

SHOOTERS FISHERS and FARMERS



Mr Jai Rowell MP
Chairman
Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
NSW Parliament
Sydney NSW 2000

19 August 2016

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear at the *Inquiry into the 2015 NSW State Election* on 12 August 2016.

I submit the following answers to the questions I took on notice on the day.

1. **Would the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party support, over a period of time or over a period of elections, the introduction of fully-fledged electronic voting – voters are still in attendance on election day but the vote is able to be accurately counted and things are made a bit easier?**

At the moment, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party does not support any further expansion electronic voting until such methods can be accurately recorded and submitted securely without any delays or interruptions, and full audit trails available to approved party officers for scrutineering in real time. The recent debacle with the Australian Census going digital has shown how fraught this method of data collection is. All software must be at least classified as mission critical.

2. **Would the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party support getting rid of campaigning on Election Day, where you cannot actually hand out at the polling booth on Election Day?**

No. Unlike the two major parties, which can amass financial resources and volunteers to run high visibility campaigns for the duration of the election, minor parties are more dependent on campaigning on Election Day.

3. **Do the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party have any specific concerns from the 2015 election that you have not addressed in your submission about the Electoral Commission's performance and/or any particular problems that you encountered on polling day that you want to draw to our attention?**

No other specific concerns, other than those addressed in our submission and in the answers to these questions on notice.

4. **After the dissolution of Parliament, what is the preferred position of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party before nominations close and how long before the draw takes place?**

The longest period practicable.

On separate matter, I would like to clarify our position on social media advertising during elections. We are opposed to the requirement for political parties and candidates to submit social media content, posts, blogs and/or advertising to the NSW Electoral Commission, or any other body, for approval or scrutiny. This is a burdensome requirement that would be a huge and unnecessary financial impost.

Furthermore, we are also opposed to social media and digital (online) communication being included in the electronic blackout period. Candidates and political parties are able to utilise these mediums to communicate directly with electors, and it should be fostered.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Grant Layland
Treasurer
Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party NSW