electoral
commission NSW

Albury City Council • Ballina Shire Council • Balranald Shire Council • Bega Valley Shire Council • Bellingen Shire Council
Berrigan Shire Council • Blacktown City Council • Bland Shire Council • Blue Mountains City Council • Bogan Shire
Council • The Council of the Shire of Bourke • Brewarrina Shire Council • The Council of the City of Broken Hill • Byron
Shire Council • Camden Council • Campbelltown City Council • Carrathool Shire Council • Cessnock City Council
Clarence Valley Council • Cobar Shire Council • Coffs Harbour City Council • Coolamon Shire Council • Coonamble
Shire Council • Cowra Shire Council • Eurobodalla Shire Council • Forbes Shire Council • Gilgandra Shire Council • Glen
Innes Severn Council • Goulburn Mulwaree Council • Greater Hume Shire Council • Griffith City Council • Gwydir Shire
Council • Hawkesbury City Council • Hay Shire Council • Inverell Shire Council • Junee Shire Council • The Council of
the Municipality of Kiama • Kyogle Council • Lachlan Shire Council • Leeton Shire Council • Lismore City Council • City
of Lithgow Council • Liverpool City Council • Liverpool Plains Shire Council • Lockhart Shire Council • Mid-Western
Regional Council • Moree Plains Shire Council • Muswellbrook Shire Council • Nambucca Shire Council • Narrabri Shire
Council • Narrandera Shire Council • Narromine Shire Council • Parkes Shire Council • Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Richmond Valley Council • Shoalhaven City Council • Singleton Council • Sutherland Shire Council • Council of the
City of Sydney • Tamworth Regional Council • Temora Shire Council • Tenterfield Shire Council • Tweed Shire Council
Upper Hunter Shire Council • Upper Lachlan Shire Council • Uralla Shire Council • The Council of the City of Wagga
Wagga • Walcha Council • Walgett Shire Council • Warren Shire Council • Warrumbungle Shire Council • Weddin Shire
Council • Wentworth Shire Council • Wingecarribee Shire Council • Wollondilly Shire Council • Yass Valley Council

Report on the Local Government Elections

2016

Foreword

Pursuant to clause 393AA of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, I am pleased to present the New South Wales Electoral Commission's report on the conduct of the 2016 Local Government Elections to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Gabrielle Upton, MP.

These were the first elections I presided over as Electoral Commissioner, and it is a tribute to both NSWEC staff and my predecessors as Commissioner that the elections went ahead so smoothly.

The scheduled elections were split into separate tranches, after the NSW Government began implementing its program of local government mergers. With this merger process not being completed by the scheduled date for the elections (10 September 2016), only the 81 councils unaffected by outstanding merger proposals were in a position to hold elections on that date. A further round of elections is scheduled for September 2017.

The 2016 Local Government Elections were the second conducted since changes to legislation gave councils the option to choose their election provider. A majority of councils (76 of 81) chose to have the New South Wales Electoral Commission conduct their elections in 2016, with several councils which had conducted their own elections in 2012 returning to the NSWEC.

A number of factors contributed to the complexity of conducting these elections:

- The splitting of the scheduled elections into separate rounds
- On 1 July 2016 new funding, disclosure and compliance rules came into force in respect of political donations for local government elections
- Floods made some polling stations unreachable
- The death of a candidate during the election period forced the postponement of the election, and referendum, for the Tweed Shire Council

The split election round meant we needed to devise a communications strategy to reduce the potential for confusion among electors, particularly in areas not conducting elections which bordered those that were. We made use of a range of strategies including:

- 'Check if you need to vote' messages placed in print, radio and digital media, targeted to areas not conducting elections. These advised electors that they could go to the vote.nsw.info website to see if their council was having an election.
- Additional media releases to newspapers in non-election areas with links to maps showing electoral boundaries, with councils which were not having elections highlighted.
- Brochures distributed to selected areas on the boundaries of metropolitan Sydney areas not having elections
- A co-ordinated communications program for newly amalgamated councils to inform electors that their elections were not taking place.

Clause 393AA provides that my report concerning the conduct of these elections should include 'any recommendations by the Electoral Commissioner to the Minister [for Local Government] regarding changes to the Act or this Regulation relating to the conduct of elections. I propose including any such recommendations in my final report to the Minister following the conclusion of all the outstanding council elections.

I would like to thank all staff involved in conducting the 2016 Local Government Elections and to thank electors, councils, candidates, registered political parties and other stakeholders for their participation in this important event. I look forward to building on our achievements and carrying these forward into the 2017 round and beyond.

John Schmidt

Electoral Commissioner

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Executive Summary

On 10 September 2016, the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) conducted elections on behalf of 75 NSW councils. We also conducted a separate election on 29 October for Tweed Shire Council, after the death of a candidate during the election period forced the postponement of the election and the referendum accompanying it.

Five councils (Fairfield, Gunnedah, Kempsey, Lake Macquarie and Penrith) chose to conduct their own elections.

In total, we were responsible for 144 individual elections in 63 wards and 58 undivided council areas. There were 114 contested councillor elections, seven uncontested councillor elections, 17 contested mayoral elections, and referenda for six councils.

For the 76 councils (Tweed Shire included), there were 86 pre-poll venues and 954 polling places, serving 1.97 million electors. A little over one elector in a thousand nominated as a prospective councillor, with a total of 2,005 candidates, from 2,181 nominations. Thirteen people who nominated either withdrew their candidacy or were ineligible to stand for election, while the balance is made up of candidates who nominated for multiple positions, such as both councillor and mayor.

There were 679 councillor positions up for election.

The elections encompassed different voting methods: optional preferential for direct mayoral elections and proportional representation if more than two councillors are elected.

Votes in councillor elections were tallied using NSWEC vote counting software. All ballot papers were entered into the Proportional Representation Computer Count (PRCC) Data Entry System.

Councils in the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong areas sent their councillor ballot papers to the Local Government Counting Centre at Riverwood. All other councils had their councillor ballot papers and data entered in the Returning Office regional office. There were 29 data entry count centres: Riverwood and 28 Returning Officer regional offices.

Sealed ballot paper cartons were transported securely to the Local Government Counting Centre in dedicated vehicles.

The data entry operation at Riverwood involved 200 clerical staff checking and preparing the ballot papers for data entry. Data entry started at midday on Monday, 12 September 2016 and finished on Tuesday, 20 September 2016.

There were 1,547,022 votes cast in the 2016 Local Government Elections. There were 1,453,376 formal votes in councillor elections and 93,646 informal votes. This last figure represents a decline in the informal voting rate, at 6.44 per cent down from 7.9 per cent in 2012.

Initial data indicates that there has been a fall in the 'participation' rate for these elections. It should be noted that 'turnout' and 'participation' rates are not synonymous. 'Turnout' refers to electors who have had their names marked off the roll and are taken to have voted. 'Participation' refers to electors who either had their names marked off the roll or have provided an acceptable reason for not doing so.

On unadjusted figures the participation rate for these elections was approximately 84 per cent. This rate is lower than the same unadjusted figures for the 2008 (approximately 91 per cent) and 2012 (approximately 87 per cent) local government elections. Such a decline in voter participation is in keeping with a trend which appears to be being experienced across Australian jurisdictions.

This 84 per cent figure represents the initial list of electors who have been identified as having not voted. To arrive at the actual participation rate, that figure needs to be adjusted, for example, by removing those electors who have an acceptable reason for not voting and deceased electors. It is not possible to establish the actual participation rate until current processes regarding electors who appear to have failed to vote have been finalised.

We employed a total of 6,420 temporary election staff.

Following the election, we conducted a range of surveys with electors, candidates, council general managers and election officials. Results and recommendations arising from that survey are included in this report.

How this report is structured

Clause 393AA of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 provides that:

(1) After each ordinary election of councillors and each first election for an area after its constitution, the Electoral Commissioner must provide the Minister with a written report on the conduct of the election, including (but not limited to) a report on the following:

(a) the names of the areas whose elections were conducted by the Electoral Commissioner,

(b) details of the declared results in those elections,

(c) details of any requests for recounts of ballot-papers in those elections,

(d) details of any proceedings commenced in a court or tribunal relating to those elections,

(e) any recommendations by the Electoral Commissioner to the Minister regarding changes to the Act or this Regulation relating to the conduct of elections.

(2) The report must be provided to the Minister and displayed on the Electoral Commission's website within 6 months after the election day concerned, unless the Minister is satisfied that special circumstances exist.

This report is presented in accordance with this requirement and covers the first tranche of local government elections, held in September 2016, as well as the deferred Tweed Shire Council election, held on 29 October 2016. It is made up of three parts:

Part 1 introduces the major themes and features of the 2016 Local Government Elections. It reports on:

- the role of the NSWEC
- the changing regulatory environment for elections in NSW

Part 2 sets out the NSWEC's conduct of the 2016 Local Government Elections. It is divided into:

- the numbers and scope of the elections
- preparation for the elections
- conduct of the elections
- results and matters that follow from the elections, such as penalty notices for enrolled electors who did not vote

Part 3 provides an evaluation of the NSWEC's performance. It includes:

- the results of surveys, both by external provider IPSOS and our own internal surveys
- our service charter and our performance against it
- consideration of how we can improve on our performance

Part 3 examines feedback received from surveys conducted by the NSWEC following these elections. It also contains a number of appendices containing specific information relating to aspects of the elections.

A supplementary volume to this report, containing individual council reports for the elections, including results, electoral services provided, successful candidates and costings, will be published shortly.

Part 1: The 2016 Local Government Elections – Introduction

The role of the NSWEC

The NSWEC is responsible for

- regulation and administration of the election funding, expenditure and disclosure scheme and registration of electoral participants for the purposes of that scheme

- registration and regulation of third-party lobbyists

- enforcement of funding and disclosure, electoral and lobbyist offences, including enrolment and Failure to Vote offences under the *Local Government Act*.

The Electoral Commissioner is responsible for

- registration of political parties

- enrolment of electors

- maintenance of electoral rolls

- the conduct of elections

Functions

The main functions of the NSWEC are to

- maintain a scheme of public funding at State Government level, for eligible political parties, candidates and independent members of Parliament;

- regulating campaign finance management requirements for Parliamentary and local government elections

- maintain the Register of Third-Party Lobbyists

- enforce offence provisions relating to the conduct of elections, campaign finance and lobbying

- research electoral issues

The main functions of the Electoral Commissioner are to

- conduct elections and by-elections for the State of NSW, local government and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council

- conduct statutory elections for registered clubs, statutory bodies and state registered industrial organisations

- manage the NSW State electoral roll with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)

Clients

Our clients include:

- the people and electors of NSW
- the Parliament of NSW
- local councils
- the NSW Aboriginal Land Council
- election candidates and participants
- registered political parties
- industrial organisations, registered clubs and statutory bodies
- the media
- lobbyists
- political donors and third party campaigners

Since 2011, councils have had the option to run their elections themselves, choose the NSWEC or choose an election service provider other than the NSWEC to conduct the election for them.

Service Commitments Charter

The Service Charter is a primary accountability instrument for the NSWEC. We enter into agreements with individual councils, setting out the NSWEC's commitment to providing impartial and quality election services for those councils using our services by:

- promoting open and timely communication and consultation between councils and the NSWEC on election services
- recognising the interests of people and bodies involved in the conduct of the elections
- setting out the NSWEC's accountability in providing election services for councils
- outlining the standards for efficiency, effectiveness and co-ordination of elections for which we are accountable
- promoting accountability and customer service in conducting successful elections.

The Charter includes commitments to:

- consult with councils on election services and timely provision of cost estimates
- assign Client Liaison Officers as a single NSWEC point of contact for councils on election services the NSWEC will provide
- recruit Returning Officers with expertise and capacity to deliver successful elections
- publicise information on election services for electors, candidates, groups of candidates and registered political parties
- count votes accurately
- publish election night and final election results in a timely manner
- provide public accountability by reporting to the NSW Parliament and councils on the conduct of the elections.

The Service Charter is based on the premise that the NSWEC and NSW councils will:

- undertake their respective roles and responsibilities for elections as set out in relevant legislation and administrative instruments
- meet their responsibilities in a timely manner
- provide relevant, current and timely information relevant to electors
- raise issues relevant to the successful conduct of the elections, and have these issues examined courteously and confidentially.

The changing regulatory environment

The *Local Government and Elections Legislation Amendment (Integrity) Act 2016* introduced new provisions to the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* relating to local government. The key changes involve:

- capping political donations

- regulating third-party campaigners

- requiring political parties to keep a campaign account for local council elections.

Caps on political donations

Political donations made to political parties, elected members, candidates, groups of candidates and third-party campaigners are now capped. It is unlawful for a person to make or accept a political donation that exceeds the relevant cap. The caps on political donations are determined each financial year.

In summary, the caps are:

- $5,900 cap from 1 July 2016 for any political donation to, or, for the benefit of a registered party or of a group.

- $2,600 cap from 1 July 2016 for any political donation to, or, for the benefit of:

  o a party that is not a registered party, or

  o an elected member, or

  o a candidate, or

  o a third-party campaigner

- Multiple donations from the same donor to the same recipient in any one financial year are to be aggregated for the purpose of the annual cap.

- Donations are to be aggregated separately for local government elections and other purposes. For example, a donor can give a total of $5,900 to a registered party for local government elections and a second total of $5,900 to the same registered party for state elections.

- Donations to candidates, groups and elected members of the same party are to be aggregated separately for local government elections and other purposes.

Regulating third-party campaigners

Individuals and entities who incur more than $2,000 in electoral communication expenditure during the expenditure period for a local council election must be registered as a third-party campaigner with the NSWEC and appoint an official agent.

Electoral communication expenditure includes advertising and printing to promote or oppose a political party or candidate/s or to influence the vote at an election.

It is an offence to incur more than $2,000 in electoral communication expenditure during the local government expenditure period before a candidate is registered for the election.

Political parties to keep a campaign account

Political parties, candidates and third-party campaigners that incur electoral expenditure for a local council election must keep a local government campaign account. The campaign account is to be used to make payments for electoral expenditure and deposit political donations for a local council election.

There are criminal offences in place in the legislation for:

- making or accepting a donation that exceeds the relevant cap
- a third-party campaigner not operating a campaign account in accordance with the rules
- a candidate not operating a campaign account in accordance with the rules
- a party not operating a local government campaign account in accordance with the rules.

If a person commits an offence in relation to the new requirements the NSWEC may:

- commence prosecution
- recover the value of 'over the cap' donations from the donation recipient
- issue a warning.

The Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2012 Local Government Elections

On 21 November 2012, the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters was given Terms of Reference to inquire into and report on the 2012 Local Government Elections, with particular reference to:

(a) the cost of the elections

(b) the experience of councils that conducted their own elections

(c) possible legislative changes to improve the efficiency of, and participation in, local government elections

(d) non-residential voting in local government elections

(e) the impact of requirements under the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act* on prospective candidates in local government elections, and possible legislative changes to remove any barriers to participation and

(f) any other related matter.

The Committee reported on 27 March 2014, and the NSW Government responded to the report on 22 October 2014. The Government response to each recommendation is set out below.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that both the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters review the administration of future elections.

The Government's response was

> *The Government recognises the importance of accountability in the conduct of Local Government elections and will continue to support future inquiries by the Committee into local government elections.*

> *In relation to the role of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 ("the Regulation") requires General Managers of councils that administer their own elections to report to the Minister for Local Government on the administration of the elections. Following the 2012 Local Government elections, the then Division of Local Government (now the Office of Local Government) undertook a review of the council run elections based in part on this information. The Office of Local Government is best placed to continue this role and no change is therefore required in relation to this for council administered elections.*

> *However, it is proposed to amend the Regulation to also require the NSW Electoral Commissioner to report to the Minister on the council elections he has administered.*

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that each council that administers its own election be required to submit information relating to candidate participation and voter turnout to the Division of Local Government.

The Government's response was

> *The Office of Local Government currently collects statistical data on candidates at all ordinary council elections through the completion of statistical information sheets contained in the prescribed nomination paper. The Office reports on this data following the election.*

> *It is proposed to add to the data currently collected by the Office, information about candidate membership of registered political parties for the purpose of identifying candidate participation trends to inform future policy development. This information is already provided in Candidate Information Sheets but is not available for evaluation after the election. This will apply to all council elections including those administered by the NSW Electoral Commissioner.*

The Government will also amend the Regulation to include information on voter turnout at council administered elections in the information General Managers of councils that administer their own elections are required to report on to the Minister for Local Government following ordinary elections and to include this in the information the Electoral Commissioner will be required to report on to the Minister under the new reporting requirements that will apply to him.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that each council that resolves to administer its election in-house be required to prepare a report for the Division of Local Government in which it demonstrates its capacity to conduct a successful election. This report should include council's access to suitably qualified Returning Officers, as well as possible substitutes, and be prepared no later than 15 months prior to the 2016 elections.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Department of Premier and Cabinet takes steps to ensure that all councils not utilising the services of the Electoral Commission, and not conducting their elections in-house, have secured contracts with an electoral service provider at least 15 months prior to the 2016 elections.

The Government's response was

The Government agrees that it is important that councils that make the decision to administer their own elections should only do so where they can demonstrate the capacity to do so successfully. However, the Government considers that it would make little sense to return the power to councils to administer their own elections if the responsibility for ensuring that councils that decide to administer their own election have the capacity to do so successfully remains with the State. It is the Government's view that this responsibility should remain with those councils who decide to administer their own elections.

Under section 296 of the Local Government Act 1993 *("the Act"), the last time councils can resolve to engage the Electoral Commissioner to conduct their elections is 18 months prior to the election. The Government therefore considers that it would be more prudent to require councils to take the necessary steps to demonstrate the capacity to successfully administer their own election prior to this time. To these ends, the Government proposes to seek amendments to the Act to provide that where a council does not intend to enter into an arrangement with the Electoral Commissioner to administer its elections, it must, at least 18 months before the next ordinary election, demonstrate to its community that it has the capacity to successfully administer its own elections by way of a resolution of the council that provides the following information:*

> *1. That it proposes to administer its own ordinary election*

2. Whether it proposes to administer the ordinary election itself or through a contracted electoral service provider and if so, the name of the provider

3. If it proposes to administer the ordinary election itself, whether it has access to a suitably qualified returning officer to oversee the election and at least one appropriately qualified substitute returning officer.

Requiring councils to notify their communities of this information by way of a council resolution will ensure that the governing body of the council is provided with all the information necessary to make an informed decision on their council's capacity to do so at a time when it is still possible to change its mind and enter into an arrangement with the Electoral Commissioner for the administration of its ordinary election.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Division of Local Government provide guidance to the Electoral Commission with respect to the extent and mode of electoral roll data that can be disclosed to councils that conduct their own elections. Particular weight should be given to ensuring councils are granted sufficient access to roll data, while safeguarding elector privacy.

If this is not possible, the committee believes it is the obligation of the Electoral Commission to provide soft copy access to rolls so that councils can exercise their right to undertake their own elections, should they decide to do so.

The Government's response was

The Government agrees with the Committee's view that the Electoral Commissioner has a democratic obligation to provide soft copy access to rolls so that councils can exercise their right to undertake their own elections should they decide to do so. However, the Government also agrees that it is important to safeguard elector privacy.

To this end, the Government proposes to seek amendments to the Act to require the Electoral Commissioner to provide councils that administer their own elections with access to such soft copy information contained in the electoral roll reasonably necessary for the effective administration of their elections and to allow councils to provide access to this information to their contracted electoral service providers for this purpose. Councils and their contractors that are provided with access to such information are to use it solely for the purpose of administering their elections

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the Government raise the threshold for a candidate to open a campaign account to $2,500, indexed annually to inflation.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the Government remove the mandatory requirement for a candidate to appoint an official agent, but candidates may choose to appoint an official agent if they wish.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the Government remove the requirement that a candidate information sheet is made in the form of a statutory declaration.

The Government's response was

> *The Government agrees with the Committee that the current requirements for candidates to open a campaign account where they receive political donations or incur electoral expenditure that exceeds $1,000 and to appoint an official agent are unduly onerous in the context of Local Government elections and serve as a disincentive to participation by candidates in Local Government elections.*

> *The Government supports in principle amendments to the* Election Funding Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 *to address this, but considers that any proposed amendments should be deferred pending the completion of the work by the Expert Panel on Political Donations so that this issue may be considered in the context of the outcomes of that review.*

> *The Government does not support the proposal to remove the requirement for candidate information sheets to be made in the form of a statutory declaration. Candidate information sheets are an important accountability mechanism and the requirement for candidates to attest to the accuracy of the information they provide in them serves as an important reminder of this. The Government considers that the need for electors to have confidence in the integrity of the information provided in candidate information sheets outweighs any inconvenience of having them witnessed.*

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends the introduction of a countback system, modelled on the one currently operating in Victoria, as an option for councils in lieu of a by-election when casual vacancies arise within 18 months of the original election.

The Government's response was

> *The Government acknowledges the resource impacts on councils of having to conduct by-elections and agrees that where vacancies arise within 18 months of an ordinary election, councils should have the option of being able to avoid the cost of a by-election through use of a countback system to fill the vacancy. It is proposed to amend the Act to allow for this.*

> *The use of a countback system will not be available however where the vacancy arises in the office of a popularly elected Mayor. The Government considers that it is important that the community has an opportunity to directly elect a*

replacement for popularly elected Mayors at a by-election, given the important community leadership role of that office.

The use of a countback system will also not be available where the original election of the councillor to the vacated office was uncontested meaning that there are no alternative candidates to replace the departing councillor.

Where, as is proposed, the use of a countback system is to be optional and at the discretion of the council, there is a risk that councils will make a decision on whether to use a countback system to fill a vacancy based on knowledge of the outcome this will yield.

To safeguard against this, it is intended to require councils to decide by resolution at the start of their term whether vacancies that arise in the 18 months following the election are to be filled by way of a countback system. Councils will not be allowed to change this decision.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the Government abolish the existing eligibility requirements with respect to whether an elector is qualified to cast a postal vote.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that each council be granted the option to conduct its elections via a postal ballot in lieu of attendance voting on a designated polling day.

The Government's response was

Postal voting provides a potentially cheaper alternative to attendance voting and makes it easier for electors to participate in Local Government elections. The Government therefore supports councils being given the option of offering postal voting as an alternative to attendance voting and giving individual electors the choice to exercise their vote in this way where a council decides to conduct their election by way of an attendance vote.

However, before this can be implemented, further work needs to be done to ensure systems are in place to support universal postal voting. It is unlikely that this will occur before the September 2016 Local Government elections.

In the meantime, it is proposed to abolish the current postal voting eligibility requirements for all electors for the City of Sydney. This is discussed further in the response to recommendation 15 below.

This will support the likely significant expansion in the numbers of enrolled non-residential electors that automatic enrolment will give rise to by reducing red tape requirements for non-residential and other voters who wish to cast their vote by post instead of attending a polling place on election day. If successful, it is proposed to expand this change to all council areas in the future.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the Government abolish existing eligibility requirements with respect to whether an elector is qualified to cast a pre-poll vote. Further, the Committee recommends that the Government retains the existing two-week pre-poll period.

The Government's response was

> *The Government supports any measure that maximises voter participation and agrees that maintaining a pre-poll voting alternative is an important voting option. The Government agrees that the best way to achieve this is to maintain the existing 2 week pre-polling period and to abolish the criteria electors must meet before being able to cast a pre-poll vote.*

> *However, as with the recommended abolition of the current postal voting eligibility requirements, further work needs to be done to prepare for implementation. The Government proposes to do this first for the City of Sydney before extending it to all councils in the future.*

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that the Government extend technology-assisted voting (or iVote) to be available to all electors ahead of the 2016 Local Government Elections and subsequent state elections. The Committee recommends that there be an independent software review and report on the integrity of iVote systems prior to implementation.

The Government's response was

> *The Government acknowledges the potential benefits of extending the availability of iVote to all electors at Local Government and State elections in promoting greater voter participation at elections. However before iVote can be made available for use at Local Government elections, a number of logistical questions need to be settled, including the feasibility of its use for individual council elections, the likely costs, and its availability and cost to those councils that are administering their own elections.*

> *Considering councils need to make a decision on the conduct of the 2016 Local Government elections by March 2015 at the latest, it is unlikely that these questions can be settled in time for iVote to be available to councils at the 2016 elections. However, the Government will explore the feasibility of making iVote available for use at the 2020 Local Government elections.*

Recommendation 14

That the Government amend the *Local Government Act, 1993* to provide for permanency of the non-residential roll across all NSW Councils so that electors are not required to re-apply for inclusion before each election.

The Government's response was

The Government acknowledges the frustration and red tape burden of non-residential electors having to re-enrol ahead of every election in order to vote at Local Government elections. The Government agrees that this is also a potential deterrent to participation by non-residential electors at Local Government elections.

The Government proposes to address this by seeking an amendment to the Act to make the non-residential rolls permanent.

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that the Government introduce the model used by the City of Melbourne for the City of Sydney in all its respects, including the deeming provisions and the compulsory voting aspect for electors on the non-residential roll. Furthermore, the Government consider applying this model in city council areas with significant economic centres, such as Newcastle, Wollongong and Parramatta.

The Government's response was

The Government agrees that where, as is the case for the City of Sydney, 78.5% of ratepayer revenue is derived from the business community and other non-residents, electoral architecture needs to be put in place to ensure equity and fairness.

