

HANDBOOK

For Scrutineers-
State By-Elections



INTRODUCTION

This handbook is intended to assist scrutineers by explaining relevant processes and procedures. It is not however a substitute for the law and should be read in conjunction with the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* (the Act) and the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Regulation 2006*.

While the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) will provide information, it does not provide legal advice. If candidates or scrutineers are in doubt about any legal matters regarding the election, they should seek their own independent legal advice.

All forms and publications referred to in this handbook can be downloaded from the NSWEC's website: www.elections.nsw.gov.au and the Election Funding Authority's (EFA) website www.efa.nsw.gov.au. They can also be obtained by contacting the returning officer or by contacting the NSWEC (02 9290 5999).

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GLOSSARY

Candidate	A person who is nominated for election to Parliament.
Certified list	A list of electors eligible to vote at the election.
Close of roll	The date when the roll for the election is closed and no electors can be added or deleted.
Declaration vote	<p>A vote cast by an elector when the ballot papers are enclosed in an envelope containing a printed declaration signed by the voter.</p> <p>This is a general term which includes: pre-poll, postal votes, silent elector votes and other special vote categories.</p>
Declared institution	A hospital, nursing home or convalescent home which is visited by election assistants for the purpose of taking votes from residents who are unable to attend a polling place.
Election	Selection by vote of a person(s) to hold political office. Eligible electors vote for a person(s) to represent them in the Parliament or Local Council.
Election day	The day when electors go to the polling place to vote. Sometimes referred to as polling day.
Election official	A general term to refer to people appointed to officiate at a place when electors vote. It covers a returning officer, polling place manager and election assistant.
Electoral Commissioner	The statutory officer appointed to manage the conduct of parliamentary and other elections.
Electoral district	For the Legislative Assembly, one of 93 geographical areas containing approximately equal numbers of voters.
How to vote card	Representation of a ballot paper showing an elector how to mark the paper and vote for a particular candidate, group or party.
Legislative Assembly	The lower house of Parliament in NSW consists of 93 members, one elected from each electoral district.
Legislative Council	The upper house of Parliament in NSW. It has 42 members elected for an eight year term, half of whom are elected at each general election every four years.
Nomination	The process by which a person applies to become a candidate for election.
Ordinary vote	A vote recorded in the usual manner in a polling place on election day.
Party worker	A person who assists candidates by handing out how to vote cards. Unlike scrutineers, a party worker has no official status.
Polling place	A building such as a school designated as a place to which voters go during an election to cast their votes.

Postal vote	Electors who are unable to attend a polling place during polling hours on election day may vote by post. Electors must apply for a postal vote prior to election day and they must qualify to be eligible to vote as a postal voter.
Pre-poll voting	Electors who won't be able to vote on election day for certain specified reasons can vote before election day at the office of a returning officer or a pre-poll voting centre.
Recount	A second count of votes in an election. Recounts are ordered by the Electoral Commissioner.
Registered electoral material	Electoral material including how to vote cards registered by the Electoral Commissioner for distribution on election day. Only registered electoral material can be distributed on election day. In order to be registered it must satisfy certain requirements.
Registered general postal voters	Electors who satisfy certain legislative provisions can receive their postal votes automatically without further application.
Registered political parties (RPPs)	<p>An organised group with a common political philosophy which seeks to win and retain public office for itself and its leaders.</p> <p>Party organisations support or endorse candidates for elections who, if elected, usually vote as a group for its policies in Parliament.</p> <p>The party with the greatest number in the Legislative Assembly forms the government.</p> <p>Political parties are registered with the NSWEC. Eligible parties must satisfy certain statutory requirements in order to be registered.</p>
Reference list	A list of electors eligible to vote at an election.
Returning officer	An official appointed by the Electoral Commissioner to conduct an election for a Legislative Assembly district.
Scrutineer	A person appointed by a candidate to ensure that procedures and counting are undertaken in a proper manner.
Scrutiny	The check of declaration envelopes to ensure compliance before the vote is admitted to count.
Silent elector	An elector whose address does not appear on the certified list or reference list for personal safety reasons.
Writ	The document by which the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly directs returning officers to conduct a by-election. The Speaker issues Writs on the advice of the government.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The role of scrutineers is defined by the Act and differs from the role of party or candidate workers.

