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14 April 2008

Ms Helen Minnican
Committee Manager
Joint Standing Committee on
Electoral Matters
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Ms Minnican

Inquiry into the administration of the 2007 NSW election and related matters

Please find enclosed two documents relating to:

1. Additional Questions to the NSW Electoral Commissioner
28 March 2008; and
2. Questions on Notice.

Yours sincerely

Helen Robinson

Helen Robinson
Executive Assistant
Electoral Commissioner

NEW SOUTH WALES ELECTORAL COMMISSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE NSW ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

28 March 2008

Enrolment

Question

1. The Electoral Commissioner and other commentators on electoral matters have advocated a smart enrolment system, which would, through the automatic addition of new voters and amendment of enrolled voters' details, overcome the problem of eligible voters being left off the roll or cut from the roll as a consequence of changing their address. This issue was highlighted most recently in the lead up to the November 2007 Federal election, with the media reporting that 340,000 eligible voters aged 18 to 24 had failed to enrol in time to vote and that the AEC had cut 143,000 electors from the electoral roll when their addresses could not be verified. These reports were accompanied by calls for a more systematic approach to maintaining the electoral roll. Looking at the graph presented on page 13 of the Commission's Report on the 2007 State election, why, in your view, has the proportion of the eligible population enrolled to vote in NSW declined from 94.1% in March 1999 to 90.2% in March 2007?

Response

Possible reasons why the enrolment in New South Wales declined from 94.1% in March 1999 to 90.2% in March 2007 are as follows:

- Generally there is an increasing reluctance in certain sections of the community to enrol.
- Young people in the age group of 18-25 have been under enrolled. This trend is now moving to the 25-35 age group.
- With a moving population (500,000-600,000 people in NSW per annum move address) there is an increasing likelihood that electors fall off the electoral roll through inadvertence.
- In our society, where peoples' lives are already cluttered with responsibilities and activities, enrolling for an electoral event is generally not high on peoples' list of priorities.
- The more complex enrolment form may have an impact on enrolment.

Question

2. a) How would the smart enrolment system advocated by you have helped to improve the percentage of the eligible population enrolled to vote in the 2007 State election?

Response

- Smart electoral enrolment system (SEER) will automatically change an elector's address when the New South Wales Electoral Commission

(NSWEC) is informed from a trusted agency that an already enrolled elector has moved from one address to another.

- Young people (17-18 year olds) who are enrolled in secondary education in NSW and their details are provided to the NSWEC via the Board of Studies will automatically be enrolled without application.
- The NSWEC would identify those people who, from other trusted agencies, appear to be eligible to enrol and contact them via SMS and email with a view to putting them on the electoral roll without application and dealing with any exceptions.

Question

- b) How would the smart enrolment system eliminate many of the problems associated with updating electors enrolment details in the lead up to a State election?

Response

- SEER would minimise the difficulty for people enrolling at the time of an electoral event because their enrolment details would be progressively updated throughout the year and it would avoid the bottleneck of close of roll activity.

Question

- c) What progress has been made by the steering committee that was formed by the Government to investigate the issue of a smart enrolment system?

Response

- Progress is taking place on the SEER project. The Government has provided initial funding for a SEER Enrolment Validation trial to be conducted and for the preparation of a Business Case to assist with the approval of further funding in the period 2008/09 to 2010/11 for the implementation of SEER processes prior to the 2011 State General Election.
- The SEER Enrolment Validation trial is a pilot project to be conducted in the second half of 2007/08 by the NSWEC with the involvement and cooperation of NSW Department of Education and Training – TAFE Colleges. The pilot, using electoral information provided by TAFE and held in selected campuses, will test the processes, acceptance and success rate of direct enrolment contacts via methods such as email and SMS.

Methods of voting and participation

Question

3. a) In its report on the 2007 NSW Election the NSWEC has identified the need to broaden voting options and to make changes to the conduct of elections in order to increase the participation of remote/rural residents and people with a disability in the voting process and to streamline the administration of State elections. On page 83 of its report into the 2007 election the NSWEC indicated that it closely followed the provision of electronic voting in the 2006 Victorian State election and would monitor similar trials in the 2007 Federal Election. What did the NSWEC learn from these trials?

Response

The lessons learned from both the VEC and the AEC trials of electronic voting are as follows:

- Establishing kiosk type voting is expensive and there is not a high degree of elector take up.
- Internet voting, as trialled by the AEC with certain Defence personnel, proved to be very successful with a high degree of take up.
- In moving forward, iVoting would be a preferable approach to providing additional services to people who live in remote parts of the State and to people who have a disability.

Question

- b) In light of the Victorian and Federal trials, does the NSWEC's still support the provision of eVoting and iVoting in NSW, subject to changes in electoral legislation?

Response

- The NSWEC supports iVoting in preference to eVoting for the reasons outlined above.
- Legislative change would be necessary to provide the NSWEC with sufficient authority to establish iVoting for electors who live in remote parts of the State and electors who have a disability and find it difficult to access voting via the current facilities.
- Any elector who wanted to vote as an iVoter would have to register in advance as an iVoter.

Question

- c) What legislative changes would be required to introduce eVoting and iVoting in NSW?

Response

- As mentioned above, amendments will be necessary to the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* to enable the NSWEC to introduce a regime of iVoting and to provide for electors to be able to register as an iVoter.

Question

4. a) Why in your view was there a marked increase in the 2007 State election of 37% in postal votes and 66% in pre-poll votes when compared to the 2003 State election? (See page 15 of the Report).

Response

There is a steady increase in electors wanting to vote as postal voters and pre-poll voters and the following reasons may be relevant:

- Work practices have changed over the last 30 odd years and more people are working on a Saturday than perhaps was the case in the past.
- Some people want the convenience to be able to vote at a time that suits them rather than having to vote on one particular day, especially given the above answer.

- Some electors already have busy lives with taking children to sporting events on a Saturday and find pre-poll and postal voting more convenient.
- Electors who live in the outer regions of a regional city often find it more convenient to vote in the town when they go to do their shopping than to drive to a polling place on election day.
- Some electors, particularly elderly, find pre-poll voting less stressful as generally there are fewer queues at pre-poll voting or indeed postal voting is even regarded as a preferred choice for elderly electors as they can mark their ballot papers in their own time in their own home.

Question

- b) Does the NSWEC expect postal and pre-poll voting to continue such growth?

Response

- The NSWEC expects pre-poll and postal voting to continue to be in demand and particularly as more and more electors are moving from rural and regional NSW to the coastal areas, more and more people are wanting to have pre-poll voting facilities not too distant from where they already live.
- The ageing population is likely to increase the demand for postal and pre-poll voting.

Question

- c) What impact would continued, substantial growth in postal and pre-poll voting, as seen in the 2007 election, have on the conduct, administration and resourcing of future State elections?

Response

- The NSWEC will need to plan for increases in both postal and pre-poll voting at the 2011 State election.
- We will review the location of pre-poll voting facilities and consider providing additional facilities especially in regional and coastal areas.
- The NSWEC will need to establish a central postal vote issuing facility to cater for increased demand for postal voting.

Question

- d) What are the implications for the conduct, administration and resourcing of future State elections of mandating that electors in certain remote areas be enrolled as registered postal voters, as recommended on page 84 of the Commission's report?

Response

- The implications for the administration and resourcing of State elections if electors who lived in certain remote areas were required to register as general postal voters would be minimal. In fact, it may be a reduction in demands on the NSWEC resources as such electors would receive their ballot papers without application.

Question

5. a) What are the benefits of classing the votes of electors in Declared Institutions as ordinary votes, as suggested on page 85 of your report?

