

Aboriginal Elector News

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9. Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of Aboriginal Elector News. As part of the commitments in the New South Wales Electoral Commission's (NSWEC) Aboriginal Elector Information Strategy, we will provide Aboriginal electors, Aboriginal consultants, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Aboriginal Land Council with key election information in the lead up to the 2008 Local Government Elections.

We encourage you to disseminate this newsletter through your established community networks and organisational newsletters. We appreciate feedback to enable us to be more effective in communicating with stakeholders.

10. Launch of Aboriginal Elector Information Strategy

South Sydney backrower Dean Widders will officially launch the Aboriginal Elector Information Strategy on Tuesday 22 July 2008. Dean is the voice behind our campaign to encourage Aboriginal people to vote in the 2008 local council elections.

The 29-year old Rabbitoh will be heard on indigenous radio stations from 28 July as part of the NSWEC Aboriginal Elector Information Strategy. Born in Armidale, Dean has himself expressed a future interest in working in politics or the media.

11. NSWEC advertising campaign

We are currently finalising arrangements for our advertising campaign. The advertising campaign is an important part of ensuring that you are informed about the upcoming elections. The campaign is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Maximising the number of Aboriginal electors who vote.
- Encouraging you to enrol if you have turned 18 or will be 18 at the date of the election
- Reminding you to update your enrolment details if you have recently moved.
- Publicising voting arrangements, including pre-poll and postal voting.
- Reminding you to vote on election day.

The campaign will include running advertisements in the Koori Mail, the National Indigenous Times and on indigenous radio.

12. Aboriginal Electoral Education Consultative Group

We have appointed an Aboriginal Electoral Education Consultative Group to assist in implementing the key goals of the Aboriginal Elector Information Strategy.

These include developing specific information campaigns to encourage indigenous people to enrol and vote, to recruit Aboriginal people to work as election officials at future elections and to focus on the education and information needs of young Aboriginal people throughout NSW.

The Aboriginal Electoral Education Consultative Group includes representatives from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Department of Education and Training and a community representative.

13. Enrolment

The Local Government Elections will be held on Saturday 13 September 2008. To be eligible to vote, you must be correctly enrolled. If you've changed address you'll need to update your enrolment. Or if you've turned 18 or become an Australian citizen, you'll need to enrol to vote for the first time. Remember, voting is compulsory and all enrolment forms must be received by 6.00 pm Monday 4 August 2008.

To check your enrolment or for an enrolment form visit www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736. Enrolment forms are also available from any Australia Post office.

You may also be entitled to vote for a council outside your residential area. If you are an owner, occupier or rate paying lessee of rateable land in a ward or area other than the one in which you live you can obtain an enrolment claim form from your council. If a claim for enrolment was made for a previous council election, and you wish to claim enrolment for this election, you must re-apply. Enrolment forms for the non resident electoral roll must be returned to the council for which the claim is made, by 6.00 pm Monday 4 August 2008.

Enquiries about the non residential rolls should be directed to your relevant council.

14. Train the trainer package

A train the trainer package for the 2008 Local Government Elections will be trialled with Walgett Council and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The train the trainer package consists of a PowerPoint presentation and accompanying presentation notes. The package has been designed so that Peak Aboriginal bodies can present key electoral information to their clients on behalf of the NSWEC.

If you are interested in trialling a train the trainer package, please contact Mr Simon Waterhouse on (02) 9290 5986.

15. Change to regulations

The *Local Government (General) Amendment (Elections) Regulation 2008* was published in the NSW Government Gazette on 27 June 2008. Among other matters, the Regulation was changed to enable pre-poll voting at mobile booths in remote local government areas.

Important election dates and times

Election day	8am to 6pm, Saturday, 13 September 2008
Close of rolls	6.00 pm, Monday 4 August 2008
Candidate nominations	From Monday 4 August 2008 to 12.00 noon Wednesday 13 August 2008
Candidate details	A full list of candidates for each council will be listed at www.elections.nsw.gov.au after noon, Wednesday 13 August 2008
Pre-poll voting	From Monday, 1 September 2008 to Friday, 12 September 2008
Visit declared institutions	From Monday 8 September 2008 to Wednesday 10 September 2008
Postal voting	Postal vote applications close: 5.00 pm, 8 September 2008 Return of postal votes must be received by: 6.00 pm, Monday, 15 September 2008



Colin Barry
Electoral Commissioner