Scrutineers play an important role in the election process. In representing the interests of their candidate, and advising them on the procedures being followed by the returning officer and election officials, they attest to the integrity, impartiality and fairness of the election process.

Scrutineers have the right to observe all stages of the voting and scrutiny (counting of votes) and can question the formality of ballot papers. Such questions should be directed to the polling place manager or the returning officer, as appropriate.

Election officials, including returning officers, have been advised to assist scrutineers by explaining processes to be followed at the count of ballot papers.

Scrutineers are reminded that elections are conducted in a legal environment and certain decisions made by returning officers and polling place managers will be final.

Challenges to such decisions or the overall result can be pursued by any candidate in the Supreme Court acting as the Court of Disputed Returns.

2. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

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

To be eligible to be a scrutineer a person must be on the electoral roll. Candidates cannot act as scrutineers at an election which they contest.

Candidates appoint their scrutineers by completing the *Appointment of Scrutineer Form* which can be downloaded from www.elections.nsw.gov.au or obtained from the NSWEC or the returning officer.

The scrutineer must hand the completed form to the polling place manager or election official, as the case requires, prior to commencing duties. The declaration part of the form must be signed by the scrutineer in the presence of the election official, who will then witness the declaration.

Other than declared institutions, where one appointment form for all declared institutions visited in an electoral district is sufficient, a new appointment form is required at each location where votes are being counted.

However candidates are permitted to photocopy a signed appointment form or use a signature stamp on multiple forms, but scrutineers must sign the form afresh in the presence of the election official. All appointment forms will be retained by the returning officer.

Scrutineers will be issued with a *Scrutineer Identification Badge*, which is to be retained by the scrutineer and worn at all times when scrutineering.

3. METHOD OF VOTING

The Legislative Assembly consists of 93 members, with each member being elected to represent an electoral district for a four year term.

The method of voting in a Legislative Assembly election is optional preferential. This means that to cast a formal vote the elector must place the number '1' in the square next to their first choice candidate. They have the 'option' to show further preferences by placing the number '2' in the square next to their second choice candidate, the number '3' next to their third choice and so on. They may number as many or as few squares as they wish.

If the elector does not vote in the manner described above then the vote may be informal and not counted. However, the returning officer may still count the vote under savings provisions contained in the Act eg a ✓ or a X may be counted as a first preference mark under certain circumstances.

How votes are counted

To be elected in an optional preferential count, a candidate requires an 'absolute majority' of formal votes in the count (50% + 1). If a candidate has more than half the total formal first preference votes in the count, the candidate is elected.

If no candidate has an 'absolute majority', the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded from the count. That candidate's votes are moved on to the other candidates according to the next preference shown by electors on those ballot papers.

Ballot papers which do not show a 'next preference' for a continuing candidate are 'exhausted ballot papers', and play no further part in the distribution of preferences.

This process of excluding the candidate with the fewest votes continues until a candidate obtains an 'absolute majority' and is declared elected. However, for statistical purposes the distribution of preferences will be continued until only two candidates remain.

4. BALLOT PAPER COUNT

Polling Place

The Legislative Assembly ballot papers will be counted at polling places on election night. The ballot papers will be sorted to first preference for each candidate.

There will be two counts at the polling place. The first count will be first preferences for each candidate and informals. The second count will be a notional distribution of preferences.

Formality check and sort to first preference

All ballot papers are checked for formality and sorted for each candidate, according to the first preference recorded on the ballot paper, and informals.

Notional distribution of preferences

Before election day, the NSWEC selects the two candidates who are likely to be the eventual two remaining candidates in the count. Scrutineers will be informed on election night which two candidates have been selected.

A notional distribution of preferences (sometimes referred to as the 'two candidate preferred count') is conducted at each polling place on election night to give candidates, RPPs and the media an indication of the election outcome. This is done by election officials 'distributing' all formal votes of the other candidates to the two selected candidates according to which candidate receives the highest preference on each ballot paper.

The notional distribution of preferences is not the official distribution of preferences, which takes place in the returning officer's office in the week/s following election day.