Response

- The advantage of allowing electors in Declared Institutions to vote as ordinary voters is that, as many of these people are elderly and some have difficulty in writing, voting as an ordinary voter is one less challenge, one less hurdle they have to overcome as they would not have to complete the declaration that they currently are required to do.
- It would also enable these votes to be counted sooner than is currently the case.

Question

- b) How would the NSWEC's administration of the 2007 NSW Election have benefitted from a register of establishments that could be classed as Declared Institutions?

Response

- The NSWEC would benefit from having a central point of contact for all Declared Institutions, such as nursing homes, convalescent homes, special accommodation units and retirement villages, as it would be a consolidated list of these institutions and the NSWEC would be able to contact them well in advance of the election to establish appropriate voting facilities for their residents.

Question

- c) How would such a register work and which government agency would maintain it?

Response

- Our understanding is there is no State Government agency that maintains a register of nursing homes, convalescent homes, special accommodation units and retirement villages.

Question

6. Your report suggests ways to streamline declaration voting. What legislative changes are needed to enable the Commission to streamline declaration voting?

Response

The legislative changes necessary to streamline declaration voting are:

- To enable an elector to make an oral declaration that they are entitled for a pre-poll and a postal vote if they are voting overseas.
- Where the elector is voting in their own electorate, to enable them to have an ordinary vote and for the vote to be put in the ballot box and their name marked off the roll exactly the same way as if they are voting on election day at a polling place.

- In essence the legislative change required would be to provide that voting arrangements, as appropriate, that apply on election day should apply at pre-poll voting and Declared Institution voting.

Voter Access

Question

7. It is understood that peak bodies requested the NSWEC conduct a review to ensure that access issues did not disadvantage enrolled disabled people who did not vote (p.13 *Equal Access to Democracy Plan*). As a result of the review, were there any changes to voting follow-up procedures e.g. so that disabled voters were not issued with fines in circumstance where access problems prevented them from voting?

Response

- Any elector who has a disability and proffers that as an excuse for failing to vote, such an excuse is accepted.

Question

8. In July 2007 the NSWEC conducted debriefs on the EADP to review the implementation of the Plan at the election and initiatives planned for future elections. Who was involved in these discussions? Were the peak disability bodies who participated in the development of the EADP the same as those groups consulted following the election?

Response

- Invited participants to the Equal Access to Democracy 2007 State election debrief were those organisations (the original participant or additional representative/s from the organisation) who participated in February 2006 workshops.

Invited organisations included:

- Blind Citizens Australia
- Brain Injury Association of NSW
- Council of Social Service of New South Wales
- Deafness Forum Australia
- Disability Council of NSW
- Mental Health Coordinating Council
- Mental Illness Association
- Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association
- NSW Council for Intellectual Disability
- People With a Disability
- Physical Disability Council NSW
- Self Help for Hard of Hearing
- Vision Australia

A list of the debrief participants follows:

Facilitator

- Participation Works Group

Participants

- Blind Citizens Australia
- Brain Injury Association
- Deafness Forum Australia
- Mental Illness Association
- Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association
- NSW Council for Intellectual Disability
- People With a Disability
- Physical Disability Council NSW
- Self Help for Hard of Hearing
- Vision Australia

Apologies

- Council of Social Service of New South Wales
- Mental Health Coordinating Council
- NSW Council for Intellectual Disability

Question

9. The Committee would appreciate it if the NSWEC provided a more detailed breakdown of the feedback it obtained from its consultations with these bodies relevant to its administration of the 2007 State election. What were the views of peak disability organisations on the NSWEC's performance in relation to the 2007 State election?

Response

- The Equal Access to Democracy debrief held in July 2007 provided an opportunity for the peak disability organisations and NSWEC to discuss the implementation of initiatives at the 2007 State election and further ideas to assist electors with a disability participate in the democratic process.
- Issues discussed at the debrief included further developments to the NSWEC website, accessibility of polling places and Retuning Officers offices for electors with a variety of disabilities, electronic voting, disability information training manuals and the establishment of an Equal Access to Democracy Reference Group. While the participation rate of people with a disability is unable to be measured the NSWEC and peak disability organisations discussed the improvements seen at the 2007 State election when compared with the 2003 State election.
- The peak disability organisations recognised the improvements implemented for electors with a disability and supported the NSWEC in continuing with the Equal Access to Democracy project for the 2008 Local Government elections through the agreement to the establishment of an ongoing Reference Group.

- The Reference Group will have a continued focus on improving access to the electoral system. As a first task, the Reference Group is currently reviewing a draft reiteration of the Equal Access to Democracy Plan which takes into consideration comments made by the peak disability organisations in the debrief relevant to the 2008 Local Government election.

Question

10. a) What strategies were discussed to improve participation by people with disabilities?
- b) Did these organisations indicate that access to polling booths, options for voting and participation rates for people with a disability had improved when compared to the 2003 State election?
- c) What revisions will be made to the Equal Access Democracy Plan in light of the 2007 State Election?

Response

- See above.

Question

11. The NSWEC's 2006 Equal Access to Democracy Plan (EADP) lists the availability of wheelchair accessible voting compartments at each voting centre as a performance measure. Does 'voting centre' refer to polling booths? If so, is this a useful target given that only 269 out of 2,576 polling places were fully wheelchair accessible?

Response

- The NSWEC does consider that wheelchair accessibility at voting centres, including polling places, is a reasonable performance measure as it is a starting point.
- Whilst only 269 out of the 2,576 polling places were fully wheelchair accessible, quite a number of these polling places were accessible to people in a wheelchair with some assistance. The peak bodies requested that we only publish those polling places that were fully wheelchair accessible. The NSWEC is going to review this policy as there may be some advantage in still publishing those polling places that are wheelchair accessible but that the elector would need some assistance.

Question

12. a) What would be the benefit of permitting electors with a disability to automatically qualify for a postal or a pre-poll vote, as suggested on page 84 of your report?

Response

- The advantage in enabling electors with a disability to automatically qualify for a postal or pre-poll vote would be to provide greater access to such electors to the voting system.

Question

- b) How would such a proposal affect the NSWEC administration of State elections?

Response

- There would be little impost on the NSWEC administration if the above was implemented.

Question

13. What was the nature of the complaint made to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission referred to on page 8 of your report?

Response

Ms Judith Geppert wrote to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) alleging discrimination on the ground of disability in relation to pre-poll voting at the 2007 State election. Written reply is attached at Tab A.

Aboriginal Elector Information Strategy

Question

14. What additional strategies have been identified to increase Aboriginal involvement as a result of the NSWEC's review of the Aboriginal Elector Information Strategy in the wake of the 2007 State election?

Response

- In late 2007, the NSWEC reviewed its Aboriginal Elector Information Strategy for the 2007 State Election. Additional strategies identified to increase Aboriginal involvement include the following:
 - A train the trainer module for Aboriginal electors will be developed and trialled with Walgett Council prior to the 2008 Local Government election. The train the trainer module will include information on the local government electoral system, civic responsibilities and voting at the election.
 - The expression of interest form for election officials will include a question asking applicants to identify if they are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
 - The NSWEC is currently investigating the possibility of superimposing an Aboriginal language map onto the NSWEC's local government boundaries map. The language map was developed by the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs in 2007, as part of its Introduction to NSW Aboriginal Languages CD-Rom. The NSWEC believes that it is technically possible if the map was provided in mid/mif format rather than in its current format as a jpeg file. The NSWEC has contacted the Department of Aboriginal Affairs requesting a copy of the map in mid/mif format, and will place the superimposed maps on its website subject to the availability of the file in the new format.

Question

15. If I can draw your attention to page 49 of your report, you indicate that the NSWEC will establish and convene an Aboriginal Consultative Group early in 2008. Has this group been formed, what is its composition and what were the views of the group on the conduct of the 2007 State election?