For this reason, the Government supported the Bill introduced into the Parliament by the Shooters and Fishers' Party to amend the City of Sydney Act 1988 *which gave effect to the Committee's recommendation.*

The City of Sydney Amendment (Elections) Bill 2014 (the Bill) passed the Parliament on 17 September 2014 including additional amendments to address issues of fairness and to improve the operation of the Act.

The Government responded to concerns raised through the parliamentary process and made a number of important amendments to the Bill to ensure that in future City of Sydney Council elections businesses would not be disenfranchised and that the elections would be administered effectively. These amendments included:

- *ensuring businesses operating in shopping centres retain eligibility to vote*
- *a provision allowing the City of Sydney to request help to run the election and*
- *the model would only apply to the City of Sydney.*

Key features of the legislation as passed through Parliament include:

- *Making the rules for non-residential voters consistent and fairer for different kinds of businesses, setting a maximum of two eligible persons to be enrolled per business, including for each business operating in shopping centres*
- *Non-residential electors will only be able to vote once in the City of Sydney elections*

- *To be eligible to vote, a non-residential elector will need to be an Australian citizen who lives in NSW*
- *Non-residential electors will now be automatically enrolled to vote*
- *The City of Sydney, consistent with all other councils in NSW, will be responsible for preparing and maintaining the non-residential roll and will be able to engage an appropriately skilled service provider to assist it in doing so*
- *The electoral roll will be regularly updated, available for public inspection and verified by the Electoral Commissioner to ensure transparency and integrity*
- *The changes will only apply to the City of Sydney. Possible extension to other economic centres may be considered in the future.*

Part 2: Conduct of the 2016 Local Government Elections

The NSWEC and the 2016 Local Government Elections: the numbers

On 10 September 2016, the New South Wales Electoral Commission conducted elections on behalf of 75*[1] NSW councils. Two of these council elections were fully uncontested. We also conducted a separate election on 29 October 2016 for Tweed Shire Council, after the death of a candidate during the election period forced the postponement of the election and the referendum accompanying it.

In total, we were responsible for 144 individual elections in 63 wards and 58 undivided council areas. There were 114 contested councillor elections, seven uncontested councillor elections, 17 contested mayoral elections, and referenda for six councils.

For these councils, there were 86 dedicated pre-poll venues (not including the offices for 39 Returning Offices, which also serve as pre-poll venues) and 954 polling places, serving 1.97 million electors. A little over one elector in a thousand nominated as a prospective councillor, with a total of 2005 candidates, from 2181 nominations. Thirteen people who nominated either withdrew their candidacy or were ineligible to stand for election, while the balance is made up of candidates who nominated for multiple positions, such as both councillor and mayor.

There were a total 679 positions up for election attracting a total of 1,547,022 votes.

Of these, 1,453,376 were formal votes and 93,646 informal votes. This last figure represents a decline in the number of informal votes, to 6.44 per cent, down from 7.9 per cent in 2012.

We employed a total of 6,420 temporary election staff, working in Returning Officer offices, voting centres and regional counting centres. This too is not presently comparable to previous elections, as a result of the split round.

About local government elections

Voting in council elections

The elections utilised different voting methods. Direct mayoral elections use an optional preferential system, whereas when two or more councillors are elected a proportional representation system is used, similar to that used for the NSW Legislative Council.

Council ballot papers use group voting squares. Electors can vote above the line on the ballot paper for a group of candidates. A number '1' for a group records a first preference vote for the first candidate in the group with preferences going to the other candidates in the group in the order in which they are listed. Preferences then go to the next group, if indicated. The alternative is marking squares 'below the line' in order of preference for individual candidates.

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[1] The NSWEC conducted elections for 76 councils in 2016, but only 75 were held on 10 September 2016: Tweed Shire Council's election was deferred. Where the elections that took place only on this date are mentioned, the text is marked with an asterisk.

Contestable elections

As noted earlier, on 10 September 2016, the New South Wales Electoral Commission conducted elections on behalf of 75*NSW councils. We also conducted a separate election on 29 October 2016 for Tweed Shire Council, following the death of a candidate during the election period.

Five councils (Fairfield, Gunnedah, Kempsey, Lake Macquarie and Penrith) chose to conduct their own elections. One council (Central Darling) was in administration, and therefore did not have an election.

Services the NSWEC provides for all elections

Notwithstanding the introduction of contestability, the NSWEC retains responsibility for providing certain electoral services for all councils, including those which conduct their own elections. We supply electoral roll products, manage Failure to Vote and Penalty Notice processes and administer the funding and disclosure regime. Other services we provided to all councils included:

- Enrolment advertising - The NSWEC placed statewide advertising of the election date and the requirement that electors needed to be on the roll to vote.

- Composite rolls – Composite rolls were supplied to all councils.

- Copy of roll to candidates – A copy of the relevant electoral roll was provided to candidates upon request.

- Other enrolment related matters - A secure roll facility on the NSWEC's website was provided to councils administering their elections, to enable Returning Officers to check enrolment details prior to hard copy rolls being provided. Confirmation of 'silent elector' details was also provided.

- Registered General Postal Voters - Each council was provided with a list of electors who are registered to automatically receive postal votes.

- List of Non-Voters - The NSWEC scanned the rolls and prepared a list of non-voters for the General Manager to certify.

- Vote counting software specifications - These were available from the NSWEC for any council who required them for local government proportional representation vote counts.

Preparing for the elections

Election timetable

Table 1: Local Government Elections 2016 Election Timetable

Event	Date
Local government expenditure period begins	Friday, 1 July 2016
Nominations open	Monday, 1 August 2016
Close of authorised rolls*	Monday, 1 August 2016, 6pm
Close of nominations **Registration of candidates under EFED Act closes**	Wednesday, 10 August 2016, noon
Registration of election materials commences	Wednesday, 10 August 2016, noon
Pre-poll voting opened	Monday, 29 August 2016
Registration election material closes **Registration of third-party campaigners closes**	Friday, 2 September 2016, 5pm
Postal voting applications closes	Monday, 5 September 2016, 5pm
Declared Institution voting starts	Monday, 5 September 2016
Declared Institution voting closes	Friday, 9 September 2016
Pre-poll voting closes	Friday, 9 September 2016, 6pm
Election day **Local government expenditure period closes at close of polls**	Saturday, 10 September 2016, 8am – 6pm
Return of postal votes closes	Monday, 12 September 2016, 6pm

*For nominations and roll printing purposes

Financial and Funding Arrangements

Funding of Local Government Elections

Councils are required to meet the costs of conducting their elections. While the NSW Government does not provide direct funding for local government elections, some NSWEC services required for local government elections, such as enrolment and non-voting services, are provided by the NSWEC at no cost.

For the first tranche of 75 councils, whose elections were conducted on 10 September, 2016, the NSWEC issued budget estimates totalling $14.420 million. The actual expenditure came in under budget, at $14.110 million.

The election management fee, which had been estimated at $0.72 per elector, was delivered at $0.70 an elector. Those councils with uncontested elections received a discounted election management fee of $0.55. We charged a total of $1.384 million in fees, down from the $1.500 million estimate issued to councils. Independent accounting firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers was engaged in conducting a review of the level of NSWEC overhead, as applicable to the delivery of the LGE event.

For the current election cycle, the NSW Government has provided the NSWEC with an additional $14.580 million. This funding reflects the additional costs being incurred in conducting elections in more than one tranche, and the loss of economy of scale this entails.

Council Costing Model for the 2016 Local Government Elections[2]

The NSWEC undertook a comprehensive budget estimation process, identifying and calculating estimated costs for individual council expenses. The broad process for developing the budget for the 2016 Local Government Elections and individual council budgets involved five major stages.

All 2016 Local Government Elections projects and associated activities were identified and quantified.

The budget estimates were then developed, using a 'zero based' or 'bottom-up' budget methodology that involved itemising volume and unit costs for each project, the tasks for each month and identifying the financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17 which were impacted.

Those costs which could be attributed to the council amalgamations activity and effort associated were quantified and charged to the state government appropriation.

We then undertook substantive testing of these budget items and their estimated costs, using the most reliable cost schedule available that is the 2015 State General Election.

Finally, we allocated the costs for each project to individual councils using the applicable methodology for the activity involved in each project. The methodologies applied were either:

- cost per elector

- actual costs incurred in specific council areas and/or

- allocation for Regional Returning Officer based on elector numbers.

This enabled equitable sharing of overheads applicable to all councils separately from costs specific to each council.

No advance payment from councils and no deferral of payment for councils.

The NSWEC did not seek an advance payment from councils towards the conduct of the 2016 Local Government Elections. Final invoices will be issued to councils in March 2017.

Major Budget Components

The major expenditure items of elections are salaries, rent for office accommodation and polling places, communication campaigns and ballot paper production.

In the 2016 Local Government Elections, almost three-quarters of the budget (73.7 per cent) was composed of 11 expenditure items, the largest of which was wages The major cost items and their proportional contribution to the total 2012 Local Government Elections budget are shown below.

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[2] The election costs do not include the costs of support to the City of Sydney for the establishment of their non-residential register and their election roll. These costs are approximately $55,000.

Table 2: Local Government Elections, Major Expenditure Items

Expenditure Item	2016 $M	2016 % Total Expend	2012 $M	2012 % Total Expend
Election official wages	6.765	50.6	10.764	51.3
Logistics	1.276	9.5	1.700	8.1
Information Technology support	0.904	6.8	0.451	2.1
Ballot paper production	0.719	5.4	1.023	4.9
Returning Officer accommodation	0.661	4.9	1.543	7.3
Vote counting and Results	0.576	4.3	0.850	4.0
Polling Place hire	0.479	3.6	0.759	3.6
Communication campaign	0.378	2.8	1.390	6.6
Call Centre	0.260	1.9	0.508	2.4
Enrolment expenses	0.216	1.6	0.444	2.1
Other costs	1.138	8.5	1.602	7.6
Total Direct Costs	**13.371**	**100.0**	**21.034**	**100.0**

Staffing made up 51.3 per cent of the total budget expenditure. Staffing of an election is always a major expenditure item, with the largest component being polling place staff. The breakdown of the total expenditure for election official wages for the 2016 Local Government Elections is set out below.

Table 3: Local Government Elections, Election Official Wages

Category of Election Staff	2016 $ Wages	2016 %	2012 $ Wages	2012 %
Polling Place Staff	2,445,000	36.1	4,836,000	44.9
Returning Officer Office Staff	2,432,000	35.9	3,139,000	29.2
Returning Officers	1,128,000	16.7	1,660,000	15.4
Returning Officer Support Officers	371,000	5.5	407,000	3.8
Support Staff & Training	389,000	5.8	722,000	6.7
Total	**6,765,000**	**100.0**	**10,764,000**	**100.0**

Project Management Office

The 2016 Local Government Elections were the first in which the NSWEC's new Project Management Office (PMO) played a significant role. Established in February 2016, the PMO provides an independent permanent function to improve program and project delivery efficiency, reliability and consistency. The PMO initially focused on implementing effective controls around the 2016 Local Government Election Program, providing executive assurance including accurate forward planning, risk and interdependency management. This integrated management approach made a substantial improvement to the running of the 2016 Local Government Elections.

Recruitment and training

Election officials are the front line staff in elections with responsibility for the operational administration of electoral laws, policies and procedures underpinning the integrity of elections.

Election staff include Regional Returning Officers, Returning Officers, Returning Officer Support Officers, Polling Place Managers, Deputy Polling Place Managers, Election Officials, Senior Office Assistants and Office Assistants. Election staff undertake the preparatory work for the elections and, on election day, manage the polling places, issuing and counting votes and resolving difficulties experienced by electors.

Selection and training are the keys to ensuring that electors receive appropriate service from election officials. Because of the periodic nature of election events, it is not possible for the NSWEC to retain election staff between elections, hence recruitment and training of election staff is a major component of preparing for any election.

For the 2016 Local Government Elections the NSWEC employed 6,420 staff in temporary positions. Another 82 council staff were used in some pre-poll locations to issue votes. Council staff members were not directly employed by the NSWEC, but fulfilled an electoral function. There were approximately 200 staff employed at the Local

Government Counting Centre to undertake counting activities. The total numbers of staff employed in each staff category are below.

Table 4: Election Official Categories, Numbers and Percentages

Staff Categories	Number	%
Client Liaison Officers	7	0.1
Returning Officer Support Officer	6	0.1
Declaration Vote Issuing Officers	609	9.5
Deputy Polling Place Managers	229	3.6
Election Officials	3,036	47.3
Office Assistants	1,309	20.4
Polling Place Managers	974	15.2
Returning Officers	39	0.6
Senior Office Assistants	215	3.3
Total	6,420	100

Election Staffing

The NSWEC maintains a pool of people who have demonstrated competency in electoral administration and a capacity to adopt new electoral practices.

To maintain separation of the conduct of the elections from those who might be perceived to have an interest in their outcome, Returning Officers cannot be an employee of the council for whom an election is being conducted. Other election officials, such as Senior Office Assistants, Office Assistants, Polling Place Managers and polling place staff, can be employees of the council (provided they are on the residential electoral roll) and are selected on merit.

Recruitment processes vary between different categories of election staff. Recruitment of election staff commenced with Returning Officers and Returning Support Officers.

Recruitment of Returning Officer Support Officers and Returning Officers

The NSWEC keeps records of people who have been previously interviewed for senior election official positions. This pool is supplemented by advertising and interviewing eligible personnel prior to each general election, to ensure sufficient geographic coverage of Returning Officer positions across NSW. The recruitment process includes an online application based on selection criteria, face-to-face interview and computer skills test.

From this recruitment pool, we selected Returning Officer Support Officers and Returning Officers to work at the election. Applicants who are not appointed to one of these two positions are encouraged to apply for other Returning Officer and election day positions. Following the election, the Returning Officer Support Officers, Returning Officers, Senior Office Assistants and Polling Place Managers undergo a performance assessment, which assists in selection of senior election officials for future elections.

Recruitment of Election Staff

Returning Officers are responsible for recruitment of their office staff and polling place officials. The central office of the NSWEC provided the systems and processes to undertake recruitment.

The recruitment of Senior Office Assistants, Office Assistants and polling place staff was conducted by contacting staff who had worked at previous elections and encouraging them to register for work through the Expression of Interest link on the NSWEC website. We also ran an advertising and awareness campaign through website, radio and newspaper advertisements. Applications for employment opened via an online registration in June 2016.

The Returning Officers used the Expression of Interest website to select staff for their offices and polling places, with recruitment commencing in late July 2016. The Expression of Interest documentation included the criteria applicants were required to meet. For a Polling Place Manager for example, these were:

1. Customer service and communication skills (the ability to understand and convey information in a clear, accurate and respectful manner to people of diverse backgrounds)
2. Ability to work in a team environment (the ability to take or give direction, and work co-operatively towards a common goal and deadline)
3. Accuracy in the completion of administrative and numerical tasks within a time constraint (the ability in administrative, clerical and numerical roles where accuracy and timely completion are important) and
4. Supervisory and time management experience (the ability to bring people and tasks together to successfully complete work).

Targeted Recruitment Strategy

For the NSW 2016 Local Government Elections, we implemented a targeted recruitment strategy – a Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Program. This program aimed to increase the number of people working at the election who:

- have a disability
- speak another language other than English, or
- identify as Aboriginal.

Having more people from the above groups working in polling places has a positive impact on addressing accessibility barriers. We promote work opportunities through our reference groups, social media, and through community specific networks.

For the NSW 2016 Local Government Elections:

- 1.82 per cent of election staff had a disability
- 18.7 per cent of election staff spoke another language other than English
- 2.30 per cent of election staff identified as Aboriginal

When employing staff with bilingual skills, we aim to employ people who speak the languages prevalent in a particular Local Government Area.

We also promote access to multilingual language support at each polling place and pre-poll via the Telephone Interpreting Service. Electors can access over 120 languages via telephone interpreting service at no cost to themselves. The elector is assisted by the Polling Place Manager or Pre-Poll Manager.

Determination of Staff Numbers

Projections of ordinary votes to be taken at each polling place are used as the basis for staffing projections with additional factors taken into account, including:

- analysis of staffing used at previous elections and subsequent performance outcomes including complaints received regarding queue times, and timing of results phoned through to the Returning Officer's office

- results of feedback surveys from election officials about their experiences working at the polling place, and the performance assessment of polling place managers

- demographic changes since the last election

- deletion or addition of neighbouring polling places since the previous election

- location of the venue (e.g. is it in a remote part of NSW?)

- presence of higher than average numbers of electors from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and/ or Aboriginal communities and

- time and motion studies conducted by NSWEC (e.g, to determine length of time to process a declaration vote).

These variables are factored into a model which calculates the optimal number of election staff per venue for each staffing category (Polling Place Manager, Ordinary Issuing Officer, Declaration Vote Issuing Officer) to issue ballot papers and to assist with the vote count following the close of polls at 6pm on election day.

All polling places must have a minimum of two staff, one of whom is the Polling Place Manager. The polling place staffing formula is based on 500-650 votes per issuing table, with the projected number of votes determining the number of issuing tables. The number of issuing tables per polling place determines whether that polling place requires a Deputy Polling Place Manager, a Ballot Box Guard and/or an Enquiry Officer.

Returning Officer Support Officers

The Returning Officer Support Officers were drawn from a pool of Senior Election Officials. Six Returning Officer Support Officers provided support and guidance to Returning Officers throughout the election period to ensure implementation of policies and procedures. Each Returning Officer Support Officer was allocated a number of Returning Officers to manage during the election. Employment of Returning Officer Support Officers commenced in June 2016 and ran until the end of September 2016.

Returning Officer Support Officers (ROSO) form the ROSO Support Centre, the main contact point between the NSW Head Office and the Returning Officers in the field.

Returning Officer Support Officers undertook an induction training program and ongoing training throughout the election period. Supporting materials were also provided to equip Returning Officer Support Officers for their role.

Returning Officers

For the 2016 elections, 39 Returning Officer (RO) positions were filled to manage 17 stand-alone Returning Officer offices and 22 Regional offices. Part-time employment commenced in June 2016, with full-time hours commencing 16 July 2016.

The Regional Returning Officer structure reduced the number of Returning Officers required and enabled all Returning Officers to work full-time to provide services to all councils.

Training of Election Staff

For the NSW local government elections a blended learning approach was adopted. This included two formal training streams – online and face-to-face – delivered to election staff.

On-the-job training

Individuals employed as Senior Office Assistants (SOA) and Office Assistants (OA) are expected to participate in on-the-job training. The RO (and in some instances the SOA) is responsible for conducting on-the-job training. Recommendations are provided to ROs and SOAs in relation to best practice on-the-job training.

At the polling place, the Polling Place Manager is responsible for providing instructions and support to their staff as required.

Training Design

The training was designed by identifying the key competencies (knowledge and skills) critical to each role. The training is considered to be role specific (rather than subject based) and reflects the core job functions of each role.

Online Training

The primary training method used for this election was online training. This aims to provide a high level overview of key processes. Fifty online modules were developed as part of the online training program. Each was mapped to a specific role and varied in complexity and depth of information. This approach provides a pathway approach to skill development and promotes portability between roles.

Learners could access their modules as many times as they needed and in any order they chose. This allows the learner to be self-directed, which is a critical principle of adult learning. Knowledge checks were embedded throughout the modules and a quiz at the end of the course allowed learners to reflect on their learning.

A number of videos were embedded into the online training to support skill development. These videos focussed on a range of tasks including the counting process.

The counting videos were also loaded on to the polling place tablet device so staff could review the videos prior to conducting the various counts in the polling place.

Feedback from the online training evaluation survey showed that most learners found the video to be an effective learning tool.

Face-to-Face Training

Face-to-face training provides an opportunity to apply knowledge and practice the necessary skills for the job. The face-to-face training was learner-centred and activity-based. The face-to-face program aimed to create an environment of collaboration and participation, with the opportunity to share and learn from experience.

Face-to-face training was developed for the following positions:

Table 5: Face-to-face training details

Job Role	Length of training	Location of training	Facilitated by
Returning Officer	Two days	Sydney	NSWEC
Returning Officer **[Focus on Counting and Results]**	0.5-1 day	RO Office	NSWEC
Senior Office Assistant – Counting and Result	Two hours	RO Office	NSWEC
Senior Office Assistant - Pre-Poll	Two hours	RO Office	Returning Officer*
Polling Place Manager	Two hours	RO Office	Returning Officer*
Deputy Polling Place Manager	Two hours	RO Office	Returning Officer*

* Returning Officers were provided with a training pack (Facilitator Guide, PowerPoint and Activity Pack) to assist them in implementing training.

Operational Support of Election Staff

Handbooks, Manuals and Resources

We provided handbooks and manuals to assist election staff in undertaking their duties. In addition, Returning Officers received regular online bulletins and information sheets, along with face-to-face and phone contact from the Returning Officer Support Officers. Returning Officers were provided with intranet access to key information and electronic processes. All Returning Officers had access to phone support for the software used in conducting a local count and the correct set up and management of a local counting centre.

Manuals and handbooks were also produced for polling place staff, candidates, parties and scrutineers.

We provided demographic information to Returning Officers working in local government areas where there is a high population of Aboriginal electors and/or electors from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. All staff working at

elections have access to cultural awareness guides to assist them in providing culturally appropriate services and address barriers to voting.

'Check if you need to vote' print advertising

Communication campaign

The state-wide advertising campaign to support the 2016 Local Government Elections was made up of the following messages to support major phases of the campaign:

- Enrolment

- Registration of candidates and third party campaigners

- Check if you need to vote

- Early voting options (postal and pre-poll voting)

- Remember to vote

- New laws concerning participants' campaign finance obligations

The campaign commenced with the Enrolment print message on 18 July 2016.

Print advertising was used for the 'Enrolment', 'Check if you need to vote, 'Early Voting options' and 'Remember to Vote' messages. During the campaign a total of 229 print advertisements were placed in a range of Sydney metropolitan, suburban, regional, community language and Aboriginal publications throughout NSW. The four major print messages were also placed in the seven NSW regional magazines which are inserted into a total of 134 regional publications. A 'Registration of Electoral Material' message was also placed in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Daily Telegraph*.

Radio advertising was used to support the 'Check if you need to vote, 'Early Voting options' and 'Remember to Vote' messages. A total of 5,141 radio advertisements were placed in Sydney metropolitan, regional, community language, Aboriginal and community radio stations during the course of the election campaign.

We used paid digital and social media advertising (Facebook, including five community languages) for the 'Check if you need to vote', 'Early Voting options' and 'Remember to Vote' messages. Location targeted banner ads provided over 11.5 million impressions on major portals such as Fairfax, News Limited, Nine MSN and Yahoo. The three paid Facebook advertisements delivered 4.18 million impressions.

The campaign communicating the changes in campaign finance laws commenced on 1 July when the laws came into effect. Print advertising, paid digital and social media advertising, and direct communications with stakeholders and stakeholder groups were used.

Because of its high cost, television advertising is not generally used by the NSWEC or councils for local government elections.

Statutory Advertising

A series of council specific messages, required by legislation, were each placed in one or more newspapers circulating within each council area. The Returning Officer for each local government area was responsible for the placement of these advertisements. The choice of newspapers and number of appearances was determined by each council.

The messages were:

- Enrolment (optional to supplement the state-wide enrolment message)
- Nominations
- Notice of contested election (or uncontested if required)
- Results

Across the 76 council elections managed by the NSWEC, there were 466 statutory advertisements placed in 127 different local newspapers.

Total media expenditure on the communication campaign was $933,300. This included $313,300 directed to those areas not conducting elections, telling electors to check whether they needed to vote.

Media liaison

The NSWEC distributed 25 media releases to local and state-wide media outlets to support the conduct of the election and the Media Officer provided over 40 radio interviews. This resulted in 556 radio, television, print and online mentions of a NSWEC spokesperson or the Electoral Commissioner. The media releases and general interest in the elections resulted in hundreds of direct media enquiries, with the NSWEC providing information, assistance and official comment as appropriate. Where necessary, letters to the editor enabled the NSWEC to convey important information, and correct any factual errors.

Facebook ads reached a large audience

Social media

Social media (Facebook and Twitter) were an integral part of the election support. The NSWEC actively posted on and moderated its Facebook and Twitter accounts. We made 53 posts on the NSWEC Facebook page (on topics including nominations, candidate announcements, council profiles, electoral material registration, postal voting applications, pre-poll voting, polling places, remember to vote, counting and results). The posts coincided with the phases of the election providing information and reminders linking to the NSWEC website. Facebook posts were generally matched with one or more posts to Twitter (51 tweets in total). In addition to the scheduled posts, we responded to questions and posts from the public. Over the election period the number of people following the NSWEC Facebook page increased 48 per cent to 6,315.

Partial elections

The fact that approximately half of the NSW councils conducted elections in September 2016 posed a communications challenge, as partial elections had the potential to cause confusion among electors, particularly in areas not conducting elections which bordered those that were. Media outlets and message content needed to be carefully targeted according to whether an area was having an election.