Returning officer's office after election day

Check count

On election Sunday (ie. day after election day) the ballot papers are checked and counted again at the returning officer's office to ensure accuracy of the figures from the election night count. The total number of first preference votes recorded for each candidate and informals is amalgamated polling place by polling place to arrive at totals for the district.

Postal, pre-poll, declared institution, silent and section votes are counted in the week after election day so that final first preference figures are available by the second week following election day.

Scrutiny of Declaration Votes

The scrutiny of declaration votes will commence at the returning officer's office on the Monday following election day and will be completed during that week.

Distribution of Preferences

Once all first preference counts have been completed, the distribution of preferences will take place. The distribution of preferences cannot commence until the scrutiny of all polling place and declaration ballot papers is complete. Candidates will be advised when this will be taking place. Staff and scrutineers will be briefed on procedures prior to the commencement of the distribution.

5. ATTENDANCE BY SCRUTINEERS

Wherever votes are being processed by election officials, scrutineers may:

- observe all counting procedures but not in such a manner as to cause unnecessary delay;
- question the formality of a ballot paper;
- countersign forms; and
- enter and leave the polling place at any time and be replaced by another appointed scrutineer.

Where a scrutineer wishes to clarify procedures or question the activities of an election official, they should discuss the matter with the returning officer or polling place manager (as appropriate). Scrutineers are not permitted to handle ballot papers.

Scrutineers must co-operate fully with election officials. Any misconduct at a pre-poll voting location, a declared institution, a returning officer's office or in a polling place on election day is an offence, as is failure to obey the lawful directions of any election official.

Scrutineers must not attempt to influence any elector when present at a pre-poll voting location, declared institution or polling place.

SCRUTINY AND COUNTS

Scrutineers are entitled to be present as follows:

Before Election Day

Pre-poll Voting

Electors who are unable to attend a polling place on election day may vote in person at an appointed pre-poll voting centre.

One scrutineer per candidate, at any one time, may be present at the returning officer's office, or any other pre-poll voting location while pre-poll votes are being taken. Pre-poll voting times will be available from the returning officer.

Electoral material may be distributed outside the pre-poll voting centre location but cannot be handed out inside the voting area.

Declared institutions

Some nursing homes, convalescent homes or hospitals are appointed by the NSWEC as declared institutions. Election officials from the returning officer's office visit declared institutions on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before election day and take votes.

Voting at declared institutions is limited to patients or residents.

One scrutineer per candidate may accompany the election assistants. Details of the dates and times of voting can be obtained from the returning officer.

If a scrutineer is accompanying election assistants at more than one declared institution they must retain, and wear, their *Scrutineer Identification Badge*.

No electoral material can be distributed by scrutineers at any time during this visit. Recent amendments to the Act provide that candidates may nominate a how to vote card to be included in a folder of registered how to vote cards for electors at declared institutions.

It is the candidate's, group's or RPP's responsibility to arrange for the how to vote card to be registered with the NSWEC before voting commences at declared institutions. Once registered, the NSWEC will provide the appropriate returning officer with a copy of the how to vote card for copying and inclusion in the folder(s). The how to vote cards will be organised in the folder in ballot paper order.

At the time of voting, the election assistants will offer voters the opportunity to inspect the folder of how to vote cards.

Returning officer's office

Upon receipt of completed postal vote certificates, pre-poll declaration envelopes and declared institution declaration envelopes, election officials will conduct a preliminary scrutiny so that these electors may be marked off the roll.

One scrutineer per candidate is entitled to be present in the returning officer's office during the preliminary scrutiny.

Election Day During Voting Hours

Polling places

One scrutineer per candidate, at any one time, may be present in a polling place during voting hours (8am-6pm).

Scrutineers may:

- inspect the ballot boxes prior to 8am, and observe them being sealed before voting commences;
- observe all voting procedures including being present when an election official is marking the ballot paper for an elector who has requested assistance;
- be nominated by a voter, who has satisfied an election official that he or she requires assistance to vote;
- request that an election official ask any person a series of questions contained in the Act to determine that person's eligibility to vote. The election official may put all or some of these questions to the voter and the voter's answer to the questions will be conclusive; and

- wear or display a badge or emblem of a candidate or a party, or clothing displaying a badge or emblem while in a polling place.