Response

- The NSWEC is currently in discussion with Aboriginal consultants to determine the best approach and composition of the Aboriginal Consultative Group. It is planned that the Aboriginal Consultative Group will be established and convened by 30 June 2008.

Question

16. How many Aboriginal electors were recruited to act as election officials during the 2007 State election?

Response

- The NSWEC is unable to accurately identify the number of Aboriginal electors who worked as election officials at the 2007 State election as the expression of interest form did not allow a means of identifying Aboriginality. The NSWEC distributed expression of interest forms at the Aboriginal festival Yabun 2007 to Aboriginal electors however the exact response rate is not available.
- The expression of interest form for the 2008 Local Government election will include a question asking applicants to identify if they are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Media

Question

17. What are the views of media organisations and professional election observers on the NSWEC proposal to scrap the Tally Room for the 2011 State election?

Response

- The NSWEC has received a letter from the ABC noting our intention not to have a Tally Room at the next State election and the ABC providing general support for this approach but would like early advice.
- The NSWEC will consult with all major media outlets regarding the Tally Room well before the next State election.

Election advertising and electoral material

Question

18. a) What problems arose for the Commission and for polling place officials when administering the 5 metre rule for posters during the 2007 election?

Response

- The difficulty with the 5 metre rule for posters is the inconsistency with the 6 metre rule for the distribution of electoral material.
- There seems to be no practical reason why the 6 metre rule (which is consistent with Commonwealth provisions) should not apply to both posters and how to vote cards. The main problem is confusion.

Question

- b) Did the 5 metre rule for posters make it more difficult to enforce the 6 metre rule for canvassing?

Response

- See above.

Question

- c) Was there an issue with candidates and party workers using very large posters beyond the 5 metre boundary?

Response

- We are not aware of any political parties or candidates having very large posters beyond the 5 metre rule which caused a problem.

Question

- d) You have previously referred the Committee to the 6 metre rule that applies at Federal elections and the desirability of having consistent provisions at State and Federal elections.¹ Does this remain your preferred approach?

Response

- The NSWEC's preferred position is that party and candidate workers be prohibited from canvassing for votes within 6 metres of the entrance to a building used as a polling place or, where the grounds are of a building used as a polling place are declared for the purposes of the election to be the polling place, that canvassing for votes be prohibited within 6 metres of the entrance to the grounds.

Question

19. a) What organisational and cost benefits would the Commission derive from having Returning Officers assess electoral material for registration, as recommended on page 22 of your Report?

Response

- Enabling Returning Officers to register certain how to vote material would streamline the process, make it a lot easier for candidates and party workers and allow the NSWEC to deal directly with the Registered Political Parties in registering their electoral material.

¹ Transcript of briefing from the NSW Electoral Commissioner, dated 29/8/07, p.10.

- Such arrangement exists and works well in Victorian elections.

Question

- b) If this proposal was implemented how would the Commission guarantee consistency in assessments of the appropriateness of electoral material across different electoral districts and between the Commission's central operations and individual Returning Offices?

Response

- Consistency in registration arrangements would be on the basis of the NSWEC providing Returning Officers with very clear guidelines and templates for the registration of material, and any material falling outside the strict guidelines and templates would automatically be referred by the Returning Officer to the NSWEC for consideration.

Question

- c) Would the Commission undertake moderation of assessments of electoral material during and after the election to ensure consistency of interpretation?

Response

- The NSWEC is committed to consistency in the registration of electoral material and, so long as Returning Officers follow the guidelines that are provided by the NSWEC, consistency will be achieved.

Election officials

Question

20. a) What would be the cost savings to the Commission if it were exempted from paying superannuation to election officials working on election day, as proposed on page 86 of your Report?

Response

- There would be no substantial cost saving to the NSWEC if election officials who earn less than \$450 in a calendar month were not required to pay into a superannuation guarantee fund. The money would be paid directly to the election official.
- There would be minor cost savings associated with having to arrange payment into lots of superannuation accounts only to be advised by the funds that they will not accept the contributions from the NSWEC.
- The substantial benefit will be to the election official.

Question

- b) What would be the cost savings to the Commission of paying superannuation contributions directly to election officials working on election day, as your report also proposes?

Response

- Cost savings to the NSWEC and to the employees would be that there would be no protracted communication between superannuation funds and the employee for a relatively small amount of money.
- Employees would benefit as presently many lose the contribution through the administration charges made by the funds.

Question

- c) What legislative and regulatory impediments are there to implementing either proposal?

Response

- Legislative amendments would be required to give effect to the above to make it consistent with arrangements that apply at Commonwealth level.

Question

- d) Would either proposal require legislative amendments at a Federal level?

Response

- No legislative amendments would be required at Federal level as arrangements are already in place for an employee who earns less than \$450 in a calendar month to be exempt from paying the superannuation guarantee.

Question

21. a) What would be the potential cost savings to the Commission of co-locating two or more returning officers in the same office, as suggested on page 85 of your report?

Response

- Considerable cost savings would be achieved in co-locating up to two Returning Officers, particularly in the Sydney metropolitan area. Whilst it is difficult to put a numerical number on the cost savings as it would depend, from election to election, on the market rates for commercial office accommodation. Nevertheless, it would reduce the number of offices required and reduce the number of communication facilities that the NSWEC would have to roll out.

Question

- b) Are there potential negatives to co-location, given that Returning Officer's offices are generally also used as pre-poll centres?

Response

- The NSWEC sees no negatives in the co-location of certain Returning Officers in the metropolitan area. Where a Returning Officer's office was co-located with another, there would be a pre-poll voting facility provided in the electorate where the Returning Officer was located in another electorate. In other words, there would still be 93 pre-poll voting centres as a minimum across NSW – one in each electorate.

Question

- c) Would co-location potentially lead to a reduction in the number of available pre-poll centres, and if so what effect would this have on the conduct of future elections given the increasing use of pre-poll voting?

Response

- Co-location of Returning Officers' offices would not result in a reduction in the pre-poll voting facilities as a pre-poll voting facility would be established in an electorate where the Returning Officer was located in another electorate. The advantage for the NSWEC is that a pre-poll voting centre can be a relatively small shop front whereas the Returning Officer's office needs to be in much larger premises.

Question

- d) What legislative amendments would be required to enable the Commission to co-locate two or more Returning Officers?

Response

- Legislative change would be required to enable the Electoral Commissioner to appoint a Returning Officer for one or more electorates.

Question

22. a) What improvements does the Commission intend to make to its forms and manuals in light of the feedback it received from election officials who worked on election day in 2007?

Response

- The NSWEC reviews all forms and manuals prior to an electoral event. Forms and manuals will be revised with simplicity and plain English being the major objectives.

Question

- b) The internet is used increasingly today as a cost effective and flexible means to deliver education and training which can be tailored to the needs of the recipient. The committee notes a number of election officials who worked on election day in 2007 suggested that the Commission provide online training. Does the Commission intend to take up this suggestion?

Response

- The NSWEC is establishing online training for polling place managers at the 2008 Local Government elections.

Future directions - access to NSWEC information

Question

23. In its report on the 2007 State election, the Commission states its intention to review the useability of its website: the accessibility and useability of the

website is important given the Commission's intention to review its advertising strategy for the 2011 election and its plan to use the website as the 'principal tool for communication'. What changes have been made to the Commission's website and/or advertising strategy arising from the experience of the 2007 NSW election?

Response

- In 2007 the NSWEC website was redesigned to improve navigation and increase accessibility. Ongoing improvements are being undertaken to further improve the website useability and accessibility.
- Due to the ongoing growth in website usage the NSWEC is looking to increasingly rely upon the website to inform election stakeholders. As part of the NSWEC advertising campaign all advertisements, both print and radio, for the 2008 Local Government election will direct stakeholders to the NSWEC website for further information.

