Votes	43,645	

More detailed information on the counts is available on the NSWEC's website at <http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au>

Declaration of the Poll

On Thursday, 30 October 2014, the Returning Officer declared Mr Tim Crakanthorp elected.

Enforcement of Compulsory Voting

Failure to Vote

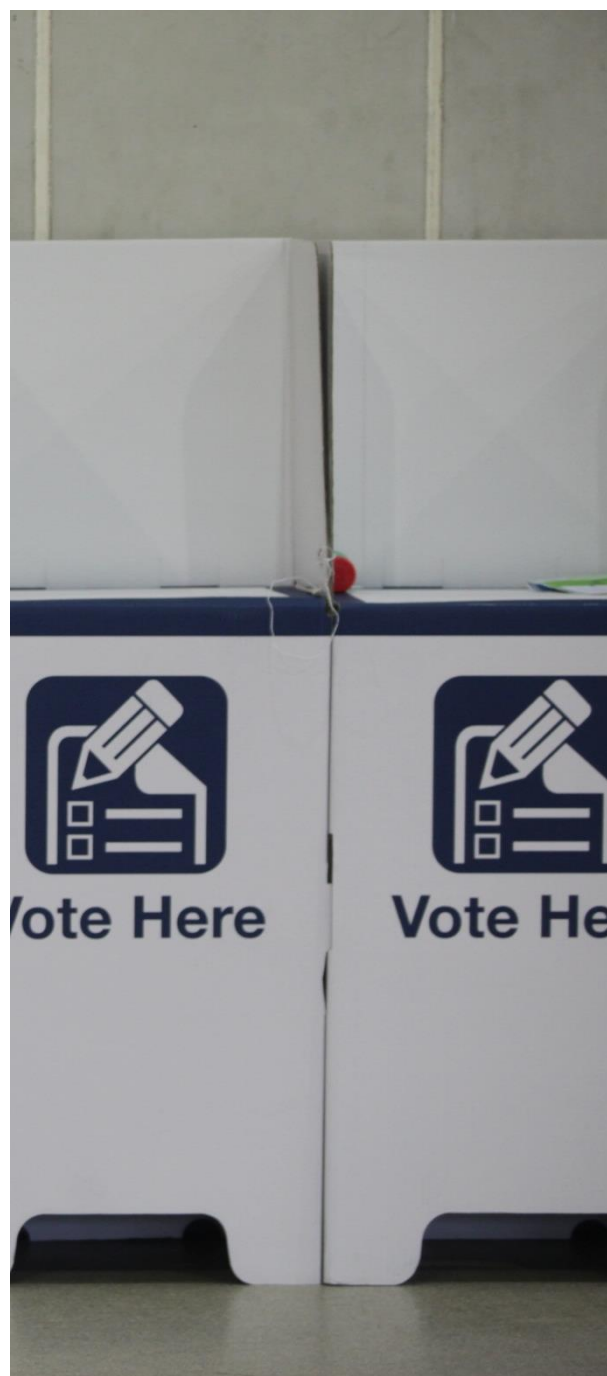
Under electoral legislation, the NSWEC is required to issue 'Failure to Vote' notices to those electors whose names were not marked off the electoral roll as having voted or recorded as providing a valid excuse. The penalty for not voting in a State by-election is \$55. The funds generated from penalty notices are not collected or retained by the NSWEC but directed to the consolidated fund held by NSW Treasury.

All electoral rolls marked at polling places or in the Returning Officer's office were scanned after election day to create a list of non-voters for Newcastle.

The number of electors who were issued with penalty notices was 8,268 (15.3% of electors on roll). As at Thursday, 5 March 2015, 3,568 electors had been excused from voting.

Higher rates of non-voting tend to be a feature of by-elections as compared to State General elections.

To assist electors avoid this penalty in future elections, the penalty notice advises non-voters of the availability of the 'Voter Reminder Service'.



Comparison to 2011 State General Election and other by-elections

Participation and Informality Rates

In the 2011 NSW State General Election there were eight candidates for the Newcastle District. The number of electors enrolled was 48,787, the voter turnout figure was 92.4% and the informality rate was 2.8%.

