

F2013/163

24 September 2013

Mr Gareth Ward MP  
Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Ward

### **Inquiry into the conduct of the 2012 Local Government Elections**

In the course of the Electoral Commissioner's evidence to the Committee given at the Public Hearing on 26 August 2013, reference was made to a requirement on the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) to "return a dividend to Treasury" in respect of the conduct of the 2012 Local Government Elections.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify that the Commissioner was not using the term "dividend" in any technical sense, but was referring to the fact that, unlike State elections and by-elections, the NSWEC is not funded by the State Government for conducting local government elections. Rather, the NSW Treasury provides an advance to cover preparation for the elections based upon estimates of their total cost. The NSWEC is required to repay this advance following the invoicing of councils and to recoup the overheads of NSWEC head office staff and resources which have been committed to the local government election process.

It would be unfortunate if anyone reading the transcript gained the impression that the State Government, through the NSWEC, makes a profit from conducting elections on behalf of local government authorities under s 296(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

I would be grateful if this clarification could be included with the NSWEC evidence submitted in the course of the above Inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Linda Franklin  
**A/Electoral Commissioner**