Question

Plain English and translated material on the website

24. The availability of plain English and translated information guides is one of the suggested strategies and performance measures detailed in the 2006 EADP. The Multilingual Voters Guides on the NSWEC website are not as readily accessible as the material on the AEC and VEC websites, which have clear links on their home pages. Are there any plans to improve the accessibility of the translated material on the website?

Response

- One of the objectives of the redevelopment of the NSWEC website was to increase accessibility to information for culturally and linguistically diverse electors.
- Strategies to achieve increased accessibility include the engagement of a translating provider by the NSWEC to assist in the development of multilingual information relevant to the Local Government voting system. Once the translated information is developed it will be available on the NSWEC website with multilingual links to this information from the home page to assist electors to access to information.

Question

25. Are there any plans to produce more guides in plain English, in line with the EADP performance measure in relation to the provision of accessible election information? Currently only plain English how to vote guides are available on the website. The Victorian Electoral Commission has produced easy English guides on enrolling to vote, and nominating as a candidate as well as general information on voting.

Response

- The NSWEC will produce more easy English guides on key election processes for the next State election.

Question

26. Are there any plans to make sample ballot papers and other information guides on voting and elections in community languages available on the website?

Response

- The NSWEC will produce easy English material in community languages to assist leaders and educators from ethnic groups to undertake training for people in the election process.

Question

27. Are there any plans to make the Braille, audio and large print information produced for the 2007 election available on the website to improve its accessibility? The AEC website has information available in several different formats, for example audio, e-text and large print, in addition to Braille.

Response

- The NSWEC is currently making arrangements to have audio, large print and e-text files with information relevant to the Local Government elections developed and available on the NSWEC website.

Question

Accessibility of website

28. A performance measure outlined in the EADP refers to a website designer being 'contracted to deliver website content templates and navigation that comply with accessibility standards.' Is the website content and navigation now compliant with accessibility standards?

Response

- In 2007 the NSWEC website was redesigned to improve navigation and increase accessibility. Ongoing efforts are being undertaken to further increase accessibility and reformat content not currently meeting accessibility standards.

96/600

Mr John van Doussa QC
President
Human Rights and
Equal Opportunity Commission
GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

1 May 2007

Dear Mr van Doussa

Complaint by Ms Judith Geppert (your reference: 2018925FC)

I have received a letter from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) requesting my comments on a complaint lodged by Ms Judith Geppert, which alleges discrimination on the ground of disability, in relation to pre-poll voting at the March 2007 State election.

First, I would like to clarify the location of the pre-poll voting centre attended by Ms Geppert. The HREOC letter refers to the centre at Pittwater Road, Mona Vale but as that location was the office of the Returning Officer for Pittwater (and it was fully wheelchair accessible) I assume it was the Pittwater Road office for the electoral district of Manly.

Ms Geppert is actually enrolled to vote in the Wakehurst electoral district, and there were two pre-poll voting centres in her district that were fully wheelchair accessible. One centre was located at the Spastic Centre at 189 Allambie Road, Allambie Heights, which is Ms Geppert's workplace. I note that this address is also given as Ms Geppert's residential address on the electoral roll. Attached is a map showing the location of these four pre-poll voting centres – Tab A.

Electors are not restricted as to where they can cast a pre-poll vote and of the 148 pre-poll centres across the State, 115 were fully wheelchair accessible. These sites were marked accordingly in our print advertising and on our website, and electors could also ring our 1300 hotline to find out the centre closest to them.

I understand from the article in the *Manly Daily* of 20 March 2007 that Ms Geppert was making a point about the lack of full wheelchair access at the Manly pre-poll voting centre. As stated in the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) response to this article:

- The NSWEC does not actually own any offices but hires community premises that are available for approximately two months every four years at the time of a State election. Every effort is made to secure wheelchair accessible premises within each electoral district, however, we can only rent what is on the market. In assessing whether



premises are suitable, the NSWEC has developed a pro forma audit document to be completed when inspections are conducted. As access to the premises is a key feature, a separate checklist outlining the factors required for a site to be fully wheelchair accessible is also provided. A copy of this document is attached – Tab B.

- In the course of 2006 the NSWEC undertook an extensive consultation process with 18 disability peak consumer and advocacy groups to seek their input. In relation to advertising wheelchair accessibility to premises being used for voting purposes, the overwhelming request was for us to advertise only those premises that were fully wheelchair accessible. This does not mean that the remaining 33 locations were unable to be used by those in a wheelchair but that as the venue did not meet all of the requirements (eg a centre may have had a ramp but no allocated parking spaces), assistance would have been required.
- The lack of appropriate facilities in all electoral districts is a commentary on the state of wheelchair accessible facilities within the community at the time we are looking to secure them. In some communities there were simply no fully wheelchair accessible premises available on the market for the short term, 2 month, rental period required.

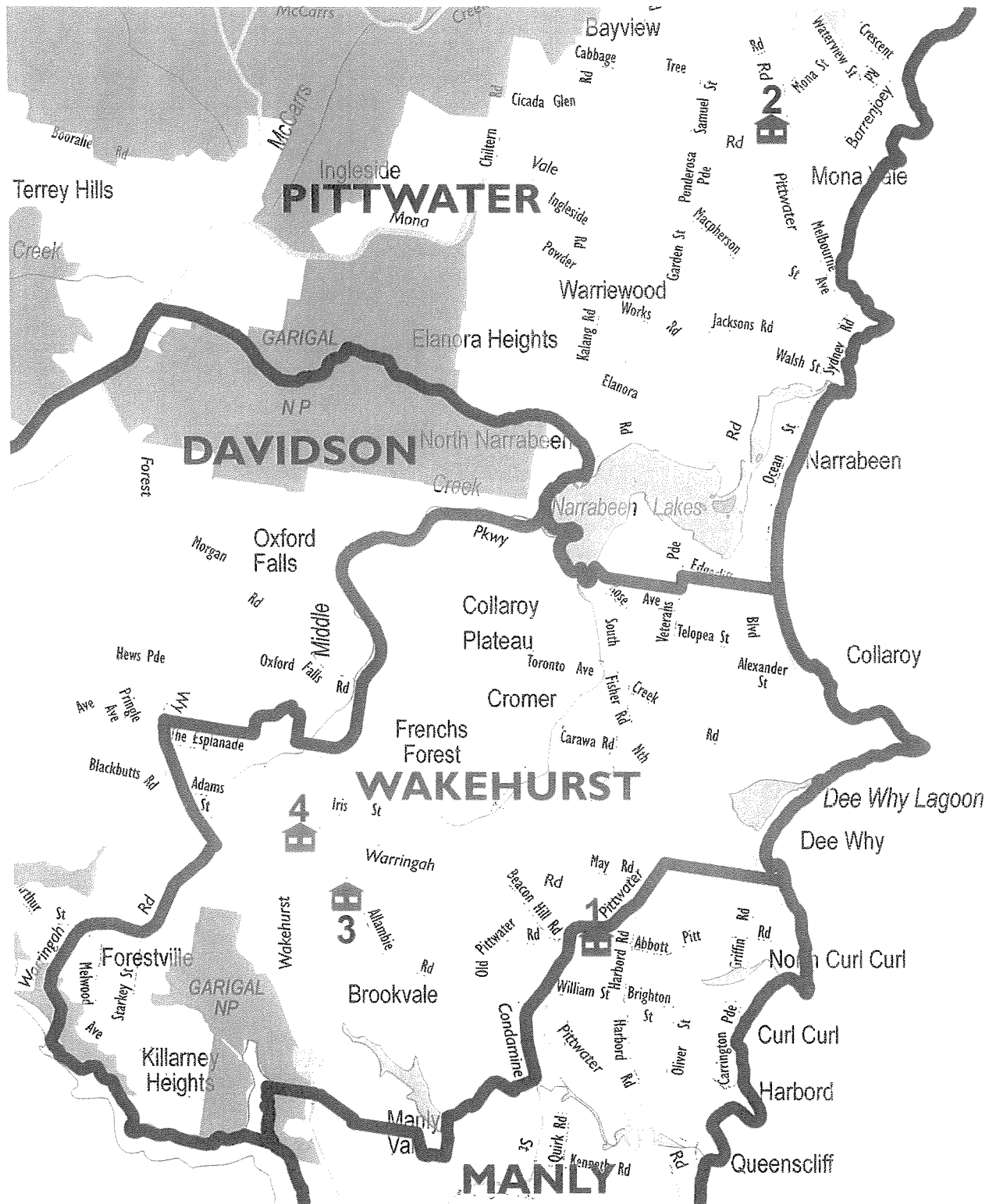
The NSWEC is committed to making voting accessible to the whole community and the plan, *Equal Access to Democracy*, prepared in 2006 will be reviewed in light of the March 2007 State election to see what further improvements can be made. A copy of this Plan is attached – Tab C.