At the October 2014 by-election, there were eight candidates and the enrolment figure had increased to 54,032. The participation and informality rates were 80.8% and 5.3%. Traditionally, participation rates tend to be lower in by-elections than general elections and informality rates higher.

The participation rate for the Newcastle By-election was high compared to other recent State by-elections.

The range of participation rates for the ten State by-elections held between 2008 and 2014 was 62.6% to 88.2%. The range of informality rates for these same by-elections was 1.8% to 5.2%.

Non-voters and Penalty Notices

The number of penalty notices (PNs) issued for the Newcastle By-election was 8,268 or 15.3% of those on the electoral roll. This is higher than the previous two by-elections.

Table 2: Penalty Notices, Newcastle By-election October 2014 frequency and percentages

By-election & Year	No. Roll	PNs issued	No. PN as % Roll
Newcastle 2014	54,032	8,268	15.3
Charlestown 2014	49,928	5,385	10.8
Miranda 2013	48,625	5,451	11.2
Northern Tablelands 2013	51,802	6,308	12.2
Sydney 2012	61,428	20,468	33.3
Heffron 2012	55,712	16,176	29.0
Clarence 2011	52,171	6,577	12.6
Penrith 2010	46,304	4,295	9.3
Cabramatta 2008	50,383	4,422	8.8
Port Macquarie 2008	48,198	3,250	6.7
Ryde 2008	48,002	4,726	9.9
Lakemba 2008	51,288	6,700	13.1

Appendices

Appendix A: Newcastle By-election October 2014 Elector Brochure

Bring this brochure with you on election day. It will make voting easier.

Legislative Assembly By-election
Saturday, 25 October 2014

Here's where to vote on election day*

Locality	Venue and Address	Access
Adamstown	Adamstown Combined Pensioners Association – 153A Brunker Road	1,4
Adamstown	St Columba's Parish Hall Adamstown – Lockyer Street	1,4,5
Carrington	Carrington Public School – Young Street	4,5
Cooks Hill	St Johns Anglican Church Hall Cooks Hill – Dawson Street	3,4,5
Cooks Hill	WEA Hunter Laman Street Campus – 100 Laman Street	♿
Hamilton	Hamilton Public School – Dixon Street	4
Hamilton North	Hamilton North Public School – Jackson Street	1,2,3,7
Hamilton South	Hamilton South Community Hall – Fowler Street	3,4
Islington	Islington Public School – Hubbard Street	4,5
Lambton	Lambton High School – Young Road	4
Mayfield	Mayfield Presbyterian Church Hall – Macquarie Street	1,2,4
Mayfield	St Andrews Anglican Church Hall Mayfield – Church Street	1,2,3,4,5
Mayfield East	Mayfield East Public School – 32 Crebert Street	♿
Merewether	Hamilton South Public School – Kennick Street	1,4,5
Merewether	Holy Family Church Hall Merewether – 17 Fidge Street	1,2,3,4
Merewether	Merewether Uniting Church Hall – 180 Glebe Road	3,4,5
Merewether Heights	Merewether Heights Public School – Cedar Crescent	1
New Lambton	New Lambton South Public School – 45 St James Road	4
New Lambton	St Therese's Primary School New Lambton – Burke Street	4
Newcastle	Newcastle East Public School – Tyrrell Street	+
Stockton	Stockton Public School – Lemon Street	3,4,5
The Junction	The Junction Public School – Union Street	4
Tighes Hill	Tighes Hill Public School – Elizabeth Street	+
Waratah	Waratah Public School – Lambton Road	♿

Legend

Legend	Assisted Access
+	Does not meet accessibility requirements
1	Path of travel from car park may be difficult
2	Access ramp does not meet standards
3	Building has lips and/or steps
4	No designated disabled parking spot
5	No disabled toilet
6	May have limited circulation space in voting area
7	Door width is between 760 – 800mm
♿	Full Wheelchair Access

*Information correct as at 8 October 2014.

Your guide to voting in
Newcastle

Your vote is your voice.
Be heard.