Other communication strategies included:

- 'Check if you need to vote' messages encouraging electors to go to the votensw.info website to see if their council was having an election. These messages were placed in print, radio and digital, targeted to areas not conducting elections

- Additional media releases to areas not conducting elections with links to maps for publishing by newspapers

- Brochures were distributed to selected areas on the boundaries of areas not having elections in metropolitan Sydney

- A co-ordinated communications programme for newly amalgamated councils to inform electors that they weren't having elections

NSWEC Website

We created a website dedicated to the 2016 local council elections (www.votensw.info). The site went live on 8 June 2016. Every council was sent a link to the site, to include on its own website. The site proved highly effective and, from going live to posting of the final election results, the site received almost two million unique page views. During the lead up to the election, visitors to www.elections.nsw.gov.au were asked if they wanted to be redirected to www.votensw.info.

The NSWEC website with links to information about which councils were having elections

Service Commitments Charter

The Service Commitments Charter is a primary accountability instrument for the Commission. It sets out the NSWEC's commitment to providing impartial and quality election services for councils using our services.

The sections below outline how we met our service commitments. An evaluation of our performance against these service commitments is set out in Part 3.

Electoral Services provided in the 2016 Elections

The NSWEC's objectives for the conduct of local government elections are to:

- protect the institution of local government by conducting fair and impartial elections

- conduct elections in accordance with the law

- ensure community confidence in the election of local representatives to councils

- work with councils to maximise the participation of the local community in the elections.

Electoral Services for Electors

Service Standards for Services to Electors

Electors expect high quality election services. The NSWEC is committed to the following service standards for electors. We aim to maximise elector participation through:

- automatic enrolment of eligible individuals

- advertising and communication strategies to increase awareness

- providing enquiry assistance services

- community education resources and assistance to electors and communities who traditionally have lower participation rates

- election services addressing the needs of those who require early voting options, or extra assistance to be able to exercise their right to vote

- convenient and efficient processes for casting of votes

- on-the-day-enrolment and voting for those eligible to do so (subject to certain conditions)

- issuing penalty notices for non-voting

- informing electors in timely manner of the election results on election night and formal declaration of the poll(s)

- employing informed and competent election officials who know and understand NSWEC's established electoral practises and processes

- responding in a timely manner to service complaints

- providing an opportunity to give feedback to the NSWEC via a survey after the election.

The sections below detail what we did to meet these standards.

Elector Enquiry Centre

The NSWEC established an Elector Enquiry Centre, to ensure that relevant, timely and specific information was available to all electors and to reduce the number of telephone enquiries made to councils. The Elector Enquiry Centre provided a 1300 number to enable people in non-metropolitan areas to obtain information at the same call rate as metropolitan electors.

The Elector Enquiry Centre operated from 18 July until 17 September 2016. Peak usage coincided with NSWEC advertising campaigns and the approach of the elections.

The Elector Enquiry Centre received 41,876 calls during the operation period. This is less than the 73,334 calls received in 2012. This is to be expected as fewer councils had elections in 2016.

Services for Vision-Impaired Electors

In 2016, a total of seven electors registered to vote using braille ballot papers. As in previous years, the NSWEC worked closely with Vision Australia to provide these ballot papers.

Applications for braille ballot papers were open between 9am Monday, 11 July and 5pm Wednesday, 10 August 2016. Applications could be oral or written, either by phone or email. Braille ballot papers were prepared for postal, pre-poll or ordinary voting and were counted in the same way as other ballot papers. Contracted (Grade 2) braille was used for the ballot papers.

In addition to this service, the NSWEC's call centre was available to read printed material such as candidate information sheets to those with vision difficulties.

We provided a range of standard resources including:

- wheelchair accessible voting screens
- maxi pens
- magnifying sheets

Multilingual assistance

Local government elections vary in their nature (e.g. some councils have popularly-elected mayors, while others do not). This means we cannot provide a single 'one-size-fits-all' set of multi-lingual instructions for filling in ballot papers. During the course of the election, staff used the Translation and Interpreting Service (TIS) which provides support in over 160 languages.

Election Staff Training

We provided all election staff working at the local government elections with access to training guides (via the online training program) covering:

- working with electors who have a disability
- working with electors from culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- working with Aboriginal electors

Raising awareness in this way aims to ensure that staff are skilled in providing respectful and culturally appropriate services.

SmartRoll

The SmartRoll project, implemented by the NSWEC in 2010, helps deliver a more up-to-date, accurate and comprehensive roll for upcoming elections through automatic enrolment and re-enrolment systems.

Arrangements for voting before election day

The NSWEC provided a variety of voting services for electors unable to vote on election day, including arrangements for:

- postal voting
- pre-poll voting and
- Declared Institution voting.

Postal Voting

We operated a centralised postal voting centre. All postal vote applications were processed at the centre and postal vote ballot packs were sent directly to the elector. Electors could apply on the NSWEC's website, while those without internet access could get the form from the Returning Officer's office or by mail.

Postal vote applications had to be received by the Returning Officer by no later than 5pm Monday, 5 September 2016. Completed postal declarations and ballot papers had to be received by the Returning Officer no later than 6pm Monday, 12 September 2016 in order to be eligible to be included in the count.

Of the total votes cast for councillor positions in the 2016 Local Government Elections, 58,332 or 3.9 per cent were postal votes. This is marginally more than the percentage of postal votes in the 2012 elections (3.5 per cent).

Pre-poll voting

Pre-poll locations were available in every council area where an election was conducted by the NSWEC, typically at Returning Officers' offices or other nominated locations within the council area. Electors could also cast pre-poll votes at Sydney Town Hall. The details of the pre-poll voting locations and times of operation were available from the Returning Officer, the NSWEC website or the Elector Enquiry Centre.

Of the 86 pre-poll venues throughout NSW, 47 per cent (41) were wheelchair accessible and 53 per cent (46) accessible with assistance. There were 380,407 formal pre-poll and Declared Institution votes (26.2 per cent of the total votes cast for councillor positions) in the 2016 Local Government Elections.

Declared Institution Voting

Election officials visited Declared Institutions during the statutory period from 5 September to 9 September 2016 to take votes. Scrutineers were invited to attend. The procedure for voting was the same as for pre-poll voting.

Sydney Town Hall

For the 2016 Local Government Elections, we provided a service to assist electors from anywhere in NSW who either work in or visit the city, to vote at the Sydney Town Hall during the pre-poll period.

The NSWEC also operated Sydney Town Hall as a polling place on election day, issuing ordinary votes for all councils whose elections were conducted by the NSWEC. The opportunity to be part of the Sydney Town Hall initiative was extended to councils administering their elections. Of these five councils, three – Gunnedah, Kempsey and Lake Macquarie – accepted the offer, with Fairfield and Penrith declining to participate. Each council using the facility was charged according to the number of votes taken for their council. The City of Sydney Council provided the venue at no cost, so councils' costs were confined principally to staffing costs. The charges are shown as a separate line item on the invoice.

It was estimated that up to 50,617 electors would vote at the Sydney Town Hall and that around 80 per cent of those people would be voters from outside the City Of Sydney. A total of 17,178 electors used this polling centre – around a third of the estimate. We deliberately overestimate the number of electors from rural councils in case of unexpected turnout due to special events or large groups. This election is notable in that it was made up primarily of rural councils.

All votes were initially counted at Sydney Town Hall, with the results entered into the computer system and pre-poll vote results phoned through to the various Returning Officers on the Sunday. All ordinary issued ballot papers and declaration votes were then couriered to Returning Officers.

Voting on Election Day – Ordinary Polling

Legislation does not provide for absent voting at Local Government Elections. On election day, electors were able to vote at:

- any polling place within the council area in which the elector was enrolled (undivided council area) or
- any polling place within the ward in which the elector was enrolled (divided council area, with wards) or
- a designated multi-ward polling place or multi-council polling place or
- a multi-area polling place such as Sydney Town Hall.

Polling places were open on election day from 8am to 6pm.

A total of 965,647 votes were taken as ordinary formal votes on election day (64.5 per cent of the total votes counted of 1,547,022).

Information on Candidates

For electors seeking information on candidates, polling places were able to provide access to the Candidate Information Sheets provided by candidates. These were also available on the NSWEC websites, and for public inspection in the Returning Officer's

office from noon on nomination day as well as at the pre-poll office(s). Information on the policies of candidates is not provided by the NSWEC (unless included by candidates on their Candidate Information Sheets). The website directed those seeking such information to the candidates.

As required under the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981,* the Local Government Register of Candidates was available for inspection at the New South Wales Electoral Commission.

Non-Voters and Penalty Notices

The NSWEC has an obligation under the *Local Government Act 1993* to issue penalty notices to electors who fail to vote in Local Government elections and who do not have a valid reason for not voting.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, acceptable reasons for not voting include:

- absence from the area on polling day

- ineligibility to vote

- religious beliefs for abstaining from voting and

- any other reason acceptable to the Electoral Commissioner.

The process of identifying non-voters involves scanning the roll marked with the names of those electors who have voted, to identify those who appear not to have been marked off the roll. Using this initial list, the NSWEC identifies those electors who have died after the close of the roll, moved interstate or are very elderly and those who have already provided an excuse for not voting. This process ensures that the penalty notices issued are targeted to those who appear not to have valid reasons for failing to vote. The penalty notice gives recipients the options of:

- advising, in writing, their reason for not voting

- advising they did vote and providing details of where their vote was cast

- paying the penalty or

- applying for the matter to be heard by a court.

The penalty for not voting in a Local Government election is $55.

Across NSW 376,189 electors (15.99 per cent as a percentage of the total New South Wales Electoral roll for contested elections) were served with an initial penalty notice for failure to vote at the 2016 Local Government Elections (based on 78 councils, including those conducting their own elections). This is an increase of 3.4 per cent from 2012.

Electors who do not reply to the initial failure to vote notice, or who do not provide an acceptable reason for their failure to vote, are sent reminder notices. Matters which remain outstanding, or for which the response is determined to be unacceptable, are

referred to State Debt Recovery Office. The revenue from non-voting fines is not retained by the NSWEC but goes into the NSW Government's Consolidated Fund.

An analysis of the reasons non-voters provided for not voting in the 2016 Local Government Elections showed the most common reason provided was being out of the area, followed by illness or caring for someone. These were also the most common reasons provided following the 2012 Local Government Elections.

Council Elections

Of the contested elections held on 10 September 2016, 84.6 per cent were councillor elections, 11.9 per cent mayoral elections and 3.5 per cent referenda. There were no community polls.

Tenterfield Shire Council had the largest number of elections (six) followed by four councils with five elections.

Mayoral Elections

The 2016 Local Government Elections included 17 popularly elected mayoral contests. All but two of these (City of Sydney and Liverpool City) were for rural councils.

The NSWEC website carried details of the councils holding mayoral elections. These are listed in Appendix E.

Constitutional Referenda

A council may resolve to conduct a constitutional referendum to:

- Determine whether or not the mayor is to be popularly elected
- Increase or reduce the number of councillors
- Divide the council area into wards or abolish all wards and
- Change the method of election of ward councillors.

The types of referendum questions put to electors in 2008, 2012 and 2016 are shown below.

Table 6: 2008, 2012 and 2016 Local Government Elections Referenda Questions

Referendum Question	Number 2008	Number 2012	Number 2016
Election of mayor	7	3	1
Reduce number of councillors	7	2	2
Election of mayor and change councillor numbers	-	2 (a)	-
Change ward structure	3 (b)	1	3
Change ward and councillors numbers	-	1	-
Total	**17**	**9**	**6**

Note: In 2008 two councils had two referenda. Fifteen councils held referenda
(a)   One to reduce numbers and one to increase
(b)   Two to abolish one to introduce

Only one referendum question was passed. The question concerned reducing the number of wards in the Wollondilly Local Government Area.

Uncontested Elections

Coolamon Shire Council received the same number of nominations for the position of councillor as the number of available positions.

In six wards the number of nominations received for the position of councillor was equal to the number of available positions. These wards were:

- Carrathool Shire Council – A Ward

- Carrathool Shire Council –B Ward

- Lachlan Shire Council – A Ward

- Lachlan Shire Council –E Ward

- Lockhart Shire Council – C Ward

- Warren Shire Council – B Ward

All candidates who nominated for the above positions were declared elected on Saturday, 10 September 2016.

Deferred Elections

The death of a candidate for Tweed Shire Council resulted in a deferred election held on 29 October 2016.

Central Darling Council was in administration in the lead up to the 2016 Local Government Elections and did not hold a council election.

Residential and Non-Residential Electoral Rolls

A key service provided to all councils, not just for those for whom the NSWEC conducted the elections, was the management of the electoral roll. The roll of electors for each council area or ward is a composite roll, made up of the Residential and Non-residential rolls.

Electors for council elections include residents as well as ratepayers who may reside outside the Local Government Area.

The NSWEC prepared the residential roll for each council area or ward, including those councils whose elections were not conducted by the NSWEC. All electors enrolled on the Commonwealth/State electoral roll as at 6pm Monday, 1 August 2016 appeared on the appropriate council roll for the 2016 Local Government Elections.

The non-residential roll is made up of the roll of non-residential electors and the roll of occupiers and rate paying lessees. The non-residential roll lapses after each election. Inclusion on the non-residential roll of electors is available to electors who pay rates to the council on property they own but do not occupy, as well as people who occupy or lease property. Sections 299 and 300 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, assign council General Managers the responsibility for compiling and maintaining the non-residential roll of electors. In relation to the Council of the City of Sydney this matter is addressed

under the *City of Sydney Act 1988*. Voting is not compulsory for electors on the non-residential roll (except for City of Sydney, where voting is compulsory).

The non-residential roll for all councils which held elections contained 23,549 electors at the close of rolls at 6pm Monday, 1 August 2016. The council with the largest non-residential roll was the Council of the City of Sydney with 22,972 enrolments, (97.7 per cent of the total NSW non-residential roll), followed by Eurobodalla Council with 248 (1.1 per cent). The councils with a non-residential roll and the number of electors enrolled are provided in Appendix G. Of the total number of councils having elections (whether conducted by the NSWEC or not), 30 did not have any enrolments on their non-residential roll in the 2016 Local Government Elections.

The survey of General Managers undertaken by the NSWEC revealed that 88.7 per cent felt they received adequate information from the NSWEC on how to prepare the non-residential roll. This is a slight increase (0.9 per cent) from the 2012 elections.

Non-Residential Roll for Council of the City of Sydney

The right to be included in the Council of the City of Sydney non-residential roll applies to owners of rateable land in the council area, and rate paying lessees and occupiers of rateable land in the council area whose primary place of residence is NSW. Anyone seeking enrolment on the non-residential roll must be eligible to be on a parliamentary electoral roll and be eligible to vote for either the NSW Legislative Assembly or the Federal House of Representatives.

In 2014, the *City of Sydney Act 1988* was amended to provide that a corporation which is the owner, rate paying lessee or occupier of rateable land in the City of Sydney could nominate two people to be enrolled as electors on the non-residential roll, instead of the corporation. The City of Sydney is now the only local government area in which it is compulsory for those on the non-residential roll to vote.

Arrangements for Councils not using the NSWEC

Following the elections, those councils conducting their own elections were required to forward to the NSWEC the composite residential and non-residential rolls used in polling places to mark off electors as having voted, for scanning and preparation of a list of electors who may not have voted in the elections. After scanning the rolls, the NSWEC returned to the council a list of names of electors who appeared not to have voted. This list was then certified by the General Manager and returned to the NSWEC.

Council Liaison

The NSWEC created Client Liaison Officers positions for the 2016 elections, working with councils to agree services to be provided, and liaise on issues such as the Returning Officer's accommodation and the pre-poll and polling day venues. General Managers were very positive about the service provided by these officers, with 80.4 per cent saying they provided a useful service.

Polling Places for Council Elections

The NSWEC does not own the venues used as polling places and utilises them via a short-term lease. This limits the NSWEC's control over such matters as accessibility to those venues.

In the 2016 Local Government Elections there were 954 polling places, sourced mainly from the NSW Department of Education and Communities. The remainder were council premises, private schools, community halls, community centres, church facilities and other facilities. All facilities were covered by public liability insurance with the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

Some polling places could issue votes for a larger area. These included:

- Sydney Town Hall as a polling place for other councils

- principal polling places to issue votes for all wards of the council

- multi-ward polling places located close to ward boundaries to issue votes for both the ward in which it was located as well as the ward(s) it adjoined and

- multi-council polling places where a single venue served as a polling place for two or more council areas.

Prior to finalising polling places, the NSWEC wrote to General Managers to seek comment on the proposed polling places, staffing and the projected number of votes.

Returning Officers

Councils Sharing Returning Officers

In the 2008 Local Government Elections, Regional Returning Officers were introduced for small councils in rural and remote locations, and expanded to some metropolitan councils in 2012. This arrangement continued for the 2016 elections.

Twenty-two councils shared a Returning Officer with another council and 17 had their own Returning Officer.

In 2012, the two largest regions each had four councils. In 2016, 13 regions had three councils each. A number of factors were analysed to determine these regions, including:

- number of electors per Local Government Area

- size of Local Government Area

- geography of Local Government Area

- previous regions used and how well they worked at the 2012 Local Government Elections

- analysis of contiguous Local Government Area boundaries

- feedback from councils following visits and subsequent discussions, relating to regional Returning Officers' Offices

- analysis of the Returning Officer workload and feasibility of conducting multiple council elections simultaneously

- number, size and complexity of elections created by the formation of a region and

- availability of Returning Officers to service the region.

Table 7: Local Government Elections size of regional groupings

Number of councils in region	Name of regions	Councils in region
Two	Albury Region	Albury City Council, Greater Hume Shire Council
	Ballina Region	Ballina Shire Council, Byron Shire Council
	Eurobodalla Region	Bega Valley Shire Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council
	Gwydir Region	Gwydir Shire Council, Moree Plains Shire Council
	Lithgow Region	City of Lithgow Council, Mid-Western Regional Council
	Narrabri Region	Narrabri Shire Council, Walgett Shire Council
	Singleton Region	Cessnock City Council, Singleton Council
	Wagga Wagga Region	Lockhart Shire Council, The Council of the City of Wagga Wagga
Three	Balranald Region	Balranald Shire Council, Hay Shire Council, Wentworth Shire Council
	Cobar Region	The Council of the Shire of Bourke, Brewarrina Shire Council, Cobar Shire Council
	Coffs Harbour Region	Bellingen Shire Council, Coffs Harbour City Council, Nambucca Shire Council
	Cowra Region	Bland Shire Council, Cowra Shire Council, Weddin Shire Council
	Gilgandra Region	Coonamble Shire Council, Gilgandra Shire Council, Warrumbungle Shire Council
	Glen Innes Severn Region	Glen Innes Severn Council, Inverell Shire Council, Tenterfield Shire Council
	Lismore Region	Kyogle Council, Lismore City Council, Richmond Valley Council
	Muswellbrook Region	Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council, Upper Hunter Shire Council
	Narromine Region	Bogan Shire Council, Narromine Shire Council, Warren Shire Council
	Parkes Region	Forbes Shire Council, Lachlan Shire Council, Parkes Shire Council
	Tamworth Region	Tamworth Regional Council, Uralla Shire Council, Walcha Council
	Temora Region	Coolamon Shire Council, Junee Shire Council, Temora Shire Council
	Yass Valley Region	Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Yass Valley Council
Four	Griffith Region	Carrathool Shire Council, Griffith City Council, Leeton Shire Council, Narrandera Shire Council

Appendix H provides details of Councils in Regions and 'stand-alone' councils.

Council Services

Some councils undertook supplementary election activities of their own accord.

In the survey of General Managers, 47 (82.5 per cent) indicated that their council had initiated activities to support the elections, primarily providing information or seminars on the role of Mayors/Councillors and advertising referenda. Services such as these are not a NSWEC responsibility.

Electoral Services for Candidates, Groups and Political Parties

Candidates

In the lead up to the 2016 Local Government Elections 2,005 people stood for election and 18 parties nominated candidates for elections conducted by the NSWEC.

Registration of Political Parties

There were 46 parties registered and able to participate in the 2016 Local Government Elections. The list of parties is set out in Appendix K.

Information for Registered Political Parties, Candidates and Groups

Registered Political Parties

Registered Political Parties were able to access information via the candidate information seminar which was available on the NSWEC website from June 2016.

In addition, registered political party bulletins were distributed on a regular basis. These covered matters such as enrolment, forms of early voting, council regions, councils running own elections, Returning Officers' Offices, Polling Places, Nominations Process, Electoral Material and Advertising.

Candidate Information Kit

A webpage with information for candidates provided the:

- election calendar

- candidate information presentation

- candidate handbook

- list of councils for which the NSWEC conducted elections in 2016

- list of registered political parties

- candidate help desk number.

Candidate Help Desk

The NSWEC established a candidate help desk phone line to assist candidates in receiving accurate and timely information on the 2016 Local Government Elections.

The candidate help desk was operational from 17 June to 29 September 2016, and received 3,707 calls.

Nominations opened on Monday, 1 August 2016 and closed at noon on Wednesday, 10 August 2016. Nominations could be lodged either at the Returning Officers' offices in person, at the council chambers if the local government area was within a region, or by fax or email. In the latter case, councils forwarded all nominations to the regional Returning Officer.

There were 2,005 individuals contesting the 2016 Local Government Elections (including Mayoral candidates). Of these, 89 stood for more than one position, making up a total of 2,094 candidacies.

In each election a number of nominations are rejected. In the 2016 Local Government Elections, 13 nominations were rejected. The councils affected are listed below.

Table 8: 2016 Local Government Elections rejected nominations

Council	Wards	Type of Election
Bega Valley Shire Council	Undivided	Contested
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Undivided	Contested
Leeton Shire Council	Undivided	Contested
Wollondilly Shire Council	Central Ward, East Ward, North Ward	Contested

Campbelltown City Council received the largest total number of candidates of any council, with 95 candidates. The largest total number of candidates for a divided council was Blacktown City Council with 79 candidates.

The smallest number of candidates in an undivided council was nine candidates at Richmond Valley Council and the smallest for a divided council was ten candidates in Carrathool Shire Council (Ward A and Ward B). The largest number of candidates in one ward was 27 in Liverpool City Council, South Ward.

Candidates for Popularly Elected Mayor

In an election for mayor, a candidate had to be enrolled in the council area by Monday, 1 August 2016, either as a resident or non-resident elector. A person could, if eligible, be a candidate for mayor in more than one council area where the mayor is popularly elected, and could be elected as mayor in more than one council area.

In the Council of the City of Sydney, a candidate for Lord Mayor must also be a candidate for councillor. If elected as Lord Mayor the person has to accept that office and cannot be elected as a councillor.

Candidates for Councillor Positions

To be eligible for election as a councillor in an area with or without wards, a prospective candidate had to be enrolled either on the resident or the non-residential roll in that council area by Monday, 1 August 2016.

Nomination Process

Nomination forms were available from the Returning Officer, the NSWEC website and the Candidate Help Desk. It was the candidate's responsibility to ensure a full and correctly completed nomination was received by the Returning Officer by noon on Wednesday, 10 August 2016.

Candidate information sheets

Candidate information sheets were published on the NSWEC and council websites and available for public inspection in Returning Officers' offices from noon on nomination day, at the pre-poll voting centre during early voting and at polling places on election day. The candidate information sheets were displayed as provided to the Returning Officer.

Information concerning campaign finance obligations was also provided on the website.

Nomination deposits

Each nomination for Mayor or Councillor must be accompanied by a nomination deposit. This can be paid in the form of cash or by bank cheque or credit union or building society cheque, but not by personal cheque, company cheque, money order, BPay, EFTPOS or credit card.

The nomination deposit is $125 for a single candidate.

Nominations are rejected if the appropriate deposit, in full, has not been received by the Returning Officer by 12:00 noon on nomination day.

Nomination deposits are refunded one month after the declaration of election results if:

- the election is uncontested or
- the candidate dies before Election Day or
- the candidate withdraws his/her nomination or
- the candidate is elected or receives at least 4% of the total number of formal first preference votes cast at the election or
- the candidate is included in a group for the Councillor election and any one of the group is elected or receives at least 4 per cent of the total number of formal first preference votes.

Any deposit not refunded is forfeited to the Council.

Candidate nomination deposits totalled $259,505, of which $207,125 was refunded to candidates and $52,380 in forfeited candidate nominations paid to the relevant councils. We made 951 refunds.

Candidates could withdraw their nomination by providing a signed notice to the Returning Officer before the close of nominations. Eleven candidates withdrew their nominations.

Ballot Draw

Closure of nominations was followed on Wednesday, 10 August 2016, by the draw for position of candidates and groups (where applicable) on the ballot papers. The official draw took place at Returning Officers' or Regional Returning Officers' offices.

Provision of the List of Electors to Candidates

On application to the Returning Officer, candidates were entitled to receive a copy of the list of electors for the council area or ward being contested. A total of 253 candidates requested lists.

Candidates were only entitled to use the list of electors in connection with their candidacy for this election, and for monitoring the accuracy of information contained on the list of electors. The NSWEC advised all candidates that there are significant penalties for candidates using the electoral roll for purposes other than those outlined above.

Scrutineers

Candidates were advised, via the website and the handbooks provided upon nomination, of the procedure for appointing scrutineers locally.

Scrutineers are appointed by candidates to represent their interests at polling places and counting centres, and to relay information to the candidates on the procedures and progress during the election.