If you wish to discuss this matter further I can be contacted on 9290-5910.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Colin Barry', is written above the printed name.

Colin Barry
Electoral Commissioner



1. Pittwater Road, Brookvale
2. Pittwater Road, Mona Vale
3. Allambie Road, Allambie Heights
4. Skyline Place, Frenchs Forest

ATTACHMENT 3

OFFICE ACCESS AUDIT FORM

STATE DISTRICT	
RECOMMENDED OFFICE ADDRESS	

The following checklist is designed to assess the useability of an office for wheelchair users. The checklist follows the path of travel from the arrival point to the voting area. It assists the process of establishing if a wheelchair user can access a venue with or without assistance, or if it is unsuitable for wheelchair access.

OFFICE ACCESS CHECKLIST

	Tick Yes or No to the following, if No please provide comments as to why it does not meet the requirement.		
1. Continuous accessible path of travel			
In relation to a continuous accessible path of travel please assess the following points:	Yes	No	Comments
• Those parts of the premises which the public is entitled to enter is connected by a continuous accessible path of travel.			
• The continuous accessible path of travel is the most commonly used and direct path of travel.			
• The path is firm and slip resistant			
• The path is free of any overhanging obstacles incl. trees and signs which would reduce the path to less than 760mm			
• The path is free of obstructions incl. steps and kerbs			

2. Carpark			
When recommending an office the following points should be considered in relation to car parking facilities:			
• Designated car park spaces are available for vehicles used by people with disabilities.			
If available these car park spaces are:			
• Level			
• Within 50 m of the entrance to the building			
• Minimum 3.2 m wide			
• Contain adequate signage of their availability			
3. Stairways, escalators and moving pathways			
If the recommended office has stairways, escalators or moving pathways available for use, the following should be considered:			
• They are not part of a continuous accessible path of travel			
• They are located adjacent to a continuous accessible path of travel			
4. Approaches and entrances			
When considering a location thought should be given to the following in relation to all approaches and entrances:			
• Entrances are accessible to all users			
• Entrances are free of steps or stairs			
• The doorway is at least 800mm wide clear opening			
5. Lifts			
• If the office is not located on street level is there a lift available?			
If the primary entrance to the office is via a lift you will need to consider the following:			
• Access to the lift is via a continuous accessible path of travel			
• The lift door width is a minimum 800mm			
• All controls are at a suitable height for use by a person in a wheelchair			

Overall Assessment:

Taking into consideration the completed checklist please make a recommendation below as to the overall usability of the recommended office for persons with a disability, in particular those electors in a wheelchair.

This office has been assessed as accessible by all members of the public inc. persons with a disability or in a wheelchair.

Yes ☐

No ☐

Additional Comments:

Signature (Returning Officer)

Date

ATTACHMENT - DEFINITIONS

Access/Accessible

Means that a person with a disability is, without assistance, able to approach, enter, pass to and from and make use of an area and its facilities.

Continuous Accessible Path of Travel

An uninterrupted path of travel to or within a building providing access to all facilities. This can not incorporate any steps, stairs, revolving doorway, escalator, turnstile or other impediment that would prevent it from being safely negotiated by people with disabilities. Grassed or uneven surface can create difficulties for people with disabilities.

Designated Accessible Parking Bay

A parking bay with a minimum width of 3200mm (3800mm preferred). The bay will be adjacent to the building entrance and be on level ground with a firm surface with no loose particles. Access to adjacent pathways shall be level or via kerb ramps. Pole signs located at the front, (or side if parallel bay) should be provided. An overhead clearance of 2500mm should be provided.

Door Width

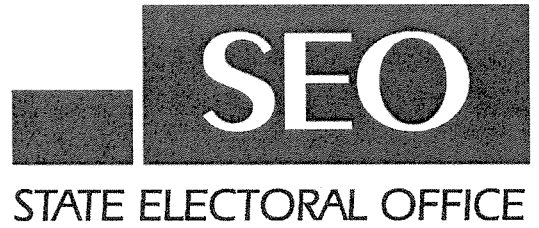
The current minimum door width opening access is 800mm with a preferred width of 850mm.

Ramp

An access way with a slope/gradient steeper than 1:20. The Australian Standards use 1:14 as the maximum slope/gradient suitable for a person in a wheelchair.

Slip Resistant

Any surface that provides traction for a wheelchair or a person walking, in both wet and dry situations.



EQUAL ACCESS TO DEMOCRACY PLAN

June 2006

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Electoral Commissioner's Foreword

I am pleased to present the New South Wales State Electoral Office's Equal Access to Democracy Plan for the March 2007 State General Election.

The Equal Access to Democracy Plan was developed through a series of consultations with peak disability consumer and industry organisations in New South Wales. The consultations provided the SEO with valuable comments and suggestions which were used in the development of the Plan.

The Plan identifies key issues that currently impact on access and participation in the democratic process for people with disabilities, and outlines important initiatives to provide more choices at the 2007 State General Election. The Plan is intended to be a living document and will be reviewed after the March 2007 State General Election to examine what further improvements can be made.

The Plan does not include all actions identified in the consultation process. Some of the areas identified require legislative change, whilst others are not practically possible. Those areas which have been prioritised for implementation at the March 2007 State General Election represent positive, practical solutions which enable real improvements to current arrangements.

I am looking forward to continuing the partnerships with the peak disability consumer and industry organisations, established through our consultations, as together we work to promote participation and improve access to the electoral system in New South Wales for people with disabilities.



Colin Barry
Electoral Commissioner

Why an Equal Access to Democracy Plan?

The State Electoral Office (SEO) has prepared an Equal Access to Democracy Plan for implementation at the March 2007 State General Election.

The purpose of the Plan is to improve access to electoral services for people with a disability (Appendix 1) at the election and provide more doors to the electoral process.

The Equal Access to Democracy Plan fulfils a commitment made in the SEO's Corporate Plan for 2005 to 2007 to provide election services that promote equal access and participation and addresses the priority areas identified in the NSW Disability Policy Framework.

In December 2005, the SEO prepared a discussion paper on Equal Access to Democracy and circulated the document to peak disability consumer and industry organisations (Peaks) prior to holding a series of consultation workshops in February 2006.

The aim of the consultation workshops was to ascertain from the Peaks, ideas and practical suggestions for improving access to all electoral services, including access to polling places, for the 2007 State General Election.

Following the consultations the SEO developed an Equal Access to Democracy Report to identify achievable improvements in the provision of electoral services for electors with a disability at the March 2007 State General Election. These improvements were identified through the consultation process. The Report was circulated to the participating Peaks to enable them to consult with their members and provide feedback and comments to the SEO on the Report goals and strategies before the finalisation of the Plan.