Newcastle State By-Election

Saturday, 25 October 2014

This brochure contains important information about the election. It's particularly important to remember:

- Polling places will be open from 8am to 6pm on Saturday, 25 October 2014;
- Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors in the electoral district of Newcastle; and
- The penalty for not voting at the by-election is \$55.

Do I need to vote?

You have received this brochure because you are enrolled in the Legislative Assembly District of Newcastle. Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors.

Who do I vote for?

You will vote to elect a candidate to represent the electorate of Newcastle in the NSW Legislative Assembly. The full list of candidates is available at www.elections.nsw.gov.au or by calling us.

Where can I vote?

On election day you can vote at the polling places listed in this brochure. Visit the NSWEC website for more details.

What if I can't get to a polling place on election day?

Vote via internet or telephone

People who are blind, vision impaired or who have another disability, or who will be outside NSW on election day, can apply to use the iVote system to cast their vote over the internet.

To apply visit iVote.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 2 iVote (1300 24 86 83) or from outside Australia call +612 9290 5287. Applications close 6:00pm EDST on Wednesday, 22 October 2014.

Vote early in person

You may be eligible to cast a pre-poll vote. Pre-poll voting is available at the following locations:

Newcastle Returning Office:
158 Darby Street, Cooks Hill NSW 2300

Charlestown Returning Office:
Shop 5, 158 Pacific Highway, Charlestown NSW 2290

Pre-poll voting is available at the following times

Monday, 13 October - Friday, 17 October	8.00am – 6.00pm
Saturday, 18 October	9.00am – 5.00pm
Monday, 20 October - Wednesday, 22 October	8.00am – 6.00pm
Thursday, 23 October	8.00am – 8.00pm
Friday, 24 October	8.00am – 6.00pm

Vote by post

Postal voting is also available for eligible voters. Application forms are available from www.elections.nsw.gov.au or by contacting the returning officer.

Applications must be received by the returning officer by 6.00pm Wednesday, 22 October 2014 if sent within Australia, or 6.00pm Monday, 20 October 2014 if sent from overseas.

Electors who are general postal voters will automatically be sent their ballot papers without further application.

Can I get assistance in any other language?

For assistance in a language other than English please call 13 14 50.

العربية	Italiano	Bahasa Indonesia	Polski
العربية	日本語	Tiếng Việt	한국어
Tagalog	Русский	Türkçe	हिंदी
中文	Português	Македонски	Hrvatski
हिन्दी	فارسی	Español	
Ελληνικά	Српски	മലയാളം	bil-Malti

For more information:
www.elections.nsw.gov.au or
call 1300 135 736.

For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77.

electoral
commission nsw

Appendix B: Newcastle By-election October 2014 Schedule of Advertising

Message/Publication	Advertisement Date
Enrol/Candidate seminar/EOI	
Newcastle Herald	Tuesday, 16 September 2014
Newcastle Post	Wednesday, 17 September 2014
Newcastle Star	Wednesday, 17 September 2014
Issue of Writ/ Nominations	
Sydney Morning Herald	Friday, 3 October 2014
Newcastle Herald	Friday, 3 October 2014
Early voting options - Prepoll, Postal , iVote, Register electoral material	
Newcastle Herald	Wednesday, 8 October 2014
Newcastle Post	Wednesday, 8 October 2014
Newcastle Star	Wednesday, 8 October 2014
Early voting options - Prepoll, Postal , iVote	
Newcastle Herald	Tuesday, 14 October 2014
Newcastle Post	Wednesday, 15 October 2014
Newcastle Star	Wednesday, 15 October 2014
Remember to vote - Listing of polling places	
Newcastle Herald	Tuesday, 21 October 2014
Newcastle Post	Wednesday, 22 October 2014
Newcastle Star	Wednesday, 22 October 2014
iVote	
Newcastle Herald online	Tuesday, 21 October 2014
Newcastle Herald	Tuesday, 21 October 2014
Newcastle Post	Wednesday, 22 October 2014
Newcastle Star	Wednesday, 22 October 2014

Appendix C: Newcastle By-election October 2014 Copies of Advertisements

Enrol to Vote

Legislative Assembly By-elections

District of Charlestown

District of Newcastle

Saturday, 25 October 2014

Enrol to vote

To be eligible to vote at the upcoming Charlestown and Newcastle State By-elections, you must be correctly enrolled.