Party or candidate workers are not allowed in the polling place unless voting.

Hospital polling places

Certain hospitals may be appointed as polling places on election day. A fixed polling place will be set up to take votes from staff, patients and visitors and the same procedures as at a polling place will be followed.

Additionally, a mobile facility will be provided to electors who are unable to attend the fixed facility, with a team(s) of election officials moving through the wards to take votes.

One scrutineer per candidate may be present, at any one time, at the fixed polling place during voting hours, and one scrutineer per candidate may accompany each team while the mobile facility is operating.

Election Day After 6pm

After voting has closed at 6pm, each candidate can have one scrutineer present for each election official counting votes at a polling place.

Scrutineers are entitled to witness the closing of the polling place and should consult with the polling place manager regarding the procedure.

Voters will not be admitted to the polling place after 6pm unless they are already in a queue to vote at that time, and voters within the polling place may remain until they have voted.

Sunday After Election Day

A check count and amalgamation of polling place ballot papers will be conducted by the returning officer at his or her office on Sunday following election day.

One scrutineer per candidate per election official counting votes may be present in the returning officer's office during the check count.

Scrutineers are entitled to undertake the same activities as at the polling place after voting has closed on election day.

Post Election Scrutiny and Counts

The Returning Officer will provide details to candidates of the post-election day scrutiny and count timetable. Any questions regarding the timetable should be directed to the returning officer.

Scrutineers may be present at the scrutiny and count of pre-poll, declared institutions, postal, section and silent votes and can undertake all the duties as mentioned in respect of the count after 6pm on election day and the following Sunday.

One scrutineer per candidate for each election official engaged in the scrutiny or count can be present during the scrutiny and count of declaration vote envelopes.

Mobile phones must be turned off or switched to 'silent' mode. If scrutineers wish to make or receive a call then they must do so outside.

6. DECLARATION OF ELECTION

NOTIFICATION OF RESULT

Scrutineers present at the returning officer's office will be informed of the election result at the completion of the distribution of preferences count, and a copy of the distribution of preferences will be made available.

The returning officer will formally advise the candidates of the result by telephone as soon as possible after the completion of the count.

DECLARATION OF POLL

Once the count or recount (if necessary) has been completed, and the successful candidate determined, and all candidates have been informed of the result by telephone, the returning officer will declare the result of the poll.

The formal declaration will take place in the returning officer's office. Candidates and/or their representatives are welcome to attend the declaration of the poll.

The election results will also be placed in the newspaper.

RETURN OF THE WRITS

After the announcement declaring the result, the Electoral Commissioner writes the name of the successful candidate on the Writ, dates and signs it and then returns the Writ to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

CHALLENGE TO THE RESULT OF THE ELECTION

Candidates may challenge the result of the election after the declaration of the poll, by submitting a petition addressed to the Court of Disputed Returns no later than 40 days after the return of the Writ. Candidates are advised to seek their own independent legal advice should they wish to pursue this course of action.

7. FORMALITY OF BALLOT PAPERS

There are a number of rules which apply to ballot papers at state elections. Scrutineers should be aware of these, and that they are not the same as those which apply at Federal elections.

If the elector does not vote in accordance with these rules then the vote may be informal and not counted. However, the returning officer may still count the vote under savings provisions contained in the Act eg a ✓ or a X may be counted as a first preference mark under certain circumstances.


Following is a summary of the formality rules for Legislative Assembly ballot papers.

- All numbers in the squares, and all numbers outside but adjacent to the squares, must be considered when determining formality and distributing preferences.
- The numbers, ✓s or Xs must be adjacent to the square. A number, ✓ or X at the end of the candidate's name is not adjacent to the square and would be disregarded.
- The number 1 must appear once only.
- Where the number 1 appears once only, it is still formal even if there is a repeat or break in subsequent preferences.
- Where a ✓ or X appears on its own, it is read as a 1, and the ballot paper is formal.
- If there is a number 1 and ✓ and/or X, the number 1 always takes precedence over the ✓ or X.
- Where a ✓ or X appears with numbers other than 1, the ✓ or X is not read as a 1, and the ballot paper is informal.
- Where there is a ✓ in one square and Xs or lines through other squares (more than one X or more than one line), the ✓ is read as a 1 and the ballot paper is formal.
- Where there is a ✓ in one square, and a single X or single line through another square, the ballot paper is informal.
- A ballot paper is still formal if it has not been initialled by an election official as long as it has been printed on the NSWEC watermarked paper. If the ballot paper was photocopied, and it is not initialled by the election official, then it is informal.
- If there are comments or additional names or signatures written on the ballot paper, they will be ignored.
- Examples of formal and informal ballot papers appear at the end of this Handbook.