The Equal Access to Democracy Plan is intended to support the principles of the *Disability Services Act 1993* and in particular:

- Persons with disabilities have the right to choose their own lifestyle and to have access to information, provided in a manner appropriate to their disability and cultural background, necessary to allow informed choice
- Persons with disabilities have the same right as other members of the Australian society to participate in the decisions which affect their lives
- Persons with disabilities receiving services have the same right as other members of Australian society to receive those services in a manner which results in the least restriction of their rights and opportunities.

What is the role of the SEO?

The SEO's role is to provide high quality election services that are impartial, effective, efficient and in accordance with the law.

The SEO is responsible for:

- conducting elections for the Parliament of NSW and elections for local government councils
- conducting elections for registered clubs, statutory boards and State registered industrial organisations
- working with the Australian Electoral Commission in the management of the joint electoral roll in NSW
- providing administrative support to the Election Funding Authority.

The SEO recognises the diversity of the New South Wales community and the demand for high quality electoral services to meet a wide range of needs, expectations and levels of understanding of the democratic system.

The SEO Corporate Plan for 2005 to 2007 commits to improving electoral services in New South Wales for people with a disability.

The SEO Values statement provides direction and guidance for the organisation in order to conduct its business in an ethical manner and includes:

- integrity in the way that we approach our work
- impartiality in the conduct of elections to gain and maintain the confidence of clients and the community
- respect for the needs of all in our community to ensure equal access to democracy
- professionalism in providing election services.

SEO's Electoral Environment

Elections are conducted in a high profile environment where impartiality, accuracy, reliability and efficiency are essential.

The SEO's work is undertaken within a strict legal framework. Under the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* every aspect of the conduct of elections is clearly defined including the timeframe for conducting the election, entitlement to pre-poll and postal voting, the way to cast a valid vote, the format of the ballot papers and the booth arrangement within the polling place. The SEO has no discretion in the matter.

The Equal Access to Democracy Plan for the March 2007 State General Election will provide improvements to electoral services that comply with the prescriptive provisions of electoral legislation.

The Consultation Process

Representatives from 17 Peaks participated in consultations facilitated by Mr Peter Abbinga of Participation Works Group and Mr Tony Clark of Vision Australia. The agenda addressed the following issues which had been prioritised by the Peaks themselves prior to the consultations and formed the basis for discussions. The NSW Electoral Commissioner attended each workshop.

Aims of the workshop

- SEO planning process – 2007 State General Election
- Challenges and opportunities
- Legislative environment and constraints
- Practical constraints

Voting

- Casting a vote
- Alternative voting methods
- Electronic voting
- Voting screens and polling place layout

Access

- Access to SEO premises
- Access to Returning Officers' offices
- Access to pre-poll centres and polling places

Access to Information

- Communicating with the SEO
- Electoral information
- Enrolment

Promoting positive attitudes

- Promoting participation
- Training of polling officials
- On-going feedback to the SEO

Through the consultations, Peaks gained an appreciation of the highly regulated legislative environment that electoral services are delivered in, as well as many of the practical constraints that the SEO faces in providing services at the time of the General Election throughout the State.

The Peaks also identified those issues that they wished the SEO to give priority attention to, and provided very many practical achievable suggestions on how to improve access and participation and the experience of voting for the 2007 State General Election.

All suggestions were evaluated according to whether they were:

- 1) Possible under the current legislation
- 2) Able to be achieved by the 2007 State General Election
- 3) Would deliver practical improvements

It was recognised by the group as a whole that some seemingly small changes could make a big difference to the experience of people with a disability exercising their democratic right.

The Plan will address as a first step what is achievable for the March 2007 State General Election. However, those important issues which were raised in the course of the

consultations will not be ignored. The proposal to establish an Access Consultation Group, which came out of the consultations, has been accepted by the SEO. This Access Group, as a first step, will assist in evaluating the implementation of the Plan at the 2007 General Election and will provide ongoing regular advice to the SEO.

SEO's Goals

Goal one: Establish partnerships with Peaks to promote equal access and participation

Issues raised through consultation:

The consultations established that Peaks wish to work with the SEO to examine issues and solutions that promote access and participation.

Through a framework of on-going consultation, Peaks could provide direct input to the SEO on the implementation of the Equal Access to Democracy Plan at the State General Election and provide timely information on electoral access issues to their members. Working closely with Peaks would enable the SEO to access information on the latest resources and adaptive technologies. It would also enable the SEO to use the extensive community networks of Peaks to publicise electoral information and promote electoral education.

The SEO could establish a forum for ongoing consultation such as an Access Consultative Group. This would initially meet after the 2007 State General Election to evaluate the implementation of the Plan at the conclusion of the election.

Suggested strategies:

In partnership with Peaks, disseminate timely information on enrolment, the SEO's legislative and operational environment and key election messages during the election.

Establish an Access Consultative Group consisting of representatives of Peaks to provide feedback and advice to the SEO on the implementation of the Plan at the State General Election.

Develop a charter for the Access Consultative Group to outline its role in assisting the SEO in continuously exploring access improvements to electoral information and services for people with a disability.

As a first step, participants from the Equal Access to Democracy consultation process would participate in the review process of the March 2007 State General election.

Action:

Director, Corporate Communications Branch

Performance measures:

Prior to the 2007 State General Election, the SEO provides Peaks with key election information for distribution to their members.

After the March 2007 State General election, the Access Consultative Group convened to assist the SEO to review the implementation of the Equal Access to Democracy Plan.

Access Consultative Group within its charter provides feedback and advice to the SEO on accessibility and participation issues at the State General Election.

Access Consultative Group provides forum for assisting the SEO to further address access and electoral information improvements.

Goal two: Provide inclusive and accessible election information

Issues raised through consultation:

The SEO aims to provide inclusive and accessible information for the election. There are a number of challenges in providing timely election information in alternative formats, for instance, the electoral timetable and current production arrangements may not enable the supply of Braille candidate or party names in sufficient time for use before Election Day.

The SEO is keen to produce election information in alternative formats and seeks to diversify its election advertising campaign by disseminating election information through Peaks' community networks and newsletters.

Peaks requested that the SEO publicise the options available to electors to vote before Election Day.

Peaks also requested that the SEO trial an Easy Read "train the trainer" enrolment and electoral education module to promote access and participation by people with intellectual and cognitive disabilities.

Peaks were advised that the SEO website was under redevelopment. They requested that the SEO website be designed to comply with W3C standards.

Suggested strategies:

SEO to provide key election information to Peaks in electronic format.

Peaks to disseminate election information through their community networks and newsletters.

SEO's advertising brief to develop an information campaign strategy to include requirements for provision of electoral information to persons with a disability that is inclusive and provides greater information access.

SEO to provide election information in a range of alternative formats such as Easy Read, Large Print, Braille, Audio, 2RPH radio broadcasts, Open Captions, and TTY text telephone.

Review current production arrangements in conjunction with Vision Australia and other providers to explore the possibilities for key election information being provided in a timely fashion in alternative formats such as Braille, Large Print, disk, audio and Easy Read format.

SEO to publicise the options of voting before Election Day in the media and through Peaks' community networks and newsletters.

SEO to develop and pilot with one organisation an Easy Read electoral education "train the trainer" module to enable Peaks to promote access and participation at the election.

SEO to provide a "How to Vote" step by step guides in community languages for distribution within ethnic communities.

All guides to be written in plain English, especially information guides to be translated.

SEO to conduct information sessions explaining the political system, citizens' responsibilities and how to vote in an election for non English speaking backgrounds (NESB) communities.

SEO's brief to redevelop website includes requirements for web content to comply with accessibility standards.

Post the Equal Access to Democracy Plan on the SEO website in accessible format.

Action:

Director, Corporate Communications

Performance measures:

SEO provides key election information to Peaks in accessible electronic format.

Peaks provided with timely key election information to disseminate to their members through community networks and newsletters.