To be appointed as a scrutineer, a person must be on the NSW electoral roll. A candidate for Mayor or Councillor in a council area cannot act as a scrutineer in that council area. A candidate for Mayor or Councillor in a council area may act as a scrutineer in another council area.

The candidate completes the Appointment of Scrutineer form, which can be downloaded from www.votensw.info or obtained from the Returning Officer. The scrutineer must present the completed form to the Returning Officer, Polling Place Manager or election official, as the case requires, before commencing duties. The declaration part of the form must be signed by the scrutineer in the presence of the Returning Officer, Polling Place Manager or election official who witnesses the declaration.

Other than Declared Institutions where one appointment form for all Declared Institutions visited in a ward or Council area is sufficient, a new appointment form is required at each location where votes are being issued or counted.

Scrutineers are issued with identification which is to be worn at all times when scrutineering. A candidate not in a group or any candidate in a group is entitled to appoint a scrutineer. However, an ungrouped candidate can only have one scrutineer, and a group of candidates can only have one scrutineer at each issuing point at a polling place or at any table or workstation where votes are being scrutinised, counted or data entered.

Legal proceedings commenced in relation to the elections

One matter has been concluded and one matter is still on foot in the NSW Civil & Administrative Appeals Tribunal (NCAT) arising from claims made for access to information under *the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* [GIPA Act].

They are:

- *Tracey v NSWEC* - Review of claim for inclusion in the Non-Residential Rolls for the 2016 City of Sydney Council election. This matter has been finalised.

- *West v NSWEC* – Review of access request for How to Vote materials relating to the election for the Tenterfield Shire Council. The matter is currently before NCAT.

Complaints and allegations concerning offences under the *Local Government Act 1993*

In August 2016, the NSWEC introduced a Complaints Handling Policy to govern processes for receiving, recording and responding to complaints. The Policy defines a complaint as an expression of dissatisfaction with the NSWEC in its service delivery, or an allegation of a breach of legislation that is regulated by the NSWEC.

The Complaints Handling Policy was operational in time for the September 2016 Local Government Elections. Between August and December 2016, the NSWEC received 221 complaints. Of these, 97 (44 per cent) were complaints in the form of alleged breaches of local government electoral provisions.

Complaints and allegations under the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981

The New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) enforces the provisions of *the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* (EFED Act) in relation to the election campaign finances of participants and donors in Local Government elections. If the NSWEC becomes aware of a potential breach of the legislation, it has powers to investigate. If there is sufficient evidence to prove a breach has occurred the NSWEC may undertake enforcement action. This can include issuing a warning or penalty notice, prosecution and recovering unlawful political donations received by political parties, candidates and others.

Offences by candidates, groups and parties

The Electoral Commissioner does not have an investigatory or prosecutorial role regarding offences under the *Local Government Act* by candidates, groups or parties. This is because it is essential that community and stakeholder confidence be maintained in the Commission's impartiality, such that there is no reasonable apprehension of bias in its conduct of elections.

If there is evidence suggesting that a person has committed an offence, the Electoral Commissioner may contact the person seeking an explanation of the breach and, if appropriate, requesting them to remedy the breach. Depending on the explanation provided, the matter may then be referred to the relevant law enforcement agency for further action and investigation. Any person may approach the NSW Police Force directly to report an alleged electoral offence.

Most of the alleged breaches of local government electoral provisions reported to the NSWEC in the latter half of the 2016 calendar year related to clause 356B of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*. Clause 356B sets out the circumstances in which electoral material is non-compliant in the context of a local government election.

Eligibility of candidates

The NSWEC has no investigative powers to determine the truth or otherwise of allegations that may affect the nomination of a candidate or their election. The courts have found that it is not the responsibility of the NSWEC to determine issues of eligibility for election. Anyone seeking to challenge the validity of a nomination or an election of a person to civic office must raise the issue for determination by a court or tribunal.

Feedback from Candidates and Registered Parties

We engaged an external firm (IPSOS) to conduct a survey of candidates and registered parties. While most respondents (60 per cent of candidates and 53 per cent of agents) were satisfied with their overall experience, a significant proportion (27 per cent and 20 per cent) were dissatisfied. A more detailed analysis of the results of this survey can be found in Part 3.

Electoral Services for the Media

Service Standards for Media

An active and informed media is vital to the community's engagement with the democratic process. The NSWEC undertook to:

- provide information suitable for use by media outlets, including social media, to publicise the elections and address topical and local issues that arose

- make the NSWEC's Media Officer and other officers available for interview as appropriate

- provide timely advice on counting, results and declaration of polls

- invite feedback via an online survey after the election.

Procurement of Equipment and Materials

Elections use significant amounts of physical resources. These include office materials in as well as ballot papers and cardboard materials for voting stations.

Printing ballot papers is a large scale logistical exercise with critical deadlines, which is made more complex by the number and variety of ballot papers required for local government elections.

For the 74 councils with contested elections, we printed a total of 3,452,700 ballot papers servicing 137 election contests, including councillor, mayoral and referendum ballot papers:

- 851,400 mayoral ballot papers for 17 mayoral elections
- 2,394,000 councillor ballot papers for 114 councillor elections
- 207,300 referendum ballot papers for six referenda

The equipment and material required by field election staff included:

- office furniture for Returning Officers and staff
- polling place materials
- cardboard voting materials
- election forms – manuals, forms, signage, envelopes
- vote counting requirements
- computer and communications equipment and
- certified lists of electors resident in the council or wards.

The requirements for physical resources were calculated using data on:

- number of wards
- number of electors
- number of elections (councillor, mayor, referenda and polls)
- voting centres – Returning Officer's office, Pre-poll, Declared Institutions, Polling Places, Mobile Polling Centres if applicable
- projected votes and
- staffing levels.

Where councils used a Regional Returning Officer, office and material requirements were lower across the councils involved. The table below shows the resources involved.

Table 9: Elections materials and quantities used

Resource Category	Quantity Used
Ballot boxes	8,858
Cardboard boxes	9,750
Election vests	5,810
Envelopes - other	19,578
Envelopes - voting	36,5608
Forms	252,643
ID cards	17,471
Information sheets	8,932
Instruction manuals	10,328
Labels	14,561
Office equipment	10,384
Signage	24,191
Stationery	417,977
Voting screens	15,610

Collection of Materials Post Election

Polling Place Managers returned all voting materials to the Returning Officer on election night. The collection of equipment, furniture and materials followed in subsequent days.

Cardboard equipment (ballot boxes and voting screens) used in Returning Officers' offices, additional pre-poll locations and polling places were recycled locally, in most cases by the council's own contractors. In accordance with the legislative provisions applying to used and unused ballot papers and other material such as certified lists, these materials were returned to the NSWEC for security destruction in due course.

Workplace Safety

The NSWEC manages the risk of injury to the large numbers of election officials through training, careful selection of polling places and provision of equipment and aids within the constraints of a large casual workforce employed predominately for one day, the facilities available for hire and the cost for councils.In the 2016 Local Government Elections 17 potential compensation claims were referred to the NSWEC's insurer, of which three progressed to a claim. For the 2012 Local Government Elections there were five matters, while three claims were made for the 2008 Local Government Elections.

Counting the votes

In the case of elections we conducted, we used our own NSWEC vote counting system to tally the votes in councillor elections. All ballot papers were entered into the Proportional Representation Computer Count (PRCC) Data Entry System. This includes:

- allocating ballot papers (in batches) to Data Entry Operators for round 1 and round 2 data entry

- Data Entry Operators undertaking round 1 and round 2 data entry

- undertaking reconciliation on those batches where round 1 and round 2 data entry do not match and

- distribution of preferences in the count to determine the elected Councillor

Councils in the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong area sent their councillor ballot papers to the Local Government Counting Centre at Riverwood. All other councils had their councillor ballot papers and data entered in the Returning Office regional office. There were 30 data entry count centres: Riverwood and 29 Returning Officer regional offices.

Sealed ballot paper cartons were transported securely to the Local Government Counting Centre in dedicated vehicles.

The data entry operation at Riverwood involved 200 clerical staff checking and preparing the ballot papers for data entry. Data entry started at midday on Monday, 12 September 2016 and finished on Tuesday, 20 September 2016.

Vote Counting Timeframe

Preliminary results including referenda questions, pre-poll, postal and Declared Institution votes from each polling place were posted online progressively from 6.30pm on election night.

Preparation of ballot papers for data entry (batching) commenced on Sunday, 11 September 2016and was completed on Saturday, 17 September 2016.

Vote Counting
Method of Election – Mayor
The method of election in a Mayoral election is optional preferential.

Method of Election – Councillor
The method of election in a Councillor election for two or more Councillors is proportional representation. The method is similar to that used in State elections for the Legislative Council.

Councillor Elections
Councillor elections were counted using NSWEC vote counting software either at the Returning Officer's office or at the Local Government Counting Centre at Riverwood Business Park, Unit 111, 100 Belmore Road, Riverwood.

Proportional Representation Computer Count (PRCC) Data Entry System
In 2016 all councillor ballot papers were entered into the PRCC system. Councils in the Sydney area sent their councillor ballot papers to Riverwood. All other councils had their councillor ballot papers and data entered in a Returning Officer's regional office. There were 30 data entry count centres: Riverwood and 29 Returning Officers' regional offices.

Councillor Computer Count
The NSWEC is authorised under clause 351 of the Local Government (General) Regulation to send councillor ballot papers to a central counting office administered by the NSWEC to be counted according to arrangements approved by the NSWEC.

The quality assurance system for the computerised count entailed all ballot papers being put through two data entry rounds with a comparison between the two sets of data to identify any differences. Where there were mismatches between the data lots, a third verification of data entry was applied to correct mismatches. Before running each count, data entry totals were reconciled against election night polling place figures and declaration vote figures to ensure totals were complete and correct. As information became available, the NSWEC website was updated on election data entry and count status.

The Local Government Counting Centre schedule was updated daily for registered political parties, groups, candidates and councils to reflect changes to the dates of data entry and counting times and posted on the NSWEC's website.

Table 10: 2016 Local Government Elections: Councils with councillor ballot papers computer-counted at Riverwood

Council Name	Council Name
Blacktown	**Liverpool**
Blue Mountains	**Sutherland**
Camden	**Sydney**
Campbelltown	**Wingecarribee**
Hawkesbury	**Wollondilly**

Returning Officers in all other councils retained their councillor ballot papers for computer counting at the Returning Officer's office.

Local Computer Count
A total of 62 councils had their ballot papers counted at their local Returning Officer's office.

Counting of Ballot Papers Election Night Counts
Polling Places
At the close of voting at 6.00pm on election day, election officials in the polling places counted the following ballot papers:

Mayor – if there was a Mayoral election, the first preference votes for each candidate and the informal ballot papers were counted and recorded.

Councillor - the first preference votes for each candidate and, where applicable, the first preference votes for each group marked in its group voting square were counted and recorded.

Referendum– if there was a referendum, the Yes, No and informal ballot papers were counted and recorded.

Returning Officer's Office
At 6.00pm on election day, election officials in the Returning Officer's office counted the Mayor, Councillor, Referendum and Poll ballot papers for pre-poll, postal and Declared Institution votes.

All election night counts were verified the next day by a 'check count' at the Returning Officers' offices. Available postal, pre-poll, Declared Institution, silent and section votes were included in this count as well.

Declaration vote counts continued on Sunday and Monday.

NSWEC Virtual Tally Room
All totals for Mayor, Councillor and Referendum ballot papers were posted progressively on election night on the NSWEC website. Check count figures were updated progressively on the website in the following days. The final distribution of preferences for Mayor and Councillor, and the final results for Referenda were progressively placed on the website in the week after election day.

Referenda
Counts for referenda were finalised after all Mayoral and Councillor counts had been completed.

Referendum counts were conducted in the Returning Officer's office.

Declarations of Election Results
Uncontested elections were declared on 10 September, 2016.

Results for contested elections were declared after candidates were given 24 hours to consider whether to seek a recount.

Returning Officers provided the Declaration of Poll forms to the Electoral Commissioner, the General Manager of the Council, the Office of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Local Government and Shires' Associations of NSW. The results were also placed in newspapers throughout NSW and on the NSWEC's websites.

Recounts

There were no recounts granted at the September 2016 Local Government Elections.

Voter participation

As noted earlier, on unadjusted figures, the participation rate for these elections was approximately 84 per cent. This rate is lower than the same unadjusted figures for the 2008 (approximately 91 per cent) and 2012 (approximately 87 per cent) Local Government Elections.

Noting that there are difficulties in directly comparing each of these elections, the below table sets out in more detail how these percentages have been determined.

Table 11: Voter Participation Calculation Data – 2008-2016

	LGE 2008	LGE 2012	LGE 2016
Contested Elections' Enrolment	4,544,395	4,544,449	2,352,658
Initial Apparent Non-voter List	398,489	587,021	376,189
Unadjusted Participation	4,145,906	3,957,428	1,976,469
% Participation	91.23	87.08	84.01

To arrive at the actual participation rate, that figure needs to be adjusted, for example, by removing those electors who have an acceptable reason for not voting and deceased electors.

It is not possible to establish the actual participation rate until current processes regarding electors who appear to have failed to vote have been finalised.

The declining trend in participation rate is consistent with trends in participation rates of parliamentary elections and local government elections in other states.

Informality

In every election, some votes are informal. In 2016 there was a significant decrease in the proportion of informal votes cast compared with the 2012 Local Government Elections (6.2 per cent in 2016 and 7.9 per cent in 2012).

Comparisons prior to this date are not straightforward, as arrangements for running elections have altered over time. From 2012 the figure relates only to elections conducted by the NSWEC.

The five councils with the highest informality rates were:

Griffith	11.7 per cent
Ballina Shire Council	10.2 per cent
Liverpool City Council	9.6 per cent
Coffs Harbour City Council	8.8 per cent
Wollondilly Shire Council	8.2 per cent

The five councils with the lowest informality rates were:

Warren Shire Council	0.8 per cent
Walcha Council	1.4 per cent
Hay Shire Council	1.9 per cent
Coonamble Shire Council	2.0 per cent
Weddin Shire Council	2.0 per cent

Surveys of election participants

Following the election, we conducted a range of surveys with electors, candidates, council general managers and election officials. Results and recommendations are included in this report. The most noticeable trend emerging from these surveys was a perception – particularly among electors – that there was insufficient information available about the elections. This may, in part, be attributable to the challenge of dealing with the split round of elections. It may also be partly explained by the increasing fragmentation of media use by electors. We will further examine this issue in the lead up to the September 2017 elections.

Feedback from Election Staff

Impartial Conduct of the Election

This is an important question to ask election staff. The NSWEC analyses the comments received to ensure that the integrity of the elections are not called into question.

As seen in the table below, staff overwhelmingly agreed that the elections were conducted impartially.

Table 12: Local Government Election Staff Survey – result for 'Impartial Conduct of the Elections' question

Staff Group	% Yes	% No	% Don't Know
Returning Officer Support Officers	100.0	0.0	0.0
Returning Officers	100.0	0.0	0.0
Office Assistants	97.9	0.7	1.4
Polling Place Managers/Deputy Polling Place Managers	98.0	0.2	1.8
Election Officials	99.0	0.7	0.2

Part 3:   The 2016 Elections and Evaluation

Performance against Service Commitments for Electors

Following the 2016 Local Government Elections, we commissioned surveys from IPSOS, with polls aimed at voters, council general managers, candidates, groups and political parties. A summary of the results of those surveys is set out below.

Survey Feedback from Electors

The randomly-selected electors who responded to the IPSOS survey reported a lower voter turnout[3] than for the 2016 Local Government Elections. While 96 per cent of respondents to the 2012 Local Government Elections survey claimed to have voted in the elections, in 2016, 89 per cent of respondents said they had done so.

Despite the reduced turnout, satisfaction levels were relatively high, with 82 per cent saying they were satisfied with their experience. There was a difference in satisfaction levels in rural and regional areas as opposed to metropolitan areas, with 81 per cent of rural/regional electors satisfied, but 96 per cent of metropolitan electors rating their experience as satisfactory.

Many of the voters surveyed felt that they had received insufficient information. The most frequent response (from 12 per cent of those not 'very satisfied') was a desire for additional information concerning candidates, parties and policiesprogressively. Electors also expressed a desire for more information about when the elections were to be held and why they were being held (nine per cent each).

Fewer participants perceived the elections as having been conducted fairly and impartially than for the 2015 State Government Election (83 per cent were satisfied that this was the case, compared with 89 per cent).

Notwithstanding the reduced level of confidence in the fairness and impartiality of the elections, confidence in the accuracy of results was relatively high, with 85 per cent of respondents saying they were confident the results were accurate.

Voting behaviour

Two in three voters (69 per cent) voted on election day, and 28 per cent cast a pre-poll vote. Pre-poll voting was more widely used in these elections than in either the 2012 Local Government Elections (12 per cent) or the 2015 State Government Election (11 per cent).

Respondents were very satisfied with polling place facilities. Almost all participants who voted in person (97 per cent) felt satisfied. Waiting times were relatively short, with 59 per cent of in person voters able to vote immediately. Nearly all in person voters (97 per cent) were satisfied with how long it took them to cast a vote.

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[3] Note that 'turnout' and 'participation' are not synonymous. 'Turnout' refers to electors who have had their names marked off the roll and are taken to have voted. 'Participation' refers to electors who have either had their names marked off the roll or have provided a valid reason for not having done so.

Voters' opinion of the accuracy of the electoral roll was consistent with the 2015 State Government Election (94 per cent of voters said their details were correct in these elections, compared with 95 per cent for the 2015 State Government Election).

Respondents were also satisfied with the level of privacy. Nearly all in-person voters (97 per cent) felt satisfied with their privacy when filling out their ballot paper. The same number considered voting on election day in their own council area as being secure.

More than half the respondents (60 per cent) said they would be likely to use internet voting if it were available to them.

Information provision

Respondents had mixed feelings about whether sufficient information was provided in different phases of the election. Information on how to fill in a ballot paper ranked highest, with 86 per cent agreeing that sufficient information was provided. They were less satisfied with information about when the election results would be available. Only 45 per cent thought this was provided in a timely fashion.

Despite the uncertainty inherent in splitting the round of elections, most voters (70 per cent) agreed that sufficient information had been available to them about whether they were required to vote in this phase. In addition, most (65 per cent) were aware that not all councils were conducting an election. However, many voters responded that they were not aware that elections were taking place. Of those who did not vote (11 per cent of participants), 39 per cent cited this as the reason.

Most voters (66 per cent) agreed that the NSWEC provided sufficient information on alternatives to voting on Election Day. Of those who voted in person, 79 per cent agreed that they received enough information about where to vote.

A smaller majority (64 per cent) felt that sufficient information was available to them about how to check and update their enrolment details.

Respondents reported a high level of satisfaction with assistance from polling place staff was high. Almost all (97 per cent) of those who asked for assistance felt satisfied with the assistance they received.

Communications

Relatively few people are aware of the NSWEC's existence/function. Only six per cent of participants were spontaneously aware that the elections were conducted by the NSWEC.

Despite relatively little awareness of the NSWEC, the Commission's website usage has increased since the 2012 Local Government Elections. Twenty percent visited a NSWEC website before the elections, compared with 13 per cent in 2012.

The most common types of information being sought were the election results (34 per cent), details of candidates (23 per cent) and which areas were having an election, and if they were required to vote (13 per cent).

Seventy-four percent of those who visited a NSWEC website felt satisfied with it. The vast majority agreed that it was 'professional' (90 per cent), with around three in four agreeing that it was 'clear,' 'friendly' and 'modern' (76 per cent, 73 per cent and 72 per cent, respectively). Most respondents were able to find the information they were seeking.

Using a search engine was by far the most popular choice for finding information about elections, with more than half (52 per cent) selecting this.

Performance against Service Commitments for General Managers

Survey Feedback from General Managers

Survey feedback from council general managers indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the fairness and impartiality of the elections. Of the 54 respondents to the survey question 'Do you believe the NSWEC conducted the local government elections fairly and impartially?' 53 (98.15 per cent) said yes, with one (1.85 per cent) disagreeing. Unfortunately, this respondent did not provide comments giving reasons for this opinion.

Survey responses to the question of whether the Service Commitments Charter was useful for understanding how the NSWEC would provide election services indicated general satisfaction. Of the 54 respondents, 43 (79.63 per cent) said they found the charter useful, one (1.85 per cent) did not, and 10 (18.52 per cent) could not recall. The optional comments indicated that the most useful addition would be a timetable for service delivery in general and declaration of the poll in particular.

However, when general managers were asked if the standards contained in the Service Commitments Charter were appropriate, the rating fell somewhat, with 39 of 52 respondents (75 per cent) agreeing, one (1.92 per cent) disagreeing, and 12 (23.08 per cent) not sure.

The approval rating was lower in response to the question of whether the NSWEC met the charter commitments. The response rate fell to 49, 32 of whom (65.31 per cent) felt that the requirements had been met, 12 (24.49 per cent) did not know, but five (10.20 per cent) thought the charter commitments were not met. Again, none of the dissatisfied respondents elaborated in the optional comments section.

Drilling down to the specifics of the Service Commitments Charter, we found that many general managers reported public complaints about not knowing the elections were on. This they mainly attributed to confusion brought about by amalgamations and the postponement of nearly half the scheduled elections. A number of respondents believed the amount of advertising prior to the elections was inadequate. One respondent also noted that postal voting fails to take into account the new (slower) delivery times from Australia Post.

Several respondents were also dissatisfied with the speed of the count and the amount of time it took for results to be announced. One respondent specified that they rated

the response as 'not timely' because of a preference for electronic voting, which is not available under the current legislation.

Respondents were far more pleased with the regularity and timeliness of updates on the progress of election preparations, 50 of 53 respondents (94.34 per cent) saying they were satisfied, one unsure and two dissatisfied. Once more, the dissatisfied respondents did not elaborate.

Performance against Service Commitments for Candidates and Political Parties

Survey Feedback from Candidates, Groups and Political Parties

Post-election surveys conducted by IPSOS indicate that a majority of candidates found their experience satisfactory, although a significant minority of those who responded had complaints about various aspects of the process. Not all of these fall within the NSWEC's area of control.

Of the 533 respondents to the survey, 423 were candidates; 106 official agents for candidates; and four party agents for political parties.

Satisfaction among both candidates and agents was variable. While most were satisfied with their overall experience (60 per cent of candidates and 53 per cent of agents) a substantial proportion were dissatisfied (27 per cent and 20 per cent). Participants from linguistically diverse backgrounds were much more likely to be dissatisfied with their overall experience than their counterparts who are native English-speakers (43 per cent, compared with 24 per cent).

When satisfied respondents were asked why this was the case (in an open ended question), many simply mentioned that their experience had gone smoothly with no problems (11 per cent of both candidates and agents). Others stated that they were satisfied because they had been elected or otherwise achieved their goal (7 per cent of candidates) or that they enjoyed the process of engaging with the community and listening to their issues (6 per cent of candidates).

There were positive comments about the NSWEC's conduct of the elections. In particular, a substantial proportion of both candidates (10 per cent) and agents (13 per cent) commented on the helpful and informative manner of NSWEC staff. Representative comments include:

> "The volume of support received was humbling."

> "Most people you rang gave the relevant information. Or should I say, one lady went beyond to help…"

> "Any queries to New South Wales Electoral Commission were efficiently handled – conversations were friendly and informative."

> "Every person was polite, informative and co-operative".

Communications

In general, candidates and agents were satisfied with the available information sources. The highest level of approval was for the NSWEC Candidates Help Desk, with 79 per cent of candidates and 81 per cent of agents expressing satisfaction with the service. Both candidates and agents typically found that most of the sources they used to gather information relating to the nominations process were useful.

A majority of both candidates and agents found it easy to find information or assistance for a range of topics, including understanding the legal obligations of candidates, parties, agents and third party campaigners (candidates 65 per cent; agents 69 per cent); the new laws (candidates 58 per cent; agents 64 per cent); the registration process (66 per cent each); and the nominations process (candidates 68 per cent; agents 59 per cent).

However, a substantial number found information or assistance difficult to find. The breakdown of those reporting difficulty in finding information was: for legal obligations, 17 per cent of candidates and 17 per cent of agents, for the new laws, 12 per cent of candidates and 15 per cent of agents, for the registration process, 13 per cent of candidates and 24 per cent of agents, and for the nominations process, 13 per cent of candidates and 16 per cent of agents.

While preparing for the elections, both candidates (76 per cent) and agents (73 per cent) most commonly used NSWEC websites as an information source. Other common sources included the NSWEC Candidates, Parties and Scrutineers Handbook (candidates 60 per cent; agents 50 per cent); direct mail from NSWEC (candidates 57 per cent; agents 47 per cent); and candidate information presentations on NSWEC websites (candidates 51 per cent; agents 42 per cent).

Overall, candidates and agents were generally satisfied with the majority of information sources. Four in five of the respondents who called the NSWEC Candidates Help Desk (candidates 79 per cent, agents 81 per cent) were satisfied with the experience. This was the highest satisfaction level among both groups.

The information source that garnered the lowest level of satisfaction among candidates was NSWEC advertising. Only 59 per cent of candidates found it satisfactory. Levels of satisfaction were significantly higher for agents, with 77 per cent rating it as acceptable.