8. SAMPLES OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL BALLOT PAPERS

EXAMPLE 1

BALLOT PAPER
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE



Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY

SANDS, Barbara

TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT

WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY

SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY


BURN, Ben
RED PARTY

FORMAL – the number "1" appears once only.

In a distribution of preferences, this ballot paper would EXHAUST after the first preference.

EXAMPLE 2

BALLOT PAPER
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE



Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

1 BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY

2 SANDS, Barbara

2 TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT

2 WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY

2 SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY


2 BURN, Ben
RED PARTY

FORMAL – the number "1" appears once only.

In a distribution of preferences, this ballot paper would EXHAUST after the first preference.

EXAMPLE 3

BALLOT PAPER
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE



Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY

SANDS, Barbara

TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT

WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY

SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY

1 BURN, Ben
RED PARTY

David Buck

FORMAL – marked in accordance with directions, other marks, writing, names or signatures should be disregarded.

In a distribution of preferences, this ballot paper would EXHAUST after the first preference.

EXAMPLE 4

BALLOT PAPER

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE

Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

7	BROWN, John <small>BROWN PARTY</small>
6	SANDS, Barbara
5	TAN, Emily <small>INDEPENDENT</small>
1	WAXMAN, Nigel <small>SURFERS UNITED PARTY</small>
3	SHIELDS, Ray <small>WHITE PARTY</small>
2	BURN, Ben <small>RED PARTY</small>

FORMAL – marked in accordance with directions, other marks, writing, names or signatures should be disregarded.

In a distribution of preferences, this ballot paper would EXHAUST after the third preference.

EXAMPLE 5

BALLOT PAPER

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE

Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

	BROWN, John <small>BROWN PARTY</small>
ONE	SANDS, Barbara
TWO	TAN, Emily <small>INDEPENDENT</small>
	WAXMAN, Nigel <small>SURFERS UNITED PARTY</small>
	SHIELDS, Ray <small>WHITE PARTY</small>
THREE	BURN, Ben <small>RED PARTY</small>

INFORMAL – must use numbers, not words.

EXAMPLE 6

BALLOT PAPER

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE

Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES


<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BROWN, John <small>BROWN PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SANDS, Barbara
<input type="checkbox"/>	TAN, Emily <small>INDEPENDENT</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	WAXMAN, Nigel <small>SURFERS UNITED PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHIELDS, Ray <small>WHITE PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	BURN, Ben <small>RED PARTY</small>

FORMAL – "✓" is read as a "1".

In a distribution of preferences, this ballot paper would EXHAUST after the first preference.

EXAMPLE 7

BALLOT PAPER
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE



Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY

SANDS, Barbara

TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT

WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY

SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY


BURN, Ben
RED PARTY

FORMAL — "X" is read as a "1".

In a distribution of preferences, this ballot paper would EXHAUST after the first preference.

EXAMPLE 8

BALLOT PAPER
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE



Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY

SANDS, Barbara

TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT

WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY

SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY


BURN, Ben
RED PARTY

FORMAL for TAN — "1" takes precedence over a "✓" or "X".

In a distribution of preferences, this ballot paper would EXHAUST after the first preference.

EXAMPLE 9

BALLOT PAPER
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE



Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY

SANDS, Barbara

TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT

WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY

SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY

BURN, Ben
RED PARTY

INFORMAL — "X" not read as a "1" when there are other numbers present.