Alternative format electoral information developed as part of an integrated communication strategy.

Information on the options of voting before Election Day publicised in the media and through Peaks' community networks and newsletters by February 2007.

Easy Read electoral education "train the trainer" module developed and piloted with one organisation by February 2007.

"How to Vote" step by step guides in community languages distributed within ethnic communities.

All guides written in plain English, especially information guides to be translated.

Website designer contracted to deliver website content templates and navigation that comply with accessibility standards.

Equal Access to Democracy Plan posted on the SEO website in accessible format.

Goal three: Promote equal access at buildings used at elections

Issues raised through consultation:

The State General Election in March 2007 requires the SEO to lease for eight weeks approximately 100 buildings across the State for use as Returning Officers' offices and pre-poll centres. The SEO is required as well to lease for one day only some 2,500 polling places. These buildings must accommodate the needs of over 4.3 million electors. Voting is by attendance with the option for eligible electors to register as a general postal voter or to apply for a postal vote (see Goal four).

The SEO does not own any of the buildings it uses during elections and therefore has very limited influence over the level of accessibility of premises appointed as Returning Officers' offices, pre-poll centres and polling places.

Peaks requested that the SEO develop new ways to effectively audit the accessibility status of buildings used as polling places at the election and to provide accurate information on accessibility status in its election advertising and information campaigns.

Peaks advised that they would prefer fewer, but fully accessible Returning Officers' offices, pre-poll centres and polling places and were prepared to travel further for full accessibility. Peaks have requested that the longer term goal of fully accessible polling places will be addressed by the Access Consultative Group.

Peaks requested that accessibility inside buildings be improved by reviewing polling place lay-out, and the design and colour of election equipment. The lay-out of the polling place is very important for the efficient conduct of the election, and should be designed to limit congestion and ensure adequate privacy and security.

Effective lay-out principles should address issues such as appropriate lighting and ease of entry and egress. Electors with limited mobility or some forms of mental illness require a secure clear path that is free from obstacles and encumbrances. Peaks requested where possible that the wheelchair accessible entrance not be used as an exit.

Peaks also identified additional options to improve access to voting such as the use of Vision Australia premises and/or the Spastic Centre as polling places for all electors.

Suggested strategies:

Adopt a more robust accessibility audit instrument to enable an accurate measurement of accessibility at polling places.

Provide training for Returning Officers, Polling Place Managers and other SEO staff on how to assess and address accessibility at Returning Officers' offices, pre-poll centres and polling places.

Review the accessibility status of all Returning Officers' offices, pre-poll centres and polling places and ensure timely publication during the election period.

Adopt only one category – "Full Access" - for defining and publishing wheelchair accessibility.

Review instructions for the lay-out of polling places and provide training to Polling Place Managers on the need for appropriate lighting, maximum accessibility for entry and exit paths and the need to facilitate flow-through of electors.

Relying on advice from Vision Australia, ensure polling place lay-out at Vision Australia premises includes the appropriate set up of Closed Circuit Television in order to ensure voters can cast a private ballot.

Review all forms and signage against accessibility criteria.

Apply luminous contrast graphic design principles to signage to improve accessibility.

Review the signage at polling places to include signage in community languages in areas with a large ethnic community.

Action:

Director, Elections Branch

Performance measures:

Returning Officers, Polling Place Managers and other SEO staff trained on how to assess accessibility at Returning Officers' offices, pre-poll centres and polling places.

List of polling place accessibility status finalised by November 2006.

List of Returning Officers' offices and pre-poll centres accessibility status finalised by February 2007.

All advertisements and brochures identify full access polling places with an explanation of what the symbol means.

Instructions on optimal polling place layout included in Returning Officer's and Polling Place Manager's Manual.

Relying on advice from Vision Australia, polling place lay-out at Vision Australia premises will include the appropriate set up of Closed Circuit Television in order to ensure voters can cast a private ballot.

Polling place lay-out at the election follows optimal accessibility principles.

Training of all Returning Officers and Polling Place Managers include optimal accessibility layout principles.

All forms and signage reviewed in accordance with accessibility criteria.

Luminous contrast graphic designs and maximum accessibility features incorporated into specifications for the election furniture order by September 2006.

How to Vote signage at polling places available in community languages in areas with a large ethnic community.

Goal four: Provide more options that promote equal access to enrolment and voting

Issues raised through consultation:

Enrolment is managed by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) on behalf of the SEO. Legislation does not permit electors to enrol electronically by digital signature.

Electors with a disability which prevents them from signing or completing the enrolment form may authorise another person to witness the elector marking their mark as their signature. An elector who is physically incapable of marking a mark may have another person sign on their behalf, but must provide a written certificate from a registered medical practitioner.

To cast a valid vote at the election, legislation requires that electors place numbers in squares next to candidates' names on printed ballot papers. Different rules apply for voting at the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) and Legislative Council (Upper House) elections. The large size of the Legislative Council ballot paper means that it is not possible to provide Braille alternatives for vision-impaired voters.

Electronic voting as an alternative to marking the ballot paper was raised by the Peaks as an option to be explored. This is an area which would need legislative change to implement even on a trial basis due to the prescriptive nature of the legislation. Peaks generally agreed that such fundamental change would not be possible to implement in time for the March 2007 State General Election.

As an alternative, Peaks identified the option of applying new adaptive technologies (e.g. closed circuit television for magnification) to improve access to voting. Peaks suggested the use of Vision Australia premises as polling places because of the wide range of new adaptive technologies available on the premises.

Peaks requested information that they could provide to their members on all the options for voting at the election including postal voting, pre-poll voting and assisted voting at polling places.

Under current legislation an elector with a disability may not register as a General Postal Voter. An application for a postal vote is required at each election.

Electoral law also does not permit electors to pre-poll vote by reason of disability but carers can.

Peaks also requested that the SEO review its compulsory voting follow-up procedures to ensure that access issues do not disadvantage people with disabilities who fail to vote.

Suggested strategies:

Seek the assistance of Peaks to identify low areas of enrolment and to promote enrolment to their members.

Advise the AEC of barriers to enrolment identified through the consultation process and explore with the AEC alternative formats for enrolment.

Within the constraints of legislation, improve the format and design of ballot papers to maximise accessibility.

Include Braille text on election signage and ballot boxes.

Provide large print information, user-friendly pencils and hand held magnifiers as part of standard equipment for polling places.

Review the design of table top screens and provide wheelchair accessible voting compartments.

Develop voting compartments' design specifications to take account of the needs of people who use wheelchairs.

Review signage and posters at polling places to include Large Print and pictures to make them more distinguishable.

Display Large Print sample ballot papers at polling places to assist voters.

Display sample ballot papers in plain English or translated into community languages with plain English explanation of the instruction on the ballot paper.

Provide ballot papers and instructions in audio and large print format at polling places.

Peaks to promote increased awareness of the options for voting at polling places, including assisted voting.

Provide information to Peaks to enable them to inform their members on the options available for voting at the election, including postal voting, pre-poll voting and assisted voting at polling places.

In partnership with Peaks, such as Vision Australia and the Spastic Centre, trial the use of such premises as polling places for the whole community.

SEO to review procedures for the enforcement of compulsory voting to ensure that electors with disability are treated equally.

Legislative change is required to enable people with a disability to enrol as a General Postal Voter or to cast their vote in a pre-poll centre.

Action: Director, Elections Branch

Performance measures:

Ballot papers with accessible design features used at the 2007 State General Election.

Braille text included on election signage and ballot boxes used at the election.

Large Print information, user friendly pencils and hand held magnifiers supplied and publicised at polling places.

Wheelchair accessible voting compartments receive positive feedback from people who use wheelchairs.

Wheelchair accessible voting compartments available at each voting centre.