If you think your enrolment details may be out of date and you wish to update them, or if you have turned 18, become an Australian citizen recently or you wish to enrol for the first time visit: www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Candidate information seminar

A Candidate Information Seminar will take place at Newcastle Returning Officer's Office 158 Darby Street Cooks Hill NSW from 4pm to 6pm on Tuesday, 23 September 2014.

The seminar will cover a wide range of topics including the election timetable, nominations, election advertising and how-to-vote material, voting and formality, scrutineering, vote counting and election funding and disclosure obligations.

For further information visit the website or call us.

Work at the election

If you are interested in working at the election and you are on the electoral roll, please register your interest online at www.elections.nsw.gov.au

For information: www.elections.nsw.gov.au
or call 1300 135 736.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.



For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service 13 14 50
For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77
Authorised by Colin Barry, Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Candidate

Legislative Assembly By-elections District of Charlestown District of Newcastle Saturday, 25 October 2014

On Friday, 3 October 2014, I received from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, The Honourable Shelley Hancock MP, a Writ for the election of one Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Charlestown and a Writ for the election of one Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Newcastle. The Writs set the following dates:

Close of Nominations: 12 noon, Thursday, 9 October 2014

Election Day: Saturday, 25 October 2014

Colin Barry, Electoral Commissioner

How to Nominate as a Candidate

To nominate you must lodge a nomination form, child-related conduct declaration and a \$250 nomination deposit by 12 noon, Thursday, 9 October 2014 with the relevant Returning Officer.

Registered Political Parties lodging nominations with NSW Electoral Commission head office must do so by 12 noon Wednesday, 8 October 2014.

Nomination forms and the Handbook for Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers – State By-elections are available from the Returning Officer or from the NSW Electoral Commission website. For nomination enquiries call Greg Copson (02) 9290 5904.

Returning Officer details:

Charlestown Returning Officer: Catherine Starling

Returning Officer address: Shop 5, 158 Pacific Highway, Charlestown NSW 2290

Postal address: PO Box 561, Charlestown NSW 2290

Newcastle Returning Officer: Judith McGowan

Returning Officer address: 158 Darby Street Cooks Hill NSW 2300

Postal address: PO Box 2118, Dangar NSW 2309

For further information: www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.



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Authorised by Colin Barry, Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

EL_00-0081-SEP14

Remember to Vote

Legislative Assembly By-elections
District of Charlestown
District of Newcastle
Saturday, 25 October 2014

REMEMBER TO VOTE THIS SATURDAY

**Saturday, 25 October is election day.
Polling places are open from 8am to 6pm.**

All electors on the roll for Charlestown and Newcastle have been sent an elector brochure to their nominated postal address.

A full list of polling places is available by visiting our website or calling us.

Pre-poll voting is available until 6pm on Friday, 24 October 2014. Pre-poll voting locations and times are available on our website or by calling us.

CANDIDATES CHARLESTOWN

Name	Affiliation
ARMS Luke	Independent
SKY Marc	Independent
OAKLEY Jane	The Greens
WRIGHTSON Suellen	
HARRISON Jodie	Labor
CUBIS Luke	Independent
MARTIN Arjay	
TUCKER Brian	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
HOPE Veronica	Independent

NEWCASTLE

Name	Affiliation
O'BRIEN Steve	Socialist Alliance
CRAKANTHORP Tim	Labor
OSBORNE Michael	The Greens
HAINES Jacqueline	Independent
STEFANAC Jennifer	
HOWARD Karen	Independent
CAINE Milton	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
BUCKLEY CLARE Brian	Independent

**REMEMBER VOTING IS COMPULSORY.
THE FINE FOR NOT VOTING IS \$55.**

For information: www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service 13 14 50.
For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.