Understanding of legal obligations

Participants mostly felt confident about their understanding of their legal obligations. The exception related to the regulation of third-party campaigners and the obligation for them to register. Twenty-six per cent of candidates were not confident they understood either, while 21 per cent of agents were not confident about the regulations and 18 per cent did not feel they fully understood the registration obligations.

Satisfaction levels were significantly lower among respondents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Contributing to their lower levels of satisfaction, these participants typically experienced a greater level of difficulty in finding information or assistance:

Only 46 per cent of participants who speak English as a supplementary language found it easy to find information about their legal obligations, compared with 68 per cent of native English-speaking participants. Twenty-seven per cent of this group also found it difficult to find information on the new laws, compared with 11 per cent of other participants, and 14 per cent found it very difficult to find information to help with registration, compared with three per cent of participants for whom English is a first language.

Overall, candidates and agents generally felt confident (either very or fairly) about their understanding of legal obligations related to a range of different areas. They felt particularly confident about the caps on political donations (candidates 77 per cent; agents 84 per cent) and appointing an official agent for a candidate or group (both 79 per cent).

Campaign accounts and political donations

Most respondents were aware of the new laws regarding the requirement for political parties to keep a campaign account and the caps on political donations For candidates, the figures were 79 per cent and 73 per cent; for agents 78 per cent and 75 per cent). Only 44 per cent of candidates and 46 per cent of agents were aware of changes in the regulation of third-party campaigners.

In general, respondents found the information sources they used to understand their legal obligations helpful. In particular, nine in ten saw NSWEC website(s) as useful (89 per cent of candidates and 88 per cent of agents).

Electoral material

A smaller majority of both candidates and agents felt that they had understood the information that needed to be included in their electoral material in order for it to be approved (71 per cent and 55 per cent).

Most candidates and agents were aware before the election that all electoral material must comply with legislation (93 per cent and 92 per cent), but many candidates and agents were unaware that posters did not have to be registered (41 per cent and 51 per cent).

Three in five candidates (63 per cent) and agents (57 per cent) rated the support they received from NSWEC staff in helping them meet their obligations for registering electoral material as very or fairly good. However, a substantial proportion rated it as neither good nor poor (candidates 17 per cent; agents 15 per cent). There was also a large 'Don't Know' response (12 per cent of candidates and 24 per cent of agents).

Eighty-six per cent of candidates reported that they, their party or third-party campaigners handed out materials to voters on election day. Fewer agents (73 per cent) reported doing so.

Almost all candidates in metropolitan council elections (99 per cent) handed out materials, but only four in five of those in regional councils did so (81 per cent).

Amongst those candidates who handed out materials, almost all (95 per cent) reported that they, their party or third-party campaigners had registered their electoral material with the NSWEC. This figure is lower for agents, with only 77 per cent of this group reporting having registered their material. In addition, a higher proportion of agents did not know whether their material had been registered (14 per cent, compared with three per cent of candidates).

Candidates and agents most commonly lodged their electoral material for registration by email (candidates 41 per cent; agents 44 per cent). The next most common method was online lodgement (candidates 36 per cent; agents 32 per cent). Reflecting its declining popularity as a communications medium, fax was the least commonly used method (candidates 7 per cent; agents 10 per cent). Email lodgement was more popular in regional areas, with online lodgement more popular in metropolitan areas. In regional areas, 45 per cent of participants lodged by email and 35 per cent online, while in metropolitan areas, 39 per cent lodged online and 27 per cent by email.

A relatively high proportion of both groups were not aware of how their material had been lodged (24 per cent and 17 per cent respectively)

Registration and nomination

While most respondents felt confident about the difference between the registration and nominations process (69 per cent of candidates and 61 per cent of agents), three in ten lacked confidence in distinguishing these processes (candidates 29 per cent; agents 31 per cent).

Nonetheless, most candidates and agents were satisfied with the registration process (66 per cent of candidates and 59 per cent of agents). Similarly, most were satisfied with the nominations process (69 per cent of candidates and 56 per cent of agents).

One in three candidates (34 per cent) and agents (38 per cent) experienced difficulties during the nominations process. The most common of these were compulsory check boxes not being ticked (candidates 25 per cent; agents 15 per cent), incomplete nominator details (candidates 22 per cent; agents 15 per cent) and incomplete contact details (candidates 18 per cent; agents 15 per cent).

Overall, both candidates and agents typically found most sources that they used to gather information relating to the nominations process were useful.

The NSWEC website was the most commonly used source of information. Eighty-five per cent of candidates and 76 per cent of agents rated it as helpful. However, it may be noteworthy that a larger proportion (candidates 53 per cent; agents 48 per cent) rated the website as fairly useful, rather than very useful (candidates 32 per cent; agents 28 per cent).

Three in five candidates and agents gave good ratings for the support they received from NSWEC staff in helping them meet their obligations for registering electoral material (63 per cent and 57 per cent). However, both groups were more likely to be fairly satisfied (both 37 per cent) than very satisfied (candidates 21 per cent; agents 20 per cent).

The vast majority of candidates and agents found the information sources they used to understand their legal obligations helpful. Nine in ten candidates (89 per cent) and agents (88 per cent) rated the NSWEC website(s) as either very or fairly useful.

The highest proportion of very useful ratings (candidates 65 per cent; agents 53 per cent) for assistance in understanding the relevant legal obligations was for speaking to a NSWEC Returning Officer.

Seven in ten candidates (70 per cent) and agents (72 per cent) reported that they would be likely to call the NSWEC when searching for advice on legal obligations for future elections. Somewhat more participants in both groups rated this as fairly likely (candidates 40 per cent; agents 41 per cent) than very likely (candidates 30 per cent; agents 31 per cent).

Performance of Returning Officers

A significant majority of respondents were satisfied with their Returning Officer's performance. Satisfaction was highest for communication of information relevant to candidates (75 per cent of candidates and 80 per cent of agents)

Satisfaction was lowest for information about the vote count. Only 61 per cent of candidates and 64 per cent of agents were satisfied with information provided about the procedures for the count, and only 61 per cent and 60 per cent, respectively, were satisfied with being kept informed about the progress of the vote count. Although most said they were satisfied with the information provision process around the election results, only 52 per cent of each group were satisfied with the speed with which results were made available to them on election night.

Participants campaigning in metropolitan councils were more likely to be dissatisfied with how their Returning Officer provided information about the nominations process (32 per cent, compared with 12 per cent in regional councils), and also with the Returning Officer's conduct of the draw for ballot paper position (25 per cent, compared with 11 per cent).

Participants whose first language is not English were also more likely to be dissatisfied with the information provided about the nominations process (27 per cent, compared with 13 per cent of participants who are native English-speakers). They were also more likely to be dissatisfied with information about procedures for the vote count (31 per cent, compared with 16 per cent).

There were also differences between those candidates who were successful and those who were not. Satisfaction with the Returning Officer's assistance with enquiries was higher among the former (80 per cent, compared with 67 per cent), while those who were not successful were more likely to have been very dissatisfied with the provision of information about procedures for the vote count (15 per cent, compared with 6 per cent). These responses may, of course, be contingent on the respondents' feelings about the election outcome.

Among party agents, three had spoken with a Returning Officer. The party agents' feedback was typically positive across all of the Officer's roles. In particular, all three reported that they were satisfied with their Returning Officer's performance in conducting the draw for ballot paper position; providing information about procedures for the vote count; and keeping them informed of the progress of the vote count. However, while two of the agents were satisfied with the Returning Officer's assistance with their queries, one was dissatisfied, with this leading into a generalised dissatisfaction with their Returning Officer's overall performance.

Areas for Improvement

One in three participants experienced issues during the nominations process (34 per cent of candidates and 38 per cent of agents).

When asked to provide verbal feedback as to how the NSWEC could improve its services, the most common area (12 per cent of each group) was improved information or communication.

In particular, participants wanted information to be more up to date, accurate and specific. They also felt there was room for improvement in communications from NSWEC staff, including: more opportunities for communication and more regular contact; better explanations of processes; and quicker turnaround for communication and greater responsiveness.

An appreciable number of participants (nine per cent of candidates and 10 per cent of agents) also suggested that the process of being a candidate or agent should be simplified and made clearer and easier to deal with overall. To a large extent, this is outside the NSWEC's control as the process is primarily a legislative one.

Some candidates called for consistency in how rules are applied (10 per cent, but only two per cent of agents), feeling that the NSWEC was showing bias to certain candidates or allowing such candidates to break rules. They did not provide specific detail.

There were also requests to have results available more quickly or to speed up the vote counting process (candidates eight per cent; agents six per cent), improve numbers/training of staff or volunteers (candidates six per cent; agents five per cent); and improve the website (six per cent each).

Three of the four party agents who responded to the survey had made complaints to the NSWEC. All three agents who complained were dissatisfied with the NSWEC's response, with two very dissatisfied.

Of the two who identified the issue they complained about, one was related to poor behaviour of candidates and the other in relation to perceived bias in one of the councils in which they were campaigning as a result of an independent company running the election in that council. These agents provided this feedback when asked how the NSWEC could have improved their experience:

"By being more stringent on candidates who openly break the law and don't care."

"Not allow independent companies run the elections – there is strong evidence of biased management through to the possibility of malpractice having occurred."

This comment is outside the NSWEC's control: councils have the legislated right to choose their election service provider.

Part 4: Future Directions

Consignment Tracking

We are working towards implementing the Consignment Tracking system, to track containers used to store and transport Election Materials between locations. The Consignment Tracking system uses seals with scannable barcodes that can be input to the system, providing both security and traceability. The ballot papers are expected to be checked-in to the system from various key locations, starting with the printing contractor's warehouse, and at locations along the way, from Returning Offices to counting centres.

The move to this system is a response to various findings and recommendations raised in the Inquiry into the 2013 WA Senate Election (the Keelty Report). While the NSWEC has no history of incidents similar to those that occurred in WA, the introduction of further checks and controls is advisable, both to bolster the integrity of ballot paper management and to strengthen public confidence in that integrity.

Electronic mark-off

We have recently been working on an electronic mark-off system that uses tablet devices rather than paper rolls, as a means to both speed up the process of voting at a polling centre, and reduce mark-off errors.

The system has been trialled successfully at a recent state by-election.

Finding information

While feedback was generally positive, many candidates and agents experienced difficulties in finding information to assist them. There were comments that information was either insufficient or too difficult to find, and improved information or communication was the most commonly noted area for improvement.

In particular, participants experienced issues with information regarding the vote count, legal obligations and new laws, and the registration and nominations processes.

Issues typically related to a lack of regular communication from NSWEC including slow turnaround times for communication, lack of responsiveness and lack of up to date, accurate and specific information.

As the website(s) was the most commonly accessed source for information, there needs to be comprehensive information available that covers all key areas. This information needs to be sufficiently detailed and up to date. There also needs to be a focus on optimising the website's navigability, so that this information is well signposted and can easily be found.

As legal obligations have recently changed and the survey results indicate that many were unaware of these changes, the NSWEC will examine its approach to advising second-tranche election candidates of these changes.

Nomination and registration

Many candidates and agents were confused by a number of parts of the process. Approximately one in three, in both groups, lacked confidence about the difference between the registration and nominations processes. Nearly half were unaware of the changes in the regulation of third-party campaigners, while around a quarter lacked confidence in the regulation of, and obligations for registering, third-party campaigners.

Participants were more likely to have understood the information that needed to be included in their electoral material fairly well as opposed to very well, and around half were unaware that election posters did not need to be registered.

Some found the instructions from the NSWEC unclear and suggested that better explanations of the process were needed.

This confusion points to a need for information and question and answer sessions for candidates and agents to be made more widely available, or for the NSWEC to better promote already existing sessions.

In particular, candidates and agents need to be aware that there are areas where their knowledge may be out of date, or inadequate, prior to the elections in order to highlight the importance of them attending such sessions.

Some respondents thought there were too many compliance requirements. They suggested that the overall process of being a candidate or agent should be simplified.

In particular, these participants were looking for the forms and paperwork that they were required to submit to be made easier to complete. A substantial proportion of both candidates and agents experienced problems with compulsory check boxes not being ticked, as well as incomplete nominator and contact details.

We may need to consider whether the current system of compliance requirements can be reviewed so as to streamline the process for candidates and agents, within the boundaries mandated by legislation.

Redesigning the nomination form, and providing clearer instructions on how to complete it correctly might also assist.

Responses indicate that the NSWEC website(s) can be improved. Most of those who used the website as part of their preparation found it useful, but were more likely to say that it was fairly useful than very useful. In addition, when asked how the NSWEC could have improved their experience overall, participants made suggestions to improve the website, in particular the design, navigability and currency of content.

As we have previously noted, we need to ensure that information covering all key areas is included on the website, with information sufficiently detailed, up to date and easy to find.

Fairness

A number of participants had negative experiences with campaigning alongside other candidates and parties. Some candidates felt that the NSWEC was showing bias to certain candidates or allowing candidates to break rules. Others felt that the approvals or disapprovals of election material were not consistent in their application. There were calls for consistency in how rules are applied.

Communications to candidates from the NSWEC need to actively counter the notion that it is favouring certain candidates or parties through explaining the processes by which we ensure fairness and impartiality.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse groups

Candidates and agents who do not have English as a first language were also more likely to be dissatisfied with their overall experience. In particular, their satisfaction with the information provided to them and their ability to find information or assistance was lower than for their counterparts who are native English-speakers. Perhaps stemming from this, their satisfaction with the registration process overall was also lower.

The current distribution and availability of information for candidates and agents in languages other than English may be insufficient. We will need to examine the adequacy of communication channels for those who do not speak English as a first language.

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Part 5 – Appendices

Appendix A: 2016 Local Government Elections Councils utilising the New South Wales Electoral Commission to provide their Elections

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Ballina Shire Council

Balranald Shire Council

Bega Valley Shire Council

Bellingen Shire Council

Berrigan Shire Council

Blacktown City Council

Bland Shire Council

Blue Mountains City Council

Bogan Shire Council

The Council of the Shire of Bourke

Brewarrina Shire Council

The Council of the City of Broken Hill

Byron Shire Council

Camden Council

Campbelltown City Council

Carrathool Shire Council

Cessnock City Council

Clarence Valley Council

Cobar Shire Council

Coffs Harbour City Council

Coolamon Shire Council

Coonamble Shire Council

Cowra Shire Council

Eurobodalla Shire Council

Forbes Shire Council

Gilgandra Shire Council

Glen Innes Severn Council

Goulburn Mulwaree Council

Greater Hume Shire Council

Griffith City Council

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Lockhart Shire Council

Mid-Western Regional Council

Moree Plains Shire Council

Muswellbrook Shire Council

Nambucca Shire Council

Narrabri Shire Council

Narrandera Shire Council

Narromine Shire Council

Parkes Shire Council

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Richmond Valley Council

Shoalhaven City Council

Singleton Council

Sutherland Shire Council

Council of the City of Sydney

Tamworth Regional Council

Temora Shire Council

Tenterfield Shire Council

Tweed Shire Council

Upper Hunter Shire Council

Upper Lachlan Shire Council

Uralla Shire Council

The Council of the City of Wagga Wagga

Walcha Council

Walgett Shire Council

Warren Shire Council

Warrumbungle Shire Council

Weddin Shire Council

Wentworth Shire Council

Wingecarribee Shire Council

Gwydir Shire Council

Hawkesbury City Council

Hay Shire Council

Inverell Shire Council

Junee Shire Council

The Council of the Municipality of Kiama

Kyogle Council

Lachlan Shire Council

Leeton Shire Council

Lismore City Council

City of Lithgow Council

Liverpool City Council

Wollondilly Shire Council

Yass Valley Council

Appendix B: Candidates elected as councillors, 2016 NSW Local Government Elections

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Albury City Council		CAMERON Darren	Country Labor
Albury City Council		COHN Amanda	The Greens
Albury City Council		DOCKSEY Graham	Independent
Albury City Council		GLACHAN Alice	Independent
Albury City Council		KING Murray	Independent
Albury City Council		MACK Kevin	Independent
Albury City Council		STUCHBERY John	Independent
Albury City Council		THURLEY David	Independent
Albury City Council		VAN DE VEN Henk	Independent
Ballina Shire Council	Ward A	McCARTHY Stephen	Independent
Ballina Shire Council	Ward A	MEEHAN Phil	Independent
Ballina Shire Council	Ward A	WILLIS Nathan	Independent
Ballina Shire Council	Ward B	CADWALLADER Sharon	Independent
Ballina Shire Council	Ward B	JOHNSON Jeff	Independent
Ballina Shire Council	Ward B	WILLIAMS Keith	Independent
Ballina Shire Council	Ward C	JOHNSTON Eoin	Independent
Ballina Shire Council	Ward C	PARRY Sharon	Independent
Ballina Shire Council	Ward C	SMITH Ben	Independent
Balranald Shire Council		ALLEN Doug	Independent
Balranald Shire Council		BYRON Leigh	
Balranald Shire Council		JOLLIFFE Trevor	Independent
Balranald Shire Council		MANNIX Jeff	Independent
Balranald Shire Council		O'HALLORAN Steve	
Balranald Shire Council		PURTILL Alan	
Balranald Shire Council		ROBERTS Jo	Independent
Balranald Shire Council		UGARTE German	Independent
Bega Valley Shire Council		ALLEN Tony	Independent
Bega Valley Shire Council		BAIN Robyn	Independent
Bega Valley Shire Council		DODDS Jo	Independent

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Bega Valley Shire Council		FITZPATRICK Russell	Independent
Bega Valley Shire Council		GRIFF Cathy	The Greens
Bega Valley Shire Council		McBAIN Kristy	
Bega Valley Shire Council		NADIN Mitchell	Independent
Bega Valley Shire Council		SECKOLD Liz	Independent
Bega Valley Shire Council		TAPSCOTT Sharon	Independent
Bellingen Shire Council		CARTER Garry	
Bellingen Shire Council		FENTON Jennie	The Greens
Bellingen Shire Council		HARRISON Desmae	Independent
Bellingen Shire Council		JENKINS Steve	Independent
Bellingen Shire Council		KLIPIN Steve	Independent
Bellingen Shire Council		WRIGHT-TURNER Toni	The Greens
Berrigan Shire Council		BODEY Ross	
Berrigan Shire Council		BRUCE John	
Berrigan Shire Council		CURTIN Bernard	
Berrigan Shire Council		GLANVILLE Denis	
Berrigan Shire Council		HANNAN Matt	
Berrigan Shire Council		JONES Colin	
Berrigan Shire Council		MORRIS Daryll	
Berrigan Shire Council		TAYLOR John	
Blacktown City Council	Ward 1	DIAZ Jess	Liberal
Blacktown City Council	Ward 1	QUILKEY Chris	Labor
Blacktown City Council	Ward 1	SINGH Moninder	Labor
Blacktown City Council	Ward 2	DIAZ Jaymes	Liberal
Blacktown City Council	Ward 2	GRIFFITHS Julie	Labor
Blacktown City Council	Ward 2	KELLY Leo	Labor
Blacktown City Council	Ward 3	BENJAMIN Susai	Labor
Blacktown City Council	Ward 3	BRILLO Frederick	Liberal
Blacktown City Council	Ward 3	COLLINS Kathie	Labor
Blacktown City Council	Ward 4	BALI Stephen	Labor
Blacktown City Council	Ward 4	ISRAEL Carol	Labor
Blacktown City Council	Ward 4	SANTOS Linda	Liberal
Blacktown City Council	Ward 5	BLEASDALE Tony	Labor
Blacktown City Council	Ward 5	BUNTING Brad	Labor

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Blacktown City Council	Ward 5	CAMILLERI Peter	Liberal
Bland Shire Council		BAKER Bruce	
Bland Shire Council		CROWE Rodney	Independent
Bland Shire Council		ENGLISH Penny	Independent
Bland Shire Council		KEATLEY Kerry	
Bland Shire Council		LORD Tony	
Bland Shire Council		McGLYNN Liz	
Bland Shire Council		MONAGHAN Brian	Independent
Bland Shire Council		THOMAS Muzz	Independent
Bland Shire Council		WYSE Jan	
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 1	BROWN Kerry	The Greens
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 1	McGREGOR Don	Labor
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 1	SCHREIBER Kevin	Liberal
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 2	HOARE Brent	The Greens
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 2	HOLLYWOOD Romola	Labor
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 2	VAN DER KLEY Chris	Liberal
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 3	FELL Mick	Labor
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 3	FOENANDER Shae	Independent
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 3	MYLES Daniel	Liberal
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 4	BOWLING Darryl	Labor
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 4	CHRISTIE Brendan	Liberal
Blue Mountains City Council	Ward 4	GREENHILL Mark	Labor
Bogan Shire Council		BOAG Victoria	
Bogan Shire Council		DEACON Greg	
Bogan Shire Council		DONALD Ray	
Bogan Shire Council		DOUGLAS Jodi	Independent
Bogan Shire Council		DUTTON Veneta	Independent
Bogan Shire Council		ELIAS Tony	Independent
Bogan Shire Council		JACKSON Graham	Independent
Bogan Shire Council		NEILL Glen	Independent
Bogan Shire Council		RYAN Kevin	Independent
Council of the Shire of Bourke		BARTLEY Victor	Independent

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Council of the Shire of Bourke		BARTON Sarah	
Council of the Shire of Bourke		COLE Ian	
Council of the Shire of Bourke		DAVIS Sally	
Council of the Shire of Bourke		DORRINGTON Cec	
Council of the Shire of Bourke		FORD Lachlan	
Council of the Shire of Bourke		HOLLMAN Barry	Independent
Council of the Shire of Bourke		RICE Sam	
Council of the Shire of Bourke		STUTSEL Bob	Independent
Council of the Shire of Bourke		THOMPSON John	Independent
Brewarrina Shire Council		BROWN Mark	Independent
Brewarrina Shire Council		CHAPMAN Shane	
Brewarrina Shire Council		GORDON Isaac	
Brewarrina Shire Council		LOUGHNAN Bill	
Brewarrina Shire Council		NEALE Wayne	
Brewarrina Shire Council		O'CONNOR Ocker	
Brewarrina Shire Council		PIPPOS Angelo	
Brewarrina Shire Council		STANTON Thomas	Independent
Brewarrina Shire Council		WHEATLEY David	
Council of the City of Broken Hill		ADAMS Christine	Independent
Council of the City of Broken Hill		ALGATE Bob	Independent
Council of the City of Broken Hill		BROWNE Marion	Country Labor
Council of the City of Broken Hill		CLARK Maureen	Country Labor
Council of the City of Broken Hill		GALLAGHER Dave	Independent
Council of the City of Broken Hill		KENNEDY Tom	Independent
Council of the City of Broken Hill		LICUL Branko	Country Labor
Council of the City of Broken Hill		NOLAN Jim	Country Labor
Council of the City of Broken Hill		PAGE Ron	Independent
Byron Shire Council		CAMERON Basil	Our Sustainable Future
Byron Shire Council		COOREY Cate	Independent
Byron Shire Council		HACKETT Jan	Country Labor
Byron Shire Council		HUNTER Alan	
Byron Shire Council		LYON Michael	The Greens

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Byron Shire Council		MARTIN Jeannette	The Greens
Byron Shire Council		NDIAYE Sarah	The Greens
Byron Shire Council		SPOONER Paul	Country Labor
Camden Council	Central	CAGNEY Ashleigh	Labor
Camden Council	Central	FEDELI Therese	Liberal
Camden Council	Central	MILLS Robert	Independent
Camden Council	North	CAGNEY Cindy	Labor
Camden Council	North	MORRISON Michael	Liberal
Camden Council	North	SYMKOWIAK Lara	Liberal
Camden Council	South	CAMPBELL Eva	Independent
Camden Council	South	FARROW Paul	Labor
Camden Council	South	SIDGREAVES Peter	Liberal
Campbelltown City Council		BORG Fred	Totally Locally Committed Party
Campbelltown City Council		BRTICEVIC George	Labor
Campbelltown City Council		CHIVERS Margaret	Labor
Campbelltown City Council		CHOWDHURY Masood	Labor
Campbelltown City Council		GEORGE Ralph	Liberal
Campbelltown City Council		GREISS George	Liberal
Campbelltown City Council		HUNT Karen	Labor
Campbelltown City Council		LAKE Paul	Community First Team
Campbelltown City Council		LOUND Darcy	Labor
Campbelltown City Council		MANOTO Rey	Labor
Campbelltown City Council		MORONEY Ben	The Greens
Campbelltown City Council		MORRISON Warren	Totally Locally Committed Party
Campbelltown City Council		OATES Meg	Labor
Campbelltown City Council		ROWELL Ted	Liberal
Campbelltown City Council		THOMPSON Bob	Bob Thompson's Independent Team
Carrathool Shire Council	Ward A	FENSOM David	Independent

