

received
25.10.17

25 October 2017

Office of the Electoral Commissioner

Mr Jason Arditi
Director
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

LM2017/295

Dear Mr Arditi

Inquiry into preference counting in local government elections in NSW

Further to the evidence given to the Committee on 9 October 2017 by me and senior officers of the NSW Electoral Commission [NSWEC], please find attached copy of the transcript with proposed corrections.

In the course of the hearing, the following question from the Hon. Ben Franklin MLC was taken on notice:

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN: Other than the Electoral Commission ones—and obviously there is a small number of others that are run—does any company other than the Australian Election Company or councils run them and can you give us a list of those others, if it is appropriate, that were run by someone else other than the Electoral Commission since 2011?

Mr SCHMIDT: We can certainly give you the list of councils that did not use us. I am not sure we can say who ran those elections, can we?

Mr COPSON: Do not take it as gospel, but apart from the Australian Election Company the only councils that I am aware of who have run their own elections individually were Gunnedah and Sutherland Shire Council in 2012. I think they got experienced election officials as their returning officers to run those elections.

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN: Would you mind taking that question on notice?

The response is as follows:

2012 local government elections

- Botany Bay, Kempsey, Lake Macquarie, Lane Cove, Maitland, Penrith, Newcastle, Fairfield, Coffs Harbour, Cessnock, Port Stephens and Shoalhaven councils' elections conducted by the Australian Election Company; and
- Gunnedah Shire and Sutherland Shire Councils conducted their own elections.

2016 local government elections

- Penrith, Fairfield, Lake Macquarie and Kempsey councils' elections conducted by the Australian Election Company;
- Gunnedah Shire Council conducted its own election.

The NSWEC is not aware of the details of the relevant Returning Officer.

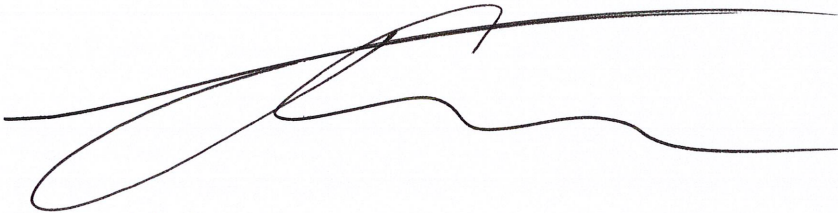
2017 local government elections

- Maitland City Council's election was conducted by the Australian Election Company.

Please note that the NSWEC is not aware of the details of Returning Officers for elections other than those conducted by the Electoral Commissioner under s 296 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

If you require any further information please contact [REDACTED] Senior Legal Officer, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Schmidt', written over a horizontal line.

John Schmidt
Electoral Commissioner