EXAMPLE 10

BALLOT PAPER

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of

BEACHVILLE

Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BROWN, John <small>BROWN PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SANDS, Barbara
<input type="checkbox"/>	TAN, Emily <small>INDEPENDENT</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	WAXMAN, Nigel <small>SURFERS UNITED PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHIELDS, Ray <small>WHITE PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	BURN, Ben <small>RED PARTY</small>

INFORMAL – “✓” not read as a “1” when there are other numbers present.

EXAMPLE 11

BALLOT PAPER

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of

BEACHVILLE

Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

<input type="checkbox"/>	BROWN, John <small>BROWN PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SANDS, Barbara
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TAN, Emily <small>INDEPENDENT</small>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WAXMAN, Nigel <small>SURFERS UNITED PARTY</small>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SHIELDS, Ray <small>WHITE PARTY</small>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BURN, Ben <small>RED PARTY</small>

FORMAL – “✓” is read as a “1” when crosses or lines (more than one) appear in other squares.

In a distribution of preferences, this ballot paper would EXHAUST after the first preference.

EXAMPLE 12

BALLOT PAPER

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of

BEACHVILLE

Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES


<input type="checkbox"/>	BROWN, John <small>BROWN PARTY</small>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SANDS, Barbara
<input type="checkbox"/>	TAN, Emily <small>INDEPENDENT</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	WAXMAN, Nigel <small>SURFERS UNITED PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHIELDS, Ray <small>WHITE PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	BURN, Ben <small>RED PARTY</small>

FORMAL – “✓” is read as a “1” when crosses or lines (more than one) appear in other squares.

In a distribution of preferences, this ballot paper would EXHAUST after the first preference.

EXAMPLE 13

BALLOT PAPER
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE



Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY

SANDS, Barbara

TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT

WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY


SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY

BURN, Ben
RED PARTY

INFORMAL – "✓" not read as "1" when there is a single cross or single line in another square.

EXAMPLE 14

BALLOT PAPER
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE



Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY

SANDS, Barbara

TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT

WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY

SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY


BURN, Ben
RED PARTY

FORMAL – numbers are not in squares but are adjacent to them and the voter's intention is clear.

All numbers both in and adjacent to the squares are considered when distributing preferences. This ballot paper would not EXHAUST as full preferences are indicated.

EXAMPLE 15

BALLOT PAPER
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of
BEACHVILLE



Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY

SANDS, Barbara

TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT

WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY

SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY

BURN, Ben
RED PARTY

FORMAL – "1" is not in the square but it is adjacent to the square and the voter's intention is clear.

In a distribution of preferences, this ballot paper would EXHAUST after the first preference.

EXAMPLE 16



BALLOT PAPER

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of

BEACHVILLE

Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | SANDS, Barbara |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | BURN, Ben
RED PARTY |

INFORMAL – voter's intention is NOT clear. You cannot tell which square the number "1" is adjacent to.

EXAMPLE 17



BALLOT PAPER

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of

BEACHVILLE

Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | SANDS, Barbara |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT |
| 4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | BURN, Ben
RED PARTY |

FORMAL – number "1" not in square but is adjacent to it and the voter's intention is clear.

All numbers both in and adjacent to the squares are considered when distributing preferences. This ballot paper would EXHAUST after the fourth preference.

EXAMPLE 18



BALLOT PAPER

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of

BEACHVILLE

Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.


Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BROWN, John
BROWN PARTY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SANDS, Barbara |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | TAN, Emily
INDEPENDENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WAXMAN, Nigel
SURFERS UNITED PARTY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SHIELDS, Ray
WHITE PARTY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BURN, Ben
RED PARTY |

INFORMAL – if outside the square, the number, tick or cross must be adjacent to the square.

EXAMPLE 19



BALLOT PAPER

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Electoral District of

BEACHVILLE

Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.

You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.

Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

<input type="checkbox"/>	BROWN, John <small>BROWN PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SANDS, Barbara
X <input type="checkbox"/>	TAN, Emily <small>INDEPENDENT</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	WAXMAN, Nigel <small>SURFERS UNITED PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHIELDS, Ray <small>WHITE PARTY</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	BURN, Ben <small>RED PARTY</small>

FORMAL – "x" is not in the square but it is adjacent to the square and the voter's intention is clear.

In a distribution of preferences, this ballot paper would EXHAUST after the first preference.