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Carrathool Shire Council	Ward A	JARDINE Darryl	Independent
Carrathool Shire Council	Ward A	LAIRD Peter	
Carrathool Shire Council	Ward A	LEWIS Brett	Independent
Carrathool Shire Council	Ward A	PETERS Geoff	
Carrathool Shire Council	Ward B	ARMSTRONG Mick	
Carrathool Shire Council	Ward B	CAMPBELL Russell	
Carrathool Shire Council	Ward B	FURNER Bev	
Carrathool Shire Council	Ward B	GROAT Scott	
Carrathool Shire Council	Ward B	KITE Bill	
Cessnock City Council	Ward A	DUNN Paul	Liberal
Cessnock City Council	Ward A	LYONS Mark	Country Labor
Cessnock City Council	Ward A	STAPLEFORD Allan	Independent
Cessnock City Council	Ward B	FITZGIBBON Di	Country Labor
Cessnock City Council	Ward B	OLSEN Ian	Independent
Cessnock City Council	Ward B	SUVAAL Jay	Country Labor
Cessnock City Council	Ward C	DAGG Melanie	Country Labor
Cessnock City Council	Ward C	FAGG John	Liberal
Cessnock City Council	Ward C	SANDER Anne	Country Labor
Cessnock City Council	Ward D	BURKE Anthony	Country Labor
Cessnock City Council	Ward D	DOHERTY Rod	Liberal
Cessnock City Council	Ward D	GRAY Darrin	Country Labor
Clarence Valley Council		BAKER Andrew	Independent
Clarence Valley Council		CLANCY Greg	The Greens
Clarence Valley Council		ELLEM Peter	Independent
Clarence Valley Council		KINGSLEY Jason	Independent
Clarence Valley Council		LYSAUGHT Arthur	Independent
Clarence Valley Council		NOVAK Debrah	Independent
Clarence Valley Council		SIMMONS Jim	Independent
Clarence Valley Council		TOMS Karen	Independent
Clarence Valley Council		WILLIAMSON Richie	
Cobar Shire Council		ABBOTT Peter	
Cobar Shire Council		BRADY Lilliane	
Cobar Shire Council		KINGS Tracey	Independent
Cobar Shire Council		LEA-BARRETT Janine	Independent
Cobar Shire Council		LEHMANN Christopher	

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Cobar Shire Council		MARSDEN Jarrod	Independent
Cobar Shire Council		MARTIN Gregory	Independent
Cobar Shire Council		MAXWELL Peter	
Cobar Shire Council		PAYNE Julie	Independent
Cobar Shire Council		SINCLAIR Bob	Independent
Cobar Shire Council		TOOMEY Harley	
Cobar Shire Council		YENCH Peter	Independent
Coffs Harbour City Council		ADENDORFF Michael	
Coffs Harbour City Council		AMOS Paul	Independent
Coffs Harbour City Council		ARKAN John	
Coffs Harbour City Council		CECATO George	Independent
Coffs Harbour City Council		RHOADES Keith	Independent
Coffs Harbour City Council		STROM Jan	
Coffs Harbour City Council		SWAN Tegan	
Coffs Harbour City Council		TOWNLEY Sally	The Greens
Coolamon Shire Council		CROCKER Jeremy	
Coolamon Shire Council		HUTCHEON Bruce	
Coolamon Shire Council		JONES Steve	
Coolamon Shire Council		LOGAN Kerrilee	
Coolamon Shire Council		MASLIN Kathy	
Coolamon Shire Council		McCANN David	
Coolamon Shire Council		McKINNON Colin	Independent
Coolamon Shire Council		SEYMOUR John	
Coolamon Shire Council		WHITE Alan	Independent
Coonamble Shire Council		CHURCHILL Karen	Independent
Coonamble Shire Council		CULLEN Tom	
Coonamble Shire Council		FISHER Bill	
Coonamble Shire Council		KARANOUH Al	
Coonamble Shire Council		WALKER John	Independent
Coonamble Shire Council		WEBB Michael	
Coonamble Shire Council		WHEELHOUSE Paul	Independent
Cowra Shire Council		FAGAN Ruth	
Cowra Shire Council		MILLER Bruce	
Cowra Shire Council		NOBES Michael	Independent
Cowra Shire Council		SMITH Judi	Independent

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Cowra Shire Council		WALSH Ray	Independent
Cowra Shire Council		WEST Bill	
Cowra Shire Council		WHITTY Ian	Independent
Cowra Shire Council		WRIGHT Kevin	Independent
Cowra Shire Council		WRIGHT Peter	Independent
Eurobodalla Shire Council		BROWN Lindsay	Independent
Eurobodalla Shire Council		CONSTABLE Phil	
Eurobodalla Shire Council		MAYNE Anthony	
Eurobodalla Shire Council		McGINLAY Patrick	The Greens
Eurobodalla Shire Council		NATHAN Maureen	
Eurobodalla Shire Council		POLLOCK Rob	Independent
Eurobodalla Shire Council		TAIT Jack	
Eurobodalla Shire Council		THOMSON James	Independent
Forbes Shire Council		CHAU Susan	
Forbes Shire Council		CLIFTON Grant	Independent
Forbes Shire Council		HERBERT Michele	Independent
Forbes Shire Council		KARAITIANA Steven	Independent
Forbes Shire Council		MILLER Graeme	Independent
Forbes Shire Council		MILLER Phyllis	
Forbes Shire Council		NICHOLSON Jeff	Independent
Forbes Shire Council		ROYLANCE Chris	
Forbes Shire Council		WEBB Jenny	
Gilgandra Shire Council		BAKER Susan	Independent
Gilgandra Shire Council		BATTEN Doug	Independent
Gilgandra Shire Council		JOHNSON Gina	Independent
Gilgandra Shire Council		MOCKLER Brian	
Gilgandra Shire Council		MUDFORD Noel	Independent
Gilgandra Shire Council		NADEN Deidrie	Independent
Gilgandra Shire Council		PEART Gregory	Independent
Gilgandra Shire Council		WALKER Ash	Independent
Gilgandra Shire Council		WRIGLEY Noel	Independent
Glen Innes Severn Council		FRENDON Glenn	Independent
Glen Innes Severn Council		NEWMAN Dianne	Independent
Glen Innes Severn Council		PARSONS Andrew	Independent

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Glen Innes Severn Council		PRICE Colin	Independent
Glen Innes Severn Council		SMITH Jeff	Independent
Glen Innes Severn Council		SPARKS Carol	The Greens
Glen Innes Severn Council		TOMS Steve	Independent
Goulburn Mulwaree Council		BANFIELD Andrew	Independent
Goulburn Mulwaree Council		FERRARA Leah	The Greens
Goulburn Mulwaree Council		JAMES Carol	
Goulburn Mulwaree Council		KIRK Bob	Independent
Goulburn Mulwaree Council		O'NEILL Margaret	Independent
Goulburn Mulwaree Council		ROWLAND Sam	Independent
Goulburn Mulwaree Council		STURGISS Denzil	Independent
Goulburn Mulwaree Council		WALKER Alfie	Independent
Goulburn Mulwaree Council		WALKER Peter	Independent
Greater Hume Shire Council	East	QUINN Tony	Independent
Greater Hume Shire Council	East	STEWART Kim	
Greater Hume Shire Council	East	WILTON Heather	Independent
Greater Hume Shire Council	North	MEYER Doug	Independent
Greater Hume Shire Council	North	SCHILG Annette	Independent
Greater Hume Shire Council	North	WESTON Terry	Independent
Greater Hume Shire Council	South	HICKS Matt	Independent
Greater Hume Shire Council	South	O'NEILL Jenny	Independent
Greater Hume Shire Council	South	OSBORNE Denise	Independent
Griffith City Council		CROCE Simon	Independent
Griffith City Council		CURRAN Doug	
Griffith City Council		LONGHURST Deb	
Griffith City Council		MARDON Edwin	Independent
Griffith City Council		MERCURI Rina	
Griffith City Council		NAPOLI Anne	
Griffith City Council		NEVILLE Mike	Independent
Griffith City Council		SIMPSON Brian	
Griffith City Council		SNAIDERO Paul	Independent
Griffith City Council		STEAD Christine	Independent
Griffith City Council		ZAPPACOSTA Dino	Independent
Gwydir Shire Council		COULTON David	
Gwydir Shire Council		COULTON John	

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Gwydir Shire Council		DICK Stuart	Independent
Gwydir Shire Council		DIXON Marilyn	
Gwydir Shire Council		EGAN Catherine	
Gwydir Shire Council		GALVIN Tiffany	
Gwydir Shire Council		MOORE Curly	
Gwydir Shire Council		SMITH Geoff	
Gwydir Shire Council		YOUNG Frances	
Hawkesbury City Council		CALVERT Barry	Labor
Hawkesbury City Council		CONOLLY Patrick	Liberal
Hawkesbury City Council		GARROW Emma-Jane	Independent
Hawkesbury City Council		KOTLASH Amanda	Labor
Hawkesbury City Council		LYONS-BUCKETT Mary	Independent
Hawkesbury City Council		RASMUSSEN Paul	Independent
Hawkesbury City Council		REYNOLDS Peter	Independent
Hawkesbury City Council		RICHARDS Sarah	Liberal
Hawkesbury City Council		ROSS John	
Hawkesbury City Council		TREE Tiffany	Liberal
Hawkesbury City Council		WHEELER Danielle	The Greens
Hawkesbury City Council		ZAMPROGNO Nathan	Liberal
Hay Shire Council		CRIGHTON Jasen	
Hay Shire Council		DWYER Jenny	Independent
Hay Shire Council		DWYER Peter	
Hay Shire Council		HOWARD Robert	
Hay Shire Council		RUTLEDGE Michael	
Hay Shire Council		SHEAFFE Bill	
Hay Shire Council		TOWNSEND Dave	Independent
Hay Shire Council		WALTER Kevin	
Inverell Shire Council		BAKER Di	Independent
Inverell Shire Council		BERRYMAN Stewart	Independent
Inverell Shire Council		DIGHT Kate	

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Inverell Shire Council		HARMON Paul	
Inverell Shire Council		JONES David	Independent
Inverell Shire Council		KING Paul	
Inverell Shire Council		McCOSKER Neil	Independent
Inverell Shire Council		MICHAEL Anthony	
Inverell Shire Council		PETERS Mal	
Inverell Shire Council		WATTS Jacki	
Junee Shire Council		ASMUS Robin	Independent
Junee Shire Council		AUSTIN Matt	
Junee Shire Council		CALLOW Bob	Independent
Junee Shire Council		CARTER David	
Junee Shire Council		COOK Mark	Independent
Junee Shire Council		HALLIBURTON Pam	
Junee Shire Council		HOLMES Martin	Independent
Junee Shire Council		SMITH Neil	Independent
Junee Shire Council		WALKER Kerri	
Council of the Municipality of Kiama		BROWN Matt	
Council of the Municipality of Kiama		HONEY Mark	Independent
Council of the Municipality of Kiama		REILLY Neil	Independent
Council of the Municipality of Kiama		RICE Kathy	The Greens
Council of the Municipality of Kiama		SANDIFORT-WESTHOFF Mark	Independent
Council of the Municipality of Kiama		SLOAN Andrew	The Greens
Council of the Municipality of Kiama		STEEL Warren	Independent
Council of the Municipality of Kiama		WATSON Don	
Council of the Municipality of Kiama		WAY Mark	Independent
Kyogle Council	Ward A	DOOLAN Hayden	Independent
Kyogle Council	Ward A	THOMAS Kylie	Independent
Kyogle Council	Ward A	WILSON Janet	Independent
Kyogle Council	Ward B	BURLEY John	
Kyogle Council	Ward B	DWYER Bob	Independent

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Kyogle Council	Ward B	MAY Maggie	Independent
Kyogle Council	Ward C	GRUNDY Earle	Independent
Kyogle Council	Ward C	MULHOLLAND Danielle	Independent
Kyogle Council	Ward C	PASSFIELD Lindsay	Independent
Lachlan Shire Council	A Ward	MEDCALF John	
Lachlan Shire Council	A Ward	NELSON Brian	
Lachlan Shire Council	E Ward	HALL Mark	Independent
Lachlan Shire Council	E Ward	PHILLIPS Paul	Independent
Lachlan Shire Council	Ward B	BLEWITT Melissa	Independent
Lachlan Shire Council	Ward B	REES Melissa	Independent
Lachlan Shire Council	Ward C	CARTER Dave	Independent
Lachlan Shire Council	Ward C	HARRIS Peter	
Lachlan Shire Council	Ward D	FRANKEL Max	
Lachlan Shire Council	Ward D	RIDLEY John	Independent
Leeton Shire Council		CICCIA Tony	Independent
Leeton Shire Council		DAVIDSON Peter	Independent
Leeton Shire Council		KIDD Michael	
Leeton Shire Council		MAYTOM Paul	Independent
Leeton Shire Council		MORRIS Tracey	Independent
Leeton Shire Council		NARDI Sandra	Independent
Leeton Shire Council		RENEKER Tony	
Leeton Shire Council		SMITH Paul	
Leeton Shire Council		WESTON George	Independent
Lismore City Council		BATTISTA Gianpiero	Independent
Lismore City Council		BENNETT Greg	Independent
Lismore City Council		BIRD Elly	Our Sustainable Future
Lismore City Council		COOK Darlene	Country Labor
Lismore City Council		GRINDON-EKINS Vanessa	The Greens
Lismore City Council		GUISE Adam	The Greens
Lismore City Council		LLOYD Edwina	Country Labor
Lismore City Council		MARKS Neil	Independent
Lismore City Council		MOORHOUSE Bill	Independent
Lismore City Council		ZAMBELLI-CASSON Nancy	Independent

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
City of Lithgow Council		COLEMAN Cass	
City of Lithgow Council		COX Geoff	
City of Lithgow Council		LESSLIE Stephen	
City of Lithgow Council		McANDREW Wayne	
City of Lithgow Council		RING Steve	
City of Lithgow Council		SMITH Jeff	
City of Lithgow Council		SMITH Joe	Independent
City of Lithgow Council		STATHAM Maree	
City of Lithgow Council		THOMPSON Ray	Independent
City of Lithgow Council		TICEHURST Martin	Independent
Liverpool City Council	Liverpool North	BALLOOT Gus	Liberal
Liverpool City Council	Liverpool North	HADID Mazhar	Liberal
Liverpool City Council	Liverpool North	HAGARTY Nathan	Labor
Liverpool City Council	Liverpool North	HARLE Peter	Liverpool Community Independents Team
Liverpool City Council	Liverpool North	KARNIB Ali	Labor
Liverpool City Council	Liverpool South	AYYAD Tina	Liberal
Liverpool City Council	Liverpool South	HADCHITI Tony	Liberal
Liverpool City Council	Liverpool South	KALIYANDA Charishma	Labor
Liverpool City Council	Liverpool South	RHODES Karress	Liverpool Community Independents Team
Liverpool City Council	Liverpool South	SHELTON Geoff	Labor
Liverpool Plains Shire Council		BLACK Virginia	Independent
Liverpool Plains Shire Council		CUDMORE Ken	
Liverpool Plains Shire Council		HAWKINS Doug	
Liverpool Plains Shire Council		HOPE Andrew	
Liverpool Plains Shire Council		LOBSEY Ian	Independent
Liverpool Plains Shire Council		MOULES Paul	Independent
Liverpool Plains Shire Council		WEBSTER Rob	Independent
Lockhart Shire Council	C Ward	DRISCOLL Gail	Independent
Lockhart Shire Council	C Ward	MARSTON Ian	Independent
Lockhart Shire Council	C Ward	VERDON Greg	
Lockhart Shire Council	Ward A	DAY Max	

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Lockhart Shire Council	Ward A	ROCKLIFF Andrew	
Lockhart Shire Council	Ward A	SCHIRMER Rodger	
Lockhart Shire Council	Ward B	DOUGLAS Derek	
Lockhart Shire Council	Ward B	SHARP Peter	
Lockhart Shire Council	Ward B	WALKER James	
Mid-Western Regional Council		CAVALIER Paul	Independent
Mid-Western Regional Council		HOLDEN Russell	Independent
Mid-Western Regional Council		KARAVAS Alex	Independent
Mid-Western Regional Council		KENNEDY Des	Independent
Mid-Western Regional Council		MARTENS Esme	Independent
Mid-Western Regional Council		O'NEILL John	Independent
Mid-Western Regional Council		PAINE Sam	Independent
Mid-Western Regional Council		SHELLEY Peter	Independent
Mid-Western Regional Council		THOMPSON Percy	
Moree Plains Shire Council		CASSELLS Kerry	
Moree Plains Shire Council		CHIU George	
Moree Plains Shire Council		CRAWFORD Jim	Independent
Moree Plains Shire Council		HUMPHRIES Katrina	Independent
Moree Plains Shire Council		MONTGOMERY Michael	
Moree Plains Shire Council		PRICE Sue	Independent
Moree Plains Shire Council		RITCHIE Stephen	
Moree Plains Shire Council		SCULLY Jess	
Moree Plains Shire Council		SMITH Greg	Independent
Moree Plains Shire Council		TRAMBY John	Independent
Muswellbrook Shire Council		BAILEY Scott	Independent
Muswellbrook Shire Council		BOWDITCH Mark	Independent
Muswellbrook Shire Council		FOY Jason	Independent
Muswellbrook Shire Council		GREEN Michelle	
Muswellbrook Shire Council		LEDLIN Jacinta	Independent
Muswellbrook Shire Council		McNEILL Graeme	Independent
Muswellbrook Shire Council		REYNOLDS Steve	Independent
Muswellbrook Shire Council		RISBY Janelle	Independent
Muswellbrook Shire Council		RUSH Martin	Independent
Muswellbrook Shire Council		SCHOLES Rod	Independent

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Muswellbrook Shire Council		WARD Stephen	
Muswellbrook Shire Council		WOODRUFF Brett	Independent
Nambucca Shire Council		AINSWORTH John	
Nambucca Shire Council		BALLANGARRY Martin	Independent
Nambucca Shire Council		FINLAYSON Brian	
Nambucca Shire Council		JENVEY Susan	Country Labor
Nambucca Shire Council		JONES David	Independent
Nambucca Shire Council		REED Janine	
Nambucca Shire Council		SMYTH Anne	Independent
Nambucca Shire Council		WILSON John	Independent
Narrabri Shire Council		BOOBY Maxine	Independent
Narrabri Shire Council		CAMPBELL Ron	
Narrabri Shire Council		CAMPEY Ron	Independent
Narrabri Shire Council		FINLAY Lloyd	Independent
Narrabri Shire Council		KNEALE Robert	Independent
Narrabri Shire Council		LODER Ann	Independent
Narrabri Shire Council		McMAHON Annie	Independent
Narrabri Shire Council		REDDING Cathy	Independent
Narrabri Shire Council		STAINES Cameron	Independent
Narrandera Shire Council		BRYON Barbara	
Narrandera Shire Council		CLARKE Jenny	Independent
Narrandera Shire Council		FAHEY David	
Narrandera Shire Council		GALVIN Tammy	Independent
Narrandera Shire Council		HALL Wesley	
Narrandera Shire Council		KSCHENKA Neville	Independent
Narrandera Shire Council		LEWIS Tracey	Independent
Narrandera Shire Council		MORRIS Kevin	Independent
Narrandera Shire Council		PAYNE Narelle	
Narromine Shire Council		COLLINS Dawn	Independent
Narromine Shire Council		CRAFT James	Independent
Narromine Shire Council		DAVIES Craig	Independent
Narromine Shire Council		DREW Peter	Independent
Narromine Shire Council		HAMILTON Colin	Independent
Narromine Shire Council		JABLONSKI Lyn	Independent
Narromine Shire Council		LAMBERT Les	Independent

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Narromine Shire Council		McCUTCHEON Rob	Independent
Narromine Shire Council		MUNRO Mark	Independent
Parkes Shire Council		BILES Wally	
Parkes Shire Council		JAYET Bill	
Parkes Shire Council		KEITH Ken	
Parkes Shire Council		McGRATH Kenny	Independent
Parkes Shire Council		NEWTON Barbara	
Parkes Shire Council		O'LEARY Louise	Independent
Parkes Shire Council		PRATT George	
Parkes Shire Council		SMITH Patrica	
Parkes Shire Council		WARD Alan	
Parkes Shire Council		WESTCOTT Neil	Independent
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council		ALLEY Peter	Country Labor
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council		CUSATO Michael	Independent
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council		DIXON Lee	Independent
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council		GRIFFITHS Sharon	
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council		HAWKINS Geoff	Independent
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council		INTEMANN Lisa	Independent
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council		LEVIDO Justin	Independent
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council		TURNER Robert	Independent
Richmond Valley Council		CORNISH Sam	Independent
Richmond Valley Council		DUNCAN-HUMPHRYS Sandra	Independent
Richmond Valley Council		HAYES Robert	Independent
Richmond Valley Council		LYONS Jill	Independent
Richmond Valley Council		MORRISSEY Steve	Independent
Richmond Valley Council		SIMPSON Daniel	Independent
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 1	ALLDRICK Annette	Country Labor
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 1	CHEYNE Nina	The Greens
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 1	GUILE Andrew	Shoalhaven Independents Group
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 1	WELLS John	Independent
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 2	GASH Jo	Independent
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 2	LEVETT John	The Greens

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 2	PAKES Mitchell	Shoalhaven Independents Group
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 2	WATSON Greg	Shoalhaven Independents Group
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 3	GARTNER Kaye	The Greens
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 3	KITCHENER Mark	Shoalhaven Independents Group
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 3	PROUDFOOT Bob	Shoalhaven Independents Group
Shoalhaven City Council	Ward 3	WHITE Patricia	Independent
Singleton Council		ADAMTHWAITE Godfrey	Independent
Singleton Council		GEORGE Sue	Independent
Singleton Council		JARRETT Tony	Country Labor
Singleton Council		JENKINS Hollee	Independent
Singleton Council		LUKEMAN Sarah	Independent
Singleton Council		MARTIN John	
Singleton Council		McNAMARA Tony	Independent
Singleton Council		SCOTT Val	
Singleton Council		THOMPSON Danny	Independent
Singleton Council	Ward D	MARTIN John	
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward A	FORSHAW Michael	Labor
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward A	PROVAN Carol	Liberal
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward A	SIMONE Marie	Liberal
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward B	BOYD Jack	Labor
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward B	COLLIER Barry	Labor
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward B	JOHNS Kent	Liberal
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward C	CROUCHER Tom	Liberal
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward C	NICHOLLS Daniel	Liberal
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward C	PLIBERSEK Ray	Labor
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward D	McLEAN Greg	Labor
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward D	PESCE Carmelo	Liberal
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward D	STEINWALL Diedree	Labor

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward E	RIAD John	Liberal
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward E	SCAYSBROOK Peter	Labor
Sutherland Shire Council	Ward E	SIMPSON Steve	Independent
Council of the City of Sydney		CHUNG Craig	Liberal
Council of the City of Sydney		FORSTER Christine	Liberal
Council of the City of Sydney		KOK Robert	Clover Moore Independent Team
Council of the City of Sydney		MILLER Jess	Clover Moore Independent Team
Council of the City of Sydney		PHELPS Kerryn	Clover Moore Independent Team
Council of the City of Sydney		SCOTT Linda	Labor
Council of the City of Sydney		SCULLY Jess	Clover Moore Independent Team
Council of the City of Sydney		THALIS Philip	Clover Moore Independent Team
Council of the City of Sydney		VITHOULKAS Angela	Sydney Matters Independent Team
Tamworth Regional Council		BETTS Phil	
Tamworth Regional Council		IMPEY Charles	Independent
Tamworth Regional Council		INGLIS Glenn	Independent
Tamworth Regional Council		MAXWELL Jim	Independent
Tamworth Regional Council		MURRAY Col	Independent
Tamworth Regional Council		RODDA Mark	
Tamworth Regional Council		TICKLE Helen	Independent
Tamworth Regional Council		WEBB Russell	
Tamworth Regional Council		WILSON Juanita	Independent
Temora Shire Council		FIRMAN Rick	
Temora Shire Council		JUDD Nigel	Independent
Temora Shire Council		McLAREN Claire	
Temora Shire Council		OLIVER Max	
Temora Shire Council		REINHOLD Lindy	
Temora Shire Council		SINCLAIR Graham	

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Temora Shire Council		SLEIGH Dennis	
Temora Shire Council		SMITH Kenneth	Independent
Temora Shire Council		WIENCKE Dale	
Tenterfield Shire Council		MARTIN John	Independent
Tenterfield Shire Council	Ward A	PETTY Peter	
Tenterfield Shire Council	Ward A	VERRI Gary	Independent
Tenterfield Shire Council	Ward B	MACNISH John	Independent
Tenterfield Shire Council	Ward B	PETRIE Bronwyn	
Tenterfield Shire Council	Ward C	MURRAY Brian	Independent
Tenterfield Shire Council	Ward C	PETERS Thomas	Independent
Tenterfield Shire Council	Ward D	FORBES Don	Independent
Tenterfield Shire Council	Ward D	MARTIN John	Independent
Tenterfield Shire Council	Ward E	PETRIE Michael	Independent
Tenterfield Shire Council	Ward E	SAUER Greg	
Tweed Shire Council		ALLSOP Pryce	Independent
Tweed Shire Council		BYRNES Reece	Country Labor
Tweed Shire Council		CHERRY Chris	Independent
Tweed Shire Council		COOPER Ron	Independent
Tweed Shire Council		MILNE Katie	The Greens
Tweed Shire Council		OWEN James	Liberal
Tweed Shire Council		POLGLASE Warren	
Upper Hunter Shire Council		ABBOTT Sue	Independent
Upper Hunter Shire Council		BEDGGOOD Wayne	Independent
Upper Hunter Shire Council		BROWN Josh	Country Labor
Upper Hunter Shire Council		BURNS James	Independent
Upper Hunter Shire Council		CAMPBELL Ron	Independent
Upper Hunter Shire Council		COLLISON Maurice	Independent
Upper Hunter Shire Council		DRISCOLL Lorna	Independent
Upper Hunter Shire Council		FISHER Kiwa	Independent
Upper Hunter Shire Council		WATTS Lee	Independent
Upper Lachlan Shire Council		CULHANE Paul	Independent
Upper Lachlan Shire Council		CUMMINS Ron	Independent
Upper Lachlan Shire Council		KENSIT Pam	Independent
Upper Lachlan Shire Council		McCORMACK Brian	Independent
Upper Lachlan Shire Council		O'BRIEN Darren	Independent
Upper Lachlan Shire Council		OPIE Richard	Independent
Upper Lachlan Shire Council		SEARL John	Independent
Upper Lachlan Shire Council		STAFFORD John	Independent