Authorised by Colin Barry, Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney, NSW 2000

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Appendix D: Newcastle By-election October 2014 Polling Places, Disability Access

Premises	Address	Accessibility
Adamstown Combined Pensioners Association	153A Bruncker Road, Adamstown NSW 2289	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Carrington Public School	Young Street, Carrington NSW 2324	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot No disabled toilet
Hamilton North Public School	Jackson Street, Hamilton North NSW 2292	Assisted Access Access ramp does not meet standards Building has lips and/or steps Door width less than 850mm but more than 740mm Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Hamilton Public School	Dixon Street, Hamilton NSW 2303	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot
Hamilton South Community Hall	Fowler Street, Hamilton South NSW 2303	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot Building has lips and/or steps
Hamilton South Public School	Kenrick Street, Merewether NSW 2291	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult No disabled toilet
Holy Family Church Hall Merewether	17 Ridge Street, Merewether NSW 2291	Assisted Access Access ramp does not meet standards Building has lips and/or steps No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Islington Public School	Hubbard Street, Islington NSW 2296	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot No disabled toilet
Lambton High School	Young Road, Lambton NSW 2299	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot

Premises	Address	Accessibility
Mayfield East Public School	32 Crebert Street, Mayfield East NSW 2304	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Mayfield Presbyterian Church Hall	Macquarie Street, Mayfield NSW 2304	Assisted Access Access ramp does not meet standards No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Merewether Heights Public School	Cedar Crescent, Merewether Heights NSW 2291	Assisted Access Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Merewether Uniting Church Hall	180 Glebe Road, Merewether NSW 2291	Assisted Access Building has lips and/or steps No designated disabled parking spot No disabled toilet
New Lambton South Public School	45 St James Road, New Lambton NSW 2305	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot
Newcastle East Public School	Tyrrell Street, Newcastle NSW 2300	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
St Andrews Anglican Church Hall Mayfield	Church Street, Mayfield NSW 2304	Assisted Access Access ramp does not meet standards Building has lips and/or steps No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult No disabled toilet
St Columba's Parish Hall Adamstown	Lockyer Street, Adamstown NSW 2289	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult No disabled toilet
St Johns Anglican Church Hall Cooks Hill	Dawson Street, Cooks Hill NSW 2300	Assisted Access Building has lips and/or steps No designated disabled parking spot No disabled toilet
St Thereses Primary School New Lambton	Burke Street, New Lambton NSW 2305	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot
Stockton Public School	Lomond Street, Stockton NSW 2295	Assisted Access Building has lips and/or steps No designated disabled parking spot No disabled toilet

Premises	Address	Accessibility
The Junction Public School	Union Street, The Junction NSW 2291	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot
Tighes Hill Public School	Elizabeth Street, Tighes Hill NSW 2297	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Waratah Public School	Lambton Road, Waratah NSW 2298	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
WEA Hunter Laman Street Campus	100 Laman St, Cooks Hill NSW 2300	Fully Wheelchair Accessible

Appendix E: Newcastle By-election October 2014 Ballot Paper

Ballot Paper
Legislative Assembly Election – Electoral District of
Newcastle
Held on 25 October 2014

DIRECTIONS FOR VOTING
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- Write the number **1** in the square next to the candidate of your choice.
- You can show more choices, if you want to, by writing numbers in the other squares, starting with the number **2**.
- Fold this ballot paper so your vote cannot be seen and place it in the ballot box (or in the envelope provided).

CANDIDATES

- O'BRIEN Steve**
SOCIALIST ALLIANCE
- CRAKANTHORP Tim**
LABOR
- OSBORNE Michael**
THE GREENS
- HAINES Jacqueline**
INDEPENDENT
- STEFANAC Jennifer**
- HOWARD Karen**
INDEPENDENT
- CAINE Milton**
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)
- BUCKLEY CLARE Brian**
INDEPENDENT

You must not take a ballot paper out of the polling place



References

Australian Bureau of Statistics *2011 Census QuickStats*; Newcastle.

http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/LGA15900?opendocument&navpos=220

Allen Consulting Group, Evaluation of technology assisted voting provided at the NSW State General Election March 2011: report to the New South Wales Electoral Commission, Sydney, July, 2011.

New South Wales Electoral Commission, *Report on the Conduct of the NSW State Election 2011*, Report to the NSW Parliament Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, November, 2011.