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## FOREWORD

The New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) Report to Parliament is a commentary on the administration and conduct of the 2007 State election. This is the first report in this format. It outlines the services provided to stakeholders, the issues that arose during the election and future directions. It also includes statistical information including the results of each Legislative Assembly electoral district. The results of the Legislative Council election are on the NSWEC website and are available on CD Rom.

Many months of preparation, training and planning went into the 2007 State election. The objective was to deliver improved, high quality election services to all stakeholders.

The State election was a major event involving 4,374,029 people on the New South Wales electoral roll and 870 candidates nominated to contest the election. Electors were able to cast their vote at any of 2,576 polling places in New South Wales on election day, and approximately 19,000 election staff were employed to manage this task. Those unable to vote on election day could vote by post or at one of the 147 pre-poll voting centres in New South Wales, or at the 11 interstate or 27 overseas pre-poll voting centres. 661 declared institutions (nursing homes and the like) were also visited by election officials. A total of 4,052,123 votes were accepted into the count.

Significant changes to the electoral landscape have occurred since the 2003 State election as a result of the redistribution of New South Wales electoral district boundaries and amendments to the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*. These changes were communicated to stakeholders by way of an extensive voter information campaign; a redeveloped NSWEC website; a media information kit; and information sessions and training materials for registered political parties, candidates and election officials.

At the 2007 State election, the NSWEC introduced a number of initiatives aimed at improving services to both electors and election officials.

Following the election the NSWEC conducted debriefings with returning officers and other election officials, registered political parties and media organisations. In general, stakeholders were supportive of the actions taken by the NSWEC. The findings from these debriefings are an important foundation for future directions.

I am pleased to report that the 2007 State election was conducted without any Court challenges to the results. In two electorates candidates requested a recount and in each case the returning officer conducted the recount in the presence of scrutineers.

A State election is a complex logistical project and its success depends on the dedication and commitment of the NSWEC staff.



Colin Barry  
Electoral Commissioner