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Upper Lachlan Shire Council		WHEELWRIGHT James	
Uralla Shire Council	Ward A	BELL Robert	Independent
Uralla Shire Council	Ward A	STRUTT Isabel	
Uralla Shire Council	Ward A	TOOMEY Tara	Independent
Uralla Shire Council	Ward A	WARD Kevin	Independent
Uralla Shire Council	Ward B	CROUCH Bob	Independent
Uralla Shire Council	Ward B	DUSTING Mark	Independent
Uralla Shire Council	Ward B	LEDGER Natasha	
Uralla Shire Council	Ward B	SAMPSON Levi	Independent
Council of the City of Wagga Wagga		BRAID Yvonne	Independent
Council of the City of Wagga Wagga		CONKEY Greg	Independent
Council of the City of Wagga Wagga		FUNNELL Paul	Independent
Council of the City of Wagga Wagga		HAYES Dan	Country Labor
Council of the City of Wagga Wagga		KEENAN Vanessa	Country Labor
Council of the City of Wagga Wagga		KENDALL Rod	Independent
Council of the City of Wagga Wagga		KOSCHEL Tim	Independent
Council of the City of Wagga Wagga		PASCOE Kerry	Independent
Council of the City of Wagga Wagga		TOUT Dallas	Independent
Walcha Council	A Ward	BLOMFIELD Peter	Independent
Walcha Council	A Ward	WELLINGS Rachael	
Walcha Council	B Ward	LYON Clint	
Walcha Council	B Ward	NOAKES Eric	
Walcha Council	C Ward	KEALEY Jennifer	
Walcha Council	C Ward	KERMODE Scott	
Walcha Council	D Ward	FERRIER Kevin	
Walcha Council	D Ward	HEAZLETT Bill	
Walgett Shire Council		CAMERON Tanya	
Walgett Shire Council		KEIR Jane	
Walgett Shire Council		MARTINEZ Manuel	
Walgett Shire Council		MURRAY Bill	Independent
Walgett Shire Council		SMITH Kelly	

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Walgett Shire Council		TAYLOR Michael	
Walgett Shire Council		TURNBULL Robbie	
Walgett Shire Council		WALFORD Laurence	
Walgett Shire Council		WOODCOCK Ian	
Warren Shire Council	A Ward	DERRETT Sarah	Independent
Warren Shire Council	A Ward	DRUCE Heather	
Warren Shire Council	A Ward	SERDITY Pauline	
Warren Shire Council	B Ward	BEACH Mark	
Warren Shire Council	B Ward	QUIGLEY Milton	
Warren Shire Council	B Ward	WILSON Rex	Independent
Warren Shire Council	C Ward	HIGGINS Ron	Independent
Warren Shire Council	C Ward	TAYLOR Kevin	Independent
Warren Shire Council	C Ward	WALKER Katrina	
Warren Shire Council	D Ward	BREWER Andrew	Independent
Warren Shire Council	D Ward	IRVING Karlene	
Warren Shire Council	D Ward	WILLIAMSON Brett	Independent
Warrumbungle Shire Council		BRADY Kodi	Independent
Warrumbungle Shire Council		CAPEL Anne-Louise	Independent
Warrumbungle Shire Council		CLANCY Fred	Independent
Warrumbungle Shire Council		DOOLAN Ambrose	
Warrumbungle Shire Council		HILL Wendy	
Warrumbungle Shire Council		IANNUZZI Aniello	
Warrumbungle Shire Council		LEWIS Ray	
Warrumbungle Shire Council		SHINTON Peter	
Warrumbungle Shire Council		TODD Denis	
Weddin Shire Council		BEMBRICK Craig	
Weddin Shire Council		BEST Paul	Independent
Weddin Shire Council		BROWN Carly	Independent
Weddin Shire Council		DIPROSE Phillip	Independent
Weddin Shire Council		LIEBICH Mark	
Weddin Shire Council		McKELLAR Stuart	Independent
Weddin Shire Council		NIVEN John	

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Weddin Shire Council		O'BYRNE Stephen	Independent
Weddin Shire Council		PARLETT Jan	Independent
Wentworth Shire Council		ELSTONE Tim	Independent
Wentworth Shire Council		EVANS Greg	
Wentworth Shire Council		HEDERICS Melisa	Independent
Wentworth Shire Council		HEYWOOD Steve	Independent
Wentworth Shire Council		MACALLISTER Jane	Independent
Wentworth Shire Council		McKINNON Don	Independent
Wentworth Shire Council		NICHOLS Susan	Independent
Wentworth Shire Council		NUNAN Peter	Independent
Wentworth Shire Council		WHEELDON Bill	
Wingecarribee Shire Council		ANDREWS Grahame	Independent
Wingecarribee Shire Council		GAIR Duncan	Independent
Wingecarribee Shire Council		HALSTEAD Ken	Independent
Wingecarribee Shire Council		MARKWART Gordon	The Greens
Wingecarribee Shire Council		McLAUGHLIN Graham	Labor
Wingecarribee Shire Council		NELSON Peter	Independent
Wingecarribee Shire Council		SCANDRETT Ian	Independent
Wingecarribee Shire Council		TURLAND Garry	Independent
Wingecarribee Shire Council		WHIPPER Larry	Independent
Wollondilly Shire Council	Central	KHAN Robert	Independent
Wollondilly Shire Council	Central Ward	BANASIK Michael	Independent
Wollondilly Shire Council	Central Ward	BRIGGS Blair	Independent
Wollondilly Shire Council	East Ward	DEETH Matthew	Independent
Wollondilly Shire Council	East Ward	LAW Ray	Independent
Wollondilly Shire Council	East Ward	LOWRY Noel	Independent
Wollondilly Shire Council	North Ward	GOULD Matt	Independent
Wollondilly Shire Council	North Ward	HANNAN Judy	Independent
Wollondilly Shire Council	North Ward	LANDOW Simon	Independent
Yass Valley Council		ABBEY Rowena	Independent
Yass Valley Council		BURGESS Cecil	Independent
Yass Valley Council		FROST Geoff	Independent
Yass Valley Council		FURRY Nathan	Independent
Yass Valley Council		HARKER Allison	Independent

Council	Ward	Successful Candidate	Party
Yass Valley Council		JONES Jasmin	Independent
Yass Valley Council		McMANUS Michael	
Yass Valley Council		REID Mike	Independent
Yass Valley Council		TURNER Kim	Independent

Note: Unaffiliated candidates had the option to have their status recorded as 'Independent' or left blank. This table reflects their choices.

Appendix C: Candidates elected as Mayor, 2016 NSW Local Government Elections

Council	Successful Candidate	Party
Ballina Shire Council	WRIGHT David	Independent
Bellingen Shire Council	KING Dominic	The Greens
The Council of the City of Broken Hill	TURLEY Darriea	Country Labor
Byron Shire Council	RICHARDSON Simon	The Greens
Cessnock City Council	PYNSENT Bob	Country Labor
Coffs Harbour City Council	KNIGHT Denise	-
Eurobodalla Shire Council	INNES Liz	-
Griffith City Council	DAL BROI John	Independent
Lismore City Council	SMITH Isaac	Country Labor
Liverpool City Council	WALLER Wendy	Labor
Nambucca Shire Council	HOBAN Rhonda	Independent
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	BESSELING Peter	Independent
Richmond Valley Council	MUSTOW Robert	Independent
Shoalhaven City Council	FINDLEY Amanda	The Greens
Singleton Council	MOORE Sue	Independent
Council of the City of Sydney	MOORE Clover	Clover Moore Independent Team
Uralla Shire Council	PEARCE Michael	-

Appendix D: 2016 Local Government Elections - Elections per Council

There were no polls in the 2016 Local Government Elections.

Council	Councillor	Mayor	Referenda	Total
Albury City Council	1	0	0	1
Ballina Shire Council	3	1	0	4
Balranald Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Bega Valley Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Bellingen Shire Council	1	1	0	2
Berrigan Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Blacktown City Council	5	0	0	5
Bland Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Blue Mountains City Council	4	0	0	4
Bogan Shire Council	1	0	0	1
The Council of the Shire of Bourke	1	0	0	1
Brewarrina Shire Council	1	0	0	1
The Council of the City of Broken Hill	1	1	0	2
Byron Shire Council	1	1	0	2
Camden Council	3	0	0	3
Campbelltown City Council	1	0	0	1
Carrathool Shire Council	2	0	0	2
Cessnock City Council	4	1	0	5
Clarence Valley Council	1	0	0	1
Cobar Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Coffs Harbour City Council	1	1	0	2
Coolamon Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Coonamble Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Cowra Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Eurobodalla Shire Council	1	1	0	2
Forbes Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Gilgandra Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Glen Innes Severn Council	1	0	0	1
Goulburn Mulwaree Council	1	0	0	1
Greater Hume Shire Council	3	0	0	3
Griffith City Council	1	1	0	2

Council	Councillor	Mayor	Referenda	Total
Gwydir Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Hawkesbury City Council	1	0	1	2
Hay Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Inverell Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Junee Shire Council	1	0	0	1
The Council of the Municipality of Kiama	1	0	0	1
Kyogle Council	3	0	0	3
Lachlan Shire Council	5	0	0	5
Leeton Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Lismore City Council	1	1	0	2
City of Lithgow Council	1	0	0	1
Liverpool City Council	2	1	0	3
Liverpool Plains Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Lockhart Shire Council	3	0	0	3
Mid-Western Regional Council	1	0	0	1
Moree Plains Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Muswellbrook Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Nambucca Shire Council	1	1	0	2
Narrabri Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Narrandera Shire Council	1	0	1	2
Narromine Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Parkes Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	1	1	0	2
Richmond Valley Council	1	1	0	2
Shoalhaven City Council	3	1	0	4
Singleton Council	1	1	0	2
Sutherland Shire Council	5	0	0	5
Council of the City of Sydney	1	1	0	2
Tamworth Regional Council	1	0	0	1
Temora Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Tenterfield Shire Council	5	0	1	6
Tweed Shire Council	1	0	1	2
Upper Hunter Shire Council	1	0	1	2

Council	Councillor	Mayor	Referenda	Total
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Uralla Shire Council	2	1	0	3
The Council of the City of Wagga Wagga	1	0	0	1
Walcha Council	4	0	0	4
Walgett Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Warren Shire Council	4	0	0	4
Warrumbungle Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Weddin Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Wentworth Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Wingecarribee Shire Council	1	0	0	1
Wollondilly Shire Council	3	0	1	4
Yass Valley Council	1	0	0	1
Total	120	17	6	144

Appendix E: 2016 Local Government Elections - Councils with Mayoral elections

Ballina Shire Council

Bellingen Shire Council

Byron Shire Council

Cessnock City Council

Coffs Harbour City Council

Council of the City of Sydney

Eurobodalla Shire Council

Griffith City Council

Lismore City Council

Liverpool City Council

Nambucca Shire Council

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Richmond Valley Council

Shoalhaven City Council

Singleton Council

The Council of the City of Broken Hill

Uralla Shire Council

Appendix F: 2016 Local Government Elections Referenda

Council	Total votes	Referendum Question	Result
Hawkesbury City Council	38,601	Currently Hawkesbury City Council is an undivided council with no wards. Do you agree to the Hawkesbury Local Government Area being divided into three (3) wards, each ward electing four (4) Councillors?	Not passed
Narranderra Shire Council	3,491	Do you support a reduction in the number of Councillors for the Narrandera Shire Council from nine (9) to seven (7)?	Not passed
Tenterfield Shire Council	3,857	Do you favour the removal of the current ward based system so that all electors vote for all 10 Councillors that represent the Tenterfield Shire Council area?	Not passed
Tweed Shire Council	50,695	Do you support an increase in the number of Tweed Shire Councillors from seven (7) to nine (9)? If there is majority support for the proposal, the changes will take effect from the 2020 Local Government election.	Not passed
Upper Hunter Shire Council	7,860	The Mayor of the Upper Hunter Shire Council is currently elected annually by the nine (9) Councillors. Do you want to change to the direct election of the Mayor by the voters of the Upper Hunter Shire Council, for a four (4) year term, with the number of Councillors (including the Mayor) remaining at nine (9)?	Not passed
Wollondilly Shire Council	25,152	Do you favour the election of the Mayor by electors for a four (4) year term with the number of Wards reduced from three (3) to two (2), each Ward comprising of four (4) Councillors, plus a popularly elected Mayor?	Passed

Appendix G: 2016 Local Government Elections Non-resident enrolment numbers by Council

Council	Non-resident electors
Albury City Council	4
Ballina Shire Council	3
Balranald Shire Council	1
Bega Valley Shire Council	5
Bellingen Shire Council	3
Berrigan Shire Council	1
Blacktown City Council	6
Bland Shire Council	0
Blue Mountains City Council	5
Bogan Shire Council	0
The Council of the Shire of Bourke	0
Brewarrina Shire Council	0
The Council of the City of Broken Hill	34
Byron Shire Council	13
Camden Council	8
Campbelltown City Council	9
Carrathool Shire Council	2
Cessnock City Council	0
Clarence Valley Council	1
Cobar Shire Council	1
Coffs Harbour City Council	2
Coolamon Shire Council	4
Coonamble Shire Council	0
Cowra Shire Council	0
Eurobodalla Shire Council	248
Forbes Shire Council	0
Gilgandra Shire Council	0
Glen Innes Severn Council	3
Goulburn Mulwaree Council	1
Greater Hume Shire Council	1
Griffith City Council	0
Gwydir Shire Council	3
Hawkesbury City Council	21
Hay Shire Council	1
Inverell Shire Council	0
Junee Shire Council	0
The Council of the Municipality of Kiama	2
Kyogle Council	0
Lachlan Shire Council	0
Leeton Shire Council	0
Lismore City Council	4

Council	Non-resident electors
City of Lithgow Council	0
Liverpool City Council	75
Liverpool Plains Shire Council	0
Lockhart Shire Council	0
Mid-Western Regional Council	1
Moree Plains Shire Council	0
Muswellbrook Shire Council	0
Nambucca Shire Council	0
Narrabri Shire Council	0
Narrandera Shire Council	1
Narromine Shire Council	0
Parkes Shire Council	0
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	2
Richmond Valley Council	0
Shoalhaven City Council	13
Singleton Council	23
Sutherland Shire Council	2
Council of the City of Sydney	22972
Tamworth Regional Council	0
Temora Shire Council	5
Tenterfield Shire Council	1
Tweed Shire Council	13
Upper Hunter Shire Council	1
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	3
Uralla Shire Council	2
The Council of the City of Wagga Wagga	1
Walcha Council	0
Walgett Shire Council	2
Warren Shire Council	0
Warrumbungle Shire Council	0
Weddin Shire Council	0
Wentworth Shire Council	12
Wingecarribee Shire Council	6
Wollondilly Shire Council	2
Yass Valley Council	2

Appendix H: 2016 Local Government Elections Regions, Stand Alone Elections and Location of Returning Officers

Local Government Elections Region Name	Councils in Region	Location of Returning Officer's Office
Albury Region	Albury City Council, Greater Hume Shire Council	Albury Region Returning Officer's Office Suite 2, 530-540 Swift Street Albury NSW 2640
Ballina Region	Ballina Shire Council, Byron Shire Council	Ballina Region Returning Officer's Office 1/3-5 Clark Street Ballina NSW 2478
Balranald Region	Balranald Shire Council, Hay Shire Council, Wentworth Shire Council	Balranald Region Returning Officer's Office CWA Hall 120 Market Street Balranald NSW 2715
Cobar Region	The Council of the Shire of Bourke, Brewarrina Shire Council, Cobar Shire Council	Cobar Region Returning Officer's Office 57-59 Marshall Street Cobar NSW 2835
Coffs Harbour Region	Bellingen Shire Council , Coffs Harbour City Council, Nambucca Shire Council	Coffs Harbour Region Returning Officer's Office Norm Jordan Pavilion Coffs Harbour Showground, 123 Pacific Highway Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Cowra Region	Bland Shire Council, Cowra Shire Council, Weddin Shire Council	Cowra Region Returning Officer's Office 137 Kendal Street Cowra NSW 2794
Eurobodalla Region	Bega Valley Shire Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council	Eurobodalla Region Returning Officer's Office 39 Vulcan Street Moruya NSW 2537
Gilgandra Region	Coonamble Shire Council, Gilgandra Shire Council, Warrumbungle Shire Council	Gilgandra Region Returning Officer's Office 72 Miller Street Gilgandra NSW 2827
Glen Innes Severn Region	Glen Innes Severn Council, Inverell Shire Council, Tenterfield Shire Council	Glen Innes Severn Region Returning Officer's Office Glen Innes Town Hall 265 Grey Street Glen Innes NSW 2370
Griffith Region	Carrathool Shire Council, Griffith City Council, Leeton Shire Council, Narrandera Shire Council	Griffith Region Returning Officer's Office 12b Kooyoo Street Griffith NSW 2680

Local Government Elections Region Name	Councils in Region	Location of Returning Officer's Office
Gwydir Region	Gwydir Shire Council, Moree Plains Shire Council	Gwydir Region Returning Officer's Office Gwydir Shire Council - Bingara Office 33 Maitland Street Bingara NSW 2404
Lismore Region	Kyogle Council, Lismore City Council, Richmond Valley Council	Lismore Region Returning Officer's Office 146-148 Molesworth Street Lismore NSW 2480
Lithgow Region	City of Lithgow Council, Mid-Western Regional Council	Lithgow Region Returning Officer's Office Shop 8, Pottery Plaza, Valley Drive Pottery Estate NSW 2790
Muswellbrook Region	Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council, Upper Hunter Shire Council	Muswellbrook Region Returning Officer's Office Shop 7, 88-96 Bridge Street Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Narrabri Region	Narrabri Shire Council, Walgett Shire Council	Narrabri Region Returning Officer's Office Exhibition Room, The Crossing Theatre 117 Tibbereena Street Narrabri NSW 2390
Narromine Region	Bogan Shire Council, Narromine Shire Council, Warren Shire Council	Narromine Region Returning Officer's Office Narromine Shire Council Customer Service and Payments Centre 118-120 Dandaloo Street Narromine NSW 2821
Parkes Region	Forbes Shire Council, Lachlan Shire Council, Parkes Shire Council	Parkes Region Returning Officer's Office The Coventry Room, Parkes Cultural Centre Bogan Street Parkes NSW 2870
Singleton Region	Cessnock City Council, Singleton Council	Singleton Region Returning Officer's Office Shop 23, 159 John Street Singleton NSW 2330
Tamworth Region	Tamworth Regional Council, Uralla Shire Council, Walcha Council	Tamworth Region Returning Officer's Office 498 Peel Street Tamworth NSW 2340
Temora Region	Coolamon Shire Council, Junee Shire Council, Temora Shire Council	Temora Region Returning Officer's Office

Local Government Elections Region Name	Councils in Region	Location of Returning Officer's Office
		232 - 234 Hoskins Street Temora NSW 2666
Wagga Wagga Region	Lockhart Shire Council, The Council of the City of Wagga Wagga	Wagga Wagga Region Returning Officer's Office Ground Floor, Suites 1 & 2 63-65 Johnston Street Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Yass Valley Region	Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Yass Valley Council	Yass Valley Region Returning Officer's Office 1411 Yass Valley Way Yass NSW 2582

Stand Alone Councils	Location of Returning Officer's Office
Berrigan Shire Council	Berrigan Returning Officer's Office Tocumwal Bowling Club 5-7 Adams Street Tocumwal NSW 2714
Blacktown City Council	Blacktown Returning Officer's Office L1, Suite 2, 22 Main Street Blacktown NSW 2148
Blue Mountains City Council	Blue Mountains Returning Officer's Office 225-237 Great Western Highway Katoomba NSW 2780
Camden Council	Camden Returning Officer's Office The Undercroft, Camden Civic Centre 40 Oxley Street Camden NSW 2570
Campbelltown City Council	Campbelltown Returning Officer's Office Campbelltown Civic Hall 91 Queen Street Campbelltown NSW 2560
Clarence Valley Council	Clarence Valley Returning Officer's Office Clarence Valley Council Chambers Meeting Room 2 Prince Street Grafton NSW 2460
Council of the City of Sydney	Sydney Returning Officer's Office Level 1, 189 Kent Street Sydney NSW 2000
Hawkesbury City Council	Hawkesbury Returning Officer's Office 303 Windsor Street Richmond NSW 2753

Stand Alone Councils	Location of Returning Officer's Office
Liverpool City Council	Liverpool Returning Officer's Office Shop 8, 1 Sappho Road Warwick Farm NSW 2170
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	Port Macquarie-Hastings Returning Officer's Office 143a Horton Street Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Shoalhaven City Council	Shoalhaven Returning Officer's Office Unit 1, 10 Pleasant Way Nowra NSW 2541
Sutherland Shire Council	Sutherland Returning Officer's Office Level 2, Kirkby House 33-35 Belmont Street Sutherland NSW 2232
TheCouncil of the City of Broken Hill	Broken Hill Returning Officer's Office 178 Argent Street Broken Hill NSW 2880
The Council of the Municipality of Kiama	Kiama Returning Officer's Office Lower Pavilion, Kiama Showground 2 Bong Bong Street Kiama NSW 2533
Wingecarribee Shire Council	Wingecarribee Returning Officer's Office Unit 15, Sherwood Village Sherwood Avenue Bowral NSW 2576
Wollondilly Shire Council	Wollondilly Returning Officer's Office Tahmoor CWA Hall 98 York Street Tahmoor NSW 2573

Appendix I: 2016 Local Government Elections: Councils with councillor ballot papers computer counted locally

Returning Office	Council ballot papers counted at this office
Albury Region RO Office	1. Albury 2. Greater Hume - East 3. Greater Hume - North 4. Greater Hume - South
Ballina Region RO Office	1. Ballina - A 2. Ballina - B 3. Ballina - C 4. Byron
Balranald Region RO Office	1. Balranald 2. Hay 3. Wentworth
Berrigan RO Office	Berrigan
Broken Hill RO Office	Broken Hill
Clarence Valley RO Office	Clarence Valley
Cobar Region RO Office	1. Cobar 2. Bourke 3. Brewarrina
Coffs Harbour Region RO Office	1. Coffs Harbour 2. Bellingen 3. Nambucca
Cowra Region RO Office	1. Cowra 2. Weddin 3. Bland
Eurobodalla Region RO Office	1. Eurobodalla 2. Bega
Gilgandra Region RO Office	1. Gilgandra 2. Coonamble 3. Warrumbugle
Glen Innes Severn Region RO Office	1. Glen Innes Severn 2. Tenterfield A 3. Tenterfield B 4. Tenterfield C 5. Tenterfield D 6. Tenterfield E 3. Inverell
Griffith Region RO Office	1. Griffith 2. Leeton 3. Narrandera

Returning Office	Council ballot papers counted at this office
Gwydir Region RO Office	1. Gwydir 2. Moree Plains
Kiama RO Office	Kiama
Lismore Region RO Office	1. Lismore 2. Kyogle - A 3. Kyogle - B 4. Kyogle - C 5. Richmond Valley
Lithgow Region RO Office	1. Lithgow 2. Mid Western
Muswellbrook Region RO Office	1. Muswellbrook 2. Upper Hunter 3. Liverpool Plains
Narrabri Region RO Office	1. Narrabri 2. Walgett
Narromine Region RO Office	1. Narromine 2. Warren - A 3. Warren - C 4. Warren - D 5. Bogan
Parkes Region RO Office	1. Parkes 2. Forbes 3. Lachlan - B 4. Lachlan - C 5. Lachlan - D
Port Macquarie-Hastings RO Office	Port Macquarie
Shoalhaven RO Office	1. Shoalhaven - One 2. Shoalhaven - Two 3. Shoalhaven - Three
Singleton Region RO Office	1. Singleton 2. Cessnock - A 3. Cessnock - B 4. Cessnock - C 5. Cessnock - D
Tamworth Region RO Office	1. Tamworth 2. Uralla - A 3. Uralla - B 4. Walcha - A 5. Walcha - B 6. Walcha - C 7. Walcha - D
Temora Region RO Office	1. Temora 2. Junee

Returning Office	Council ballot papers counted at this office
Wagga Wagga Region RO Office	1. Wagga Wagga 2. Lockhart - A 3. Lockhart - B
Yass Valley Region RO Office	1. Upper Lachlan 2. Goulburn 3. Yass

Appendix J: Declaration dates and times of election results

Council	Election	Date and Time Declared
Bland Shire Council	Councillor	20/09/2016 14:32
Blue Mountains City Council Ward 1	Councillor	17/09/2016 10:07
Blue Mountains City Council Ward 2	Councillor	17/09/2016 10:10
Blue Mountains City Council Ward 3	Councillor	17/09/2016 10:14
Blue Mountains City Council Ward 4	Councillor	17/09/2016 10:17
Bogan Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 14:51
The Council of the Shire of Bourke	Councillor	17/09/2016 10:41
Brewarrina Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 12:13
The Council of the City of Broken Hill	Councillor	19/09/2016 11:22
The Council of the City of Broken Hill	Mayoral	15/09/2016 17:10
Byron Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 15:03
Byron Shire Council	Mayoral	15/09/2016 17:10
Camden Council Central Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 11:19
Camden Council North Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 11:20
Camden Council South Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 11:20
Campbelltown City Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:45
Carrathool Shire Council Ward A	Councillor	10/09/2016 18:06
Carrathool Shire Council Ward B	Councillor	10/09/2016 18:06
Cessnock City Council A Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:32
Cessnock City Council B Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:33
Cessnock City Council C Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:34
Cessnock City Council D Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:35
Cessnock City Council	Mayoral	16/09/2016 14:47
Clarence Valley Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 17:03
Cobar Shire Council	Councillor	16/09/2016 14:37
Coffs Harbour City Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 17:15
Coffs Harbour City Council	Mayoral	16/09/2016 9:50
Coolamon Shire Council	Councillor	10/09/2016 18:06
Coonamble Shire Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:10
Cowra Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 10:05
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Councillor	20/09/2016 10:45
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Mayoral	16/09/2016 12:02
Fairfield City Council Cabravale Ward*	Councillor	23/09/2016
Fairfield City Council Fairfield Ward*	Councillor	23/09/2016
Fairfield City Council Parks Ward*	Councillor	23/09/2016
Fairfield City Council*	Mayoral	22/09/2016
Forbes Shire Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:47
Gilgandra Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 14:45
Glen Innes Severn Council	Councillor	16/09/2016 14:32
Goulburn Mulwaree Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:49

Council	Election	Date and Time Declared
Greater Hume Shire Council East Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:38
Greater Hume Shire Council North Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:39
Greater Hume Shire Council South Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:39
Griffith City Council	Councillor	20/09/2016 10:49
Griffith City Council	Mayoral	16/09/2016 18:32
Gunnedah Shire Council	Councillor	16/09/2016 11:00
Gwydir Shire Council	Councillor	16/09/2016 10:26
Hawkesbury City Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 18:15
Hay Shire Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:04
Inverell Shire Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:07
Junee Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 12:09
Kempsey Shire Council*	Councillor	15/09/2016
Kempsey Shire Council*	Mayoral	15/09/2016
The Council of the Municipality of Kiama	Councillor	17/09/2016 17:09
Kyogle Council A Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 12:01
Kyogle Council B Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 12:02
Kyogle Council C Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 12:02
Lachlan Shire Council A Ward	Councillor	10/09/2016 18:06
Lachlan Shire Council B Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 14:41
Lachlan Shire Council C Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 15:01
Lachlan Shire Council D Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 14:53
Lachlan Shire Council E Ward	Councillor	10/09/2016 18:06
Lake Macquarie City Council East Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 10:00
Lake Macquarie City Council North Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 10:00
Lake Macquarie City Council West Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 10:00
Lake Macquarie City Council	Mayoral	19/09/2016 10:00
Leeton Shire Council	Councillor	20/09/2016 10:51
Lismore City Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 17:23
Lismore City Council	Mayoral	16/09/2016 09:54
City of Lithgow Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 14:55
Liverpool City Council North Ward	Councillor	20/09/2016 14:26
Liverpool City Council South Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 17:41
Liverpool City Council	Mayoral	16/09/2016 09:59
Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 11:06
Lockhart Shire Council A Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 12:50
Lockhart Shire Council B Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 15:06
Lockhart Shire Council C Ward	Councillor	10/09/2016 18:06

Council	Election	Date and Time Declared
Mid-Western Regional Council	Councillor	20/09/2016 10:42
Moree Plains Shire Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 11:09
Muswellbrook Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 18:00
Nambucca Shire Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 12:42
Nambucca Shire Council	Mayoral	15/09/2016 17:09
Narrabri Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 18:18
Narrandera Shire Council	Councillor	20/09/2016 10:53
Narromine Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 10:32
Parkes Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 18:03
Penrith City Council East Ward*	Councillor	20/09/2016
Penrith City Council East Ward*	Councillor	20/09/2016
Penrith City Council East Ward*	Councillor	20/09/2016
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	Councillor	20/09/2016 14:30
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	Mayoral	15/09/2016 17:15
Richmond Valley Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:06
Richmond Valley Council	Mayoral	15/09/2016 12:52
Shoalhaven City Council Ward 1	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:08
Shoalhaven City Council Ward 2	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:09
Shoalhaven City Council Ward 3	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:09
Shoalhaven City Council	Mayoral	17/09/2016 10:18
Singleton Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:11
Singleton Council	Mayoral	16/09/2016 15:56
Sutherland Shire Council A Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 18:27
Sutherland Shire Council B Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 18:34
Sutherland Shire Council C Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 18:30
Sutherland Shire Council D Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 18:29
Sutherland Shire Council E Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 18:28
Council of the City of Sydney	Councillor	17/09/2016 18:25
Council of the City of Sydney	Mayoral	16/09/2016 14:14
Tamworth Regional Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:14
Temora Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 10:03
Tenterfield Shire Council Ward A	Councillor	17/09/2016 12:20
Tenterfield Shire Council Ward B	Councillor	17/09/2016 12:19
Tenterfield Shire Council Ward C	Councillor	17/09/2016 12:21
Tenterfield Shire Council Ward D	Councillor	19/09/2016 11:57
Tenterfield Shire Council Ward E	Councillor	17/09/2016 12:21
Tweed Shire Council	Councillor	4/11/2016 18:00
Upper Hunter Shire Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 11:07
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 10:00
Uralla Shire Council Ward A	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:14
Uralla Shire Council Ward B	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:15
Uralla Shire Council	Mayoral	15/09/2016 16:14

Council	Election	Date and Time Declared
The Council of the City of Wagga Wagga	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:19
Walcha Council A Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:15
Walcha Council B Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:15
Walcha Council C Ward	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:16
Walcha Council D Ward	Councillor	16/09/2016 09:07
Walgett Shire Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 11:02
Warren Shire Council A Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 11:57
Warren Shire Council B Ward	Councillor	10/09/2016 18:07
Warren Shire Council C Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 11:59
Warren Shire Council D Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 11:58
Warrumbungle Shire Council	Councillor	11/09/2016 11:35
Weddin Shire Council	Councillor	17/09/2016 10:39
Wentworth Shire Council	Councillor	20/09/2016 10:35
Wingecarribee Shire Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 11:55
Wollondilly Shire Council Central Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 14:43
Wollondilly Shire Council East Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 12:47
Wollondilly Shire Council North Ward	Councillor	17/09/2016 14:52
Yass Valley Council	Councillor	19/09/2016 13:56

Note: We cannot provide declaration times for some councils which conducted their own elections, marked *

Appendix K: 2016 Local Government Elections Political Parties Registered and Participating

State Registered Parties

Registered Party Name	Abbreviated Party Name
Animal Justice Party	AJP
Australian Cyclists Party	
Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Labor
Building Australia Party	Building Australia
Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Christian Democratic Party
Country Labor Party	Country Labor
Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Liberal
National Party of Australia - NSW	The Nationals
No Parking Meters Party	
Outdoor Recreation Party	ORP
Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers
Socialist Alliance	
The Fishing Party	
The Greens	
Voluntary Euthanasia Party (NSW)	Voluntary Euthanasia Party

Local Government Registered Parties

Registered Party Name	Abbreviated Party Name
Albury Citizens and Ratepayers Movement	
Australia First Party (NSW) Incorporated (Councils)	Australia First Party
Bob Thompson's Independent Team	
Clover Moore Independent Team	Clover Moore Independents
Community Service "Environment" Save Campbelltown Koalas	Community Service "Environment"
Community First Team	
Cumberland Independents	
Democratic Labour Party	DLP
Eurobodalla Ratepayers Action	ERA
Good for Manly	
Independent Community Voice	ICV

Registered Party Name	Abbreviated Party Name
Kogarah Residents' Association	
Lake Mac Independents	
Liberal Democratic Party	Liberal Democrats
Liverpool Community Independents Team	
Lorraine Wearne Independents	
Manly Independents - Putting Residents First	Manly Independents
Our Local Community	OLC
Our Sustainable Future	OSF
Residents Action Group for Auburn Area	RAGAA
Residents First Woollahra	Residents First
Residents for Mosman	RFM
Save Tuggerah Lakes	STL
Serving Mosman	
Shoalhaven Independents Group	Shoal Independents
Sustainable Development Party	SDP
Sydney Matters Independent Team	Sydney Matters Team
The Local Independent Party	
Totally Locally Committed Party	TLC
Your North Sydney Community Independent Team	Your North Sydney
Your Warringah	Your Warringah

Appendix L: 2016 Local Government Elections Languages spoken by Election Officials

Language	Number of Election Officials speaking this language
Afrikaans	2
Akan	1
Arabic	66
Armenian	1
Assyrian	10
Australian Sign Language	8
Bengali	19
Bosnian	4
Cantonese	77
Croatian	18
Czech	1
Danish	2
Dari	75
Dutch	4
Estonian	1
Fijian	3
Filipino	71
French	57
German	30
Greek	27
Gujarati	7
Hakka Chinese	1
Hazaragi	1
Hindi	132
Hokkien Chinese	4
Hungarian	4
Indigenous languages	2
Indonesian	19
Irish	2
Italian	63
Japanese	11

Language	Number of Election Officials speaking this language
Kannada	8
Khmer	10
Kirundi	2
Konkani	1
Korean	7
Kurdish	1
Lao	7
Latvian	2
Macedonian	13
Malay	3
Malayalam	3
Maltese	8
Marathi	3
Nepali	2
Norwegian	1
Persian	9
Polish	9
Portuguese	5
Punjabi	52
Pushto	1
Romanian	1
Russian	11
Samoan	4
Serbian	11
Sinhala	11
Slovenian	1
Spanish	36
Sundanese	3
Swahili	3
Tamil	36
Telugu	11
Teochew Chinese	5
Thai	7

Language	Number of Election Officials speaking this language
Tok Pisin	1
Turkish	10
Ukrainian	1
Urdu	23
Vietnamese	58
Xhosa	1
Yoruba	1

Appendix M: 2016 Local Government Elections State-wide Advertising Campaign

Press ads artwork

Press advertisement 1: Enrolment

VOTE FOR YOU.
MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY FOR 10 SEPTEMBER.

NSW Council Elections are on Saturday, 10 September.

It's your chance to vote for what's important to you locally. But to be heard, you must be correctly enrolled. To check and update your enrolment info visit our website or call us.

You may be able to vote for a council outside your residential enrolment
Owners, rate-paying lessees or occupiers of rateable land which is not their primary place of residence can enrol or nominate someone to be on the non-residential roll for the relevant council election.

Non-residential rolls lapse after each election so you must enrol using the form available from your council by 6pm Monday, 1 August 2016.

Not all councils are holding elections on 10 September.
To check whether you need to vote visit our website or call us.

VOTING IS COMPULSORY IN ALL AREAS CONDUCTING ELECTIONS.
THE FINE FOR NOT VOTING IS $55.

www.votensw.info or call 1300 135 736.

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

YOUR COUNCIL.
YOUR LIFE.
YOUR VOTE.

electoral commission NSW

Authorised by Linda Franklin, Acting Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney, NSW, 2000.

Press advertisement 2: Is Your Council Having an Election?

Press advertisement 3a: Pre-Poll & Postal Voting – 1ˢᵗ burst

Press advertisement 3a: Pre-Poll & Postal Voting – 1st burst (community languages example)

VOTE FOR YOU.
HAVE YOUR SAY EARLY
IF YOU'RE AWAY.

NSW Council Elections are on Saturday, 10 September.

On election day you must vote at a polling place within your council area or ward. There is no out of area or internet voting at council elections, so if you can't vote at a local polling place, you can still vote.

Vote early: at your local pre-poll voting centre from Monday, 29 August 2016 to Friday, 9 September 2016. For locations visit our website or call us.

Vote by post: apply for a postal vote online or request one by calling us. You must lodge a completed form by 5pm Monday, 5 September 2016.

Not all councils are holding elections on 10 September.
To check whether you need to vote visit our website or call us.

VOTING IS COMPULSORY IN ALL AREAS CONDUCTING ELECTIONS.
THE FINE FOR NOT VOTING IS $55.

For information visit www.votensw.info or call 1300 135 736.

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

Y☐UR COUNCIL.
Y☐UR LIFE.
Y☐UR VOTE.

€ electoral
commission NSW

Authorised by Linda Franklin, Acting Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney, NSW, 2000.

Press advertisement 4: Register Electoral Material

REGISTER YOUR ELECTORAL MATERIAL

NSW Council Elections Saturday, 10 September 2016

All electoral material (including how to vote cards) to be distributed on election day, Saturday, 10 September 2016, by any person or organisation, including candidates, groups or registered political parties, must be registered.

Information on registering electoral material is available in the Handbook for Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers on the NSW Electoral Commission website.

Applications can be made between Wednesday, 10 August and 5pm, Friday 2 September 2016. Material received after the deadline will not be considered.

Applications should be lodged via the online registration system on the NSWEC website **www.votensw.info.**

Electoral material distributed before election day is not required to be registered but must comply with electoral legislation.

For information visit www.votensw.info or call 1300 088 942.

Note: The NSW Electoral Commission is not managing the elections for all councils. For further information visit our website or call us.

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

YOUR COUNCIL.
YOUR LIFE.
YOUR VOTE.

€ electoral commission **NSW**

Authorised by Linda Franklin, Acting Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney, NSW, 2000.

VOTE AT SYDNEY TOWN HALL

NSW Council Elections Saturday, 10 September 2016

If you can't vote at a polling place in your council (or ward) area on election day you can vote early, or on election day, at Sydney Town Hall.

Sydney Town Hall is the only polling place where you can vote for all councils holding elections (with the exception of Fairfield and Penrith). Otherwise you must vote within your local area.

Not all councils are having elections on 10 September. To check whether you need to vote visit our website or call us.

Voting available on the following days. See the website for opening times.

Monday 29 August to Saturday, 3 September	**Marconi Room** (entry from Druitt Street)
Monday, 6 to Friday, 9 September	**Lower Town Hall** (entry from Town Hall Square)
Election day Saturday, 10 September	**Lower Town Hall** (entry from Town Hall Square)

*Voting at Sydney Town Hall is wheelchair accessible.

VOTING IS COMPULSORY IN ALL AREAS CONDUCTING ELECTIONS. THE FINE FOR NOT VOTING IS $55.

For information visit www.votensw.info or call 1300 135 736.

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

YOUR COUNCIL. YOUR LIFE. YOUR VOTE.

electoral commission NSW

Authorised by Linda Franklin, Acting Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney, NSW, 2000.

Press advertisement 6: Remember to Vote

VOTE FOR YOU.
REMEMBER TO VOTE THIS SATURDAY.

NSW Council election day is Saturday, 10 September

It's your chance to vote for what's important to you locally.
On Saturday, 10 September you must vote at a polling place in your Council
or ward area between 8am and 6pm.

If you can't vote on Saturday you can vote early until 6pm this Friday, 9 September
at your local pre-poll voting centre.

**Not all councils are holding elections this Saturday.
To check whether you need to vote visit our website or call us.**

**VOTING IS COMPULSORY IN ALL AREAS CONDUCTING ELECTIONS.
THE FINE FOR NOT VOTING IS $55.**

For information visit www.votensw.info or call 1300 135 736.

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

Y☐UR COUNCIL.
Y☐UR LIFE.
Y☐UR VOTE.

€ electoral
commission NSW

Authorised by Linda Franklin, Acting Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney, NSW, 2000.

Press advertisement 6: Remember to Vote (CALD example)

Typical map sent with media releases to local press
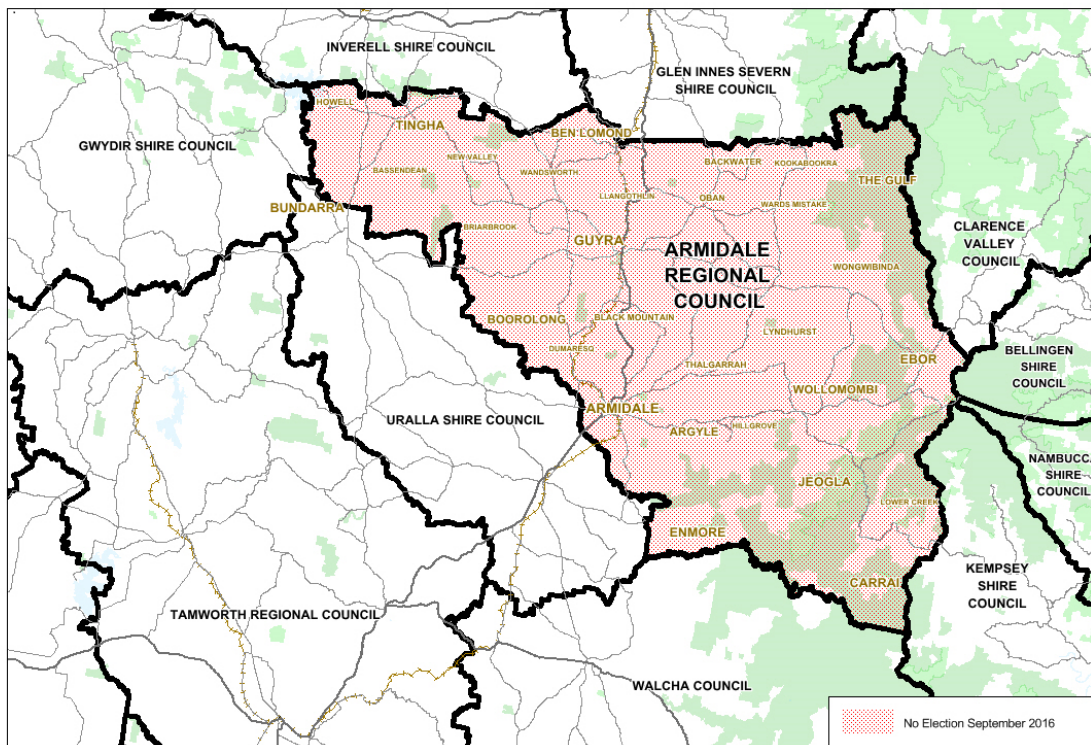
Social media advertising

Facebook advertisement 1: Is Your Council Having an Election?

Facebook advertisement 2: Pre-Poll & Postal Voting

Facebook advertisement 3: Remember to Vote

NSW Council Elections this Saturday! If your council is having an election you need to vote. — with the illustration showing "NSW Council Elections — Click for more information — HTTP://WWW.VOTENSW.INFO/ — Learn More" and engagement stats (541,016 people reached; 467 reactions; 565 shares; 326 Comments).

Digital advertising - Messages

Is Your Council Having an Election? Mrec300X250

Is Your Council Having an Election? Skyscraper 160x600
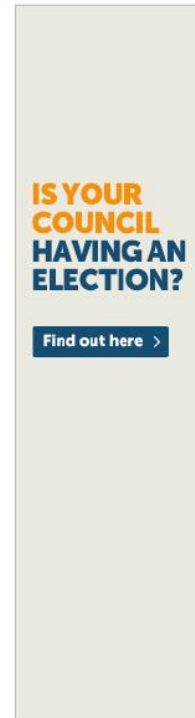
Is Your Council Having an Election? Leaderboard 728x90

Is Your Council Having an Election? Mobile 300x50

Radio

Final radio scripts with example translation

ENGLISH	TARGET LANGUAGE
Is your council holding an election?	Arabic
NSW local council elections are on Saturday, September 10th.	سوف تجري الانتخابات البلدية في NSW يوم السبت العاشر من ايلول سبتمبر
But due to council amalgamations only around half are having elections this year.	لكن وبسبب دمج البلديات فإنّ التصويت سيجري في حوالي نصفها فقط هذا العام.
Voting is compulsory where elections are being held and fines apply for not voting, so to check if you need to vote visit **votensw.info** or call 1300 135 736.	التصويت إجباري حيث تُجرى الانتخابات وتُفرض غرامات على من لا يصوّت، لذا لمعرفة ما اذا كان عليكم التصويت زوروا votensw.info او اتصلوا على رقم 736 135 1300
It's your council, your life, your vote.	إنها بلديتكم، حياتكم، صوتكم.
Early Voting – postal voting	
Many councils in NSW are holding elections on Saturday, September 10th.	ستجري الانتخابات في العديد من المجالس البلدية في NSW يوم السبت العاشر من ايلول سبتمبر.
Voting is compulsory, so if you can't get to a polling place in your Council area or Ward on election day, you can apply for a postal vote.	التصويت إجباري، لذا فإن لم تستطع الوصول الى مركز الاقتراع في منطقة بلديتك او حيّك يوم الانتخاب ، باستطاعتك التقدم بطلب للتصويت بواسطة البريد.
To check if your council is having an election and to apply for a postal vote, visit **votensw.info** or call 1300 135 736.	لمعرفة إن كانت الانتخابات ستجري في بلديتكم وللتقدم بطلب للتصويت بواسطة البريد، زوروا votensw.info او اتصلوا برقم1300135736

It's your council, your life, your vote.	إنها بلديتكم، حياتكم، صوتكم.
Early Voting – pre-poll	
Many councils in NSW are holding elections on Saturday, September 10th.	ستجري الانتخابات في العديد من المجالس البلدية في NSW يوم السبت العاشر من ايلول سبتمبر.
Voting is compulsory, so if you can't get to a polling place in your Council area or Ward on election day, you can vote early at your local pre-poll voting centre.	التصويت إجباري، لذا فإن لم تستطع الوصول الى مركز الاقتراع في منطقة بلديتك او حيّك يوم الانتخاب ، بإستطاعتكم التصويت مبكراً في مركز الانتخاب المبكّر في محلّتكم.
To check if your council is having an election and for pre-poll locations, visit **votensw.info** or call 1300 135 736.	لمعرفة إن كانت الانتخابات ستجري في بلديتكم ومراكز الانتخاب المبكّر، زوروا votensw.info او اتصلوا برقم1300135736
It's your council, your life, your vote.	إنها بلديتكم، حياتكم، صوتكم.
Remember to vote	
If your local council is holding an election this Saturday you'll need to vote within your Council area or Ward between eight A M and six PM. It's your chance to vote for what matters to you in your local area.	إذا كانت الانتخابات ستجري في بلديتكم هذا السبت فانتم بحاجة للتصويت ضمن منطقة بلديتكم او محلّتكم بين الثامنة صباحاً والسادسة مساءً. إنّها فرصتكم للتصويت على ما يهمّكم في محلّتكم.
Voting is compulsory, so to check if you need to vote, and for the location of your local polling places visit **votensw.info** or call 1300 135 736.	التصويت إجباري، لذا لمعرفة ما إذا كان عليكم التصويت ومراكز الاقتراع الخاصة بمحلّتكم زوروا votensw.info او اتصلوا ب 736 135 1300
It's your council, your life, your vote.	إنها بلديتكم، حياتكم، صوتكم.

Appendix N: 2016 Local Government Elections State-wide Advertising Campaign

Message		Timing	Media Utilised
ENROLMENT			
Press	1 burst	Week 8 prior to election	Newspapers: Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph, 35 regional. 7 regional magazines (inserted into multiple regional newspapers).
IS YOUR COUNCIL HOLDING AN ELECTION?			
Press	3 bursts	Week 7,4 & 1 prior to election	Newspapers: Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph, 11 Sydney suburban, 19 regional. 7 regional magazines (inserted into multiple regional newspapers).
Radio	3 bursts	Week 8,5 & 1 prior to election	6 x Sydney Metro stations, 38 regional radio stations, 11 Indigenous, 18 community language, Radio print handicapped
Digital Display and Social (Facebook)	Continuous	Week 6 to 1 prior to election	Geo-targeted, continuous (incl. 5 community language for Facebook)
POSTAL & PREPOLL			
Press	2 bursts	Week 5 & 3 prior to election	Newspapers: Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph, 4 Sydney Suburban, 21 regional, 15 community language. 7 regional magazines (inserted into multiple regional newspapers).
Radio	2 bursts	Week 4 & 2 prior to election	11 x Sydney Metro stations, 44 Regional radio stations, 16 Indigenous, 18 community language, Radio print handicapped
Digital Display and Social (Facebook)	Continuous	Week 5 to 2 prior to election	Geo-targeted, continuous (incl. 5 community languages for Facebook)
REGISTER ELECTORAL MATERIAL			
Press	1 burst	Week 5 prior to election	Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph
SYDNEY TOWN HALL			
Press	1 burst	Week 2 prior to election	Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph
REMEMBER TO VOTE			
Press	1 burst	Week 1 prior to election	Newspapers: Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph, 4 Sydney Suburban, 21 regional, 15 community language. 7 regional magazines (inserted into multiple regional newspapers).
Radio	1 burst	Week 1 prior to election	11 Sydney Metro stations, 44 Regional radio stations, 16 Indigenous, 18 community language, Radio print handicapped
Digital Display and Social (Facebook)	Continuous	Week 1 prior to election	Geo-targeted, continuous (incl. 5 community language for Facebook)