Signage and posters at polling places enhanced to include Large Print and pictures to make them more distinguishable.

Large Print sample ballot papers displayed at all polling places.

Sample ballot papers in plain English or translated into community languages are displayed with a plain English explanation of the instruction on the ballot paper.

Ballot paper and instructions provided in audio and large print format.

Information on the options, including assisted voting, publicised at all polling places and through Peaks.

Information provided to Peaks to enable them to inform their members on the options available for voting at the election, including postal voting, pre-poll voting and assisted voting at polling places.

Adaptive technologies (such as closed circuit television) trialled at selected voting centres such as Vision Australia premises.

Procedures reviewed to ensure that access issues do not disadvantage people with disabilities who fail to vote at the State General Election.

Goal five: Enable election staff to provide assistance that promotes equal access and participation.

Issues raised through consultation:

At the March 2007 State General Election, the SEO will employ approximately 25,000 election officials to work at polling places and pre-poll centres across the State. Providing appropriate training to such a large number of casual staff employed for only a very limited time presents a considerable challenge for the SEO.

The SEO is committed to ensuring that election officials provide high quality inclusive electoral services that are sensitive to the needs and dignity of people with disabilities.

The SEO seeks to develop and deliver effective awareness training to enable Returning Officers and election officials provide appropriate assistance to people with disabilities during the election.

Peaks identified a number of useful resources available to the SEO in developing awareness guidelines and training and expressed a willingness to provide advice on content and methodology.

Peaks also requested, that wherever possible, the SEO recruit election officials who possess relevant skills to assist electors with disabilities - such as Auslan interpreters.

Suggested strategies:

Develop an awareness program for implementation of the Equal Access to Democracy Plan across all Branches of the SEO.

Include guidelines in training programs and election manuals to ensure that Returning Officers and Polling Officials are aware of appropriate ways to provide assistance to electors with a disability, including those with mental illness or disorders.

Develop recruitment criteria for election officials to include relevant skills (including awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of people with non English speaking backgrounds).

Employ and train suitably skilled Vision Australia and Spastic Centre staff to act as polling officials at the voting centres to ensure quality assistance is given to all voters, including those with a disability who choose to vote at these centres.

Implement a strategy for receiving feedback from electors regarding the quality of services provided during the State General Election (possibly have a survey at the polling places for voters to fill out with ways to improve the experience for people with a disability).

Distribute the Equal Access to Democracy Plan to Peaks and the Department of Ageing, Disability and Homecare (DADHC).

Action: Director, Elections Branch and Director, Corporate Communications

Performance measures:

All SEO staff complete an awareness program for the implementation of the Equal Access to Democracy Plan prior to the conduct of the State General Election.

Guidelines and training for promoting accessibility and for assisting people with disabilities developed and included in training programs and election manuals by September 2006.

Recruitment criteria for election officials include relevant skills, including sensitivity to the needs of people with non English speaking backgrounds.

Vision Australia and Spastic Centre staff employed to act as polling officials at the voting centres to ensure quality assistance is given to all voters, including those with a disability who choose to vote at these centres.

Electors with a disability able to provide feedback to the SEO on the quality of electoral services provided at the State General Election through the Access Consultative Group.

Equal Access to Democracy Plan provided to Peaks and the Department of Ageing, Disability and Homecare (DADHC) for publication through their own networks.

Appendix 1

What is a Disability?

The *Disability Discrimination Act* 1992 (C'th) defines disability in relation to a person as:

- total or partial loss of the person's bodily or mental functions; or
- total or partial loss of a part of the body; or
- the presence in the body of organisms causing disease or illness; or
- the malfunction, malformation or disfigurement of a part of the person's body; or
- a disorder or malfunction that results in the person learning differently from another person without that disorder or malfunction; or
- a disorder, illness or disease that affects a person's thought processes, perception of reality, emotions or judgement or that results in disturbed behaviour;

and includes a disability that:

- presently exists; or
- may exist in the future; or
- is imputed to a person.

Appendix 2

Consultation participants:

State Electoral Office

Colin Barry – Electoral Commissioner
Brian DeCelis – Director, Elections
Nicholle Nobel – Director, Corporate Communications
Lorraine Nurney – Team Leader, Logistics, Print and Design
Katherine Dalziel – Electoral Services Project Officer

Australian Electoral Commission

Brien Hallett

Blind Citizens of Australia

Barry Chapman

Deafness Forum Australia

Ruth Fotheringham

Disability Council of NSW

Fiona Given

Disability Discrimination Legal Centre

Ben Fogarty
Andreas Hegas

Council of Social Services of NSW

Christine Regan

Mental Health Association of NSW

Peter Trebilco

Mental Health Coordinating Council

Corinne Henderson

Multicultural Disability

Robert Gruhn

NSW Brain Injury Association

Deborah Frith

NSW Council for Intellectual Disability

Clare Murphy
Kim Walker

People With a Disability

Digby Hughes

Physical Disability Council NSW

Robyn Chapman
Ann-Mason Furmage

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People

Richard Brading

Vision Australia

Michael Simpson

Ebru Sumaktas

Those invited but unable to participate in consultations':

Aboriginal Disability Network NSW

Arthritis Foundation NSW

Deaf Blind Association NSW

Mr Darren Fittler

Consultations Facilitated by:

Participation Works Group

Peter Abbinga

Tony Clark

NEW SOUTH WALES ELECTORAL COMMISSION
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TAKEN BY
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

Question 1:

The Hon Don Harwin: (page 16) What was the cost of producing the easy voting card for all electors?

Mr Barry: There was a cost associated with the mail-out of the brochure. The actual easy voting card itself was not separated out in terms of the cost. I could find out the cost of the brochure, but there is not actual breakdown of the cost of the easy voting card because it was just a punch-out part of the brochure, but I would have to take that on notice.

Response 1:

The cost associated with the mailout of the brochure was \$2.575M. The easy voting card was included as part of the brochure.

Question 2:

Ms Lee Rhiannon: (page 17) My question was about the section votes. Do you have data on how many people claim section votes and how many of those votes are accepted?

Mr Barry: I do not have that and I would have to check back at the office. We certainly have information about the number that has been admitted to the count. As to the first part of the question about how many were actually issued, I am not sure. I will take that question on notice.

Response 2:

The number of people who claimed section votes for the 2007 State General election is not available as this data was contained in the ROs returns and these have now been destroyed. The number of section votes accepted for the 2007 State General election was 5,714.

Question 3:

Ms Lee Rhiannon: (page 17) Would it be possible to record and make public the number of section or provisional vote applications, the number of those applications where the vote is counted and the reason for the authority's refusal of those applications that were not accepted? Could that be documented?

Mr Barry: Yes, it could. I could give you the reason now that they would not be accepted. It is because the elector's name would be removed through the legal process of taking them off the roll.

Response 3:

See response to Question 2.

Question 4:

The Hon Jennifer Gardiner: (page 18) Mr Barry, do you have an estimate of how many voters missed out because of the mail problem and who tried to get the vote counted but it arrived too late?

Mr Barry: I do not off the top of my head. I would have to check back at the office to see whether we have information on that. I do know that in the country areas, those areas that we have talked about, there are a considerable number of people.

Response 4:

There were 1,787 applications for postal votes received too late and 2,622 postal vote declarations received too late.

Question 5:

The Hon Don Harwin: (page 19) As to the third possible solution, are you aware how the people in New South Wales vote in Federal elections using mobile voting teams?

Mr Barry: No, I am not, Mr Harwin.

The Hon Don Harwin: Would that information be on the public record or would you be able to get it from the AEC?

Mr Barry: I will make inquiries.

The Hon Don Harwin: And would you provide that on notice?

Mr Barry: Yes.

Response 5:

The number of ordinary votes in New South Wales in Federal elections using mobile voting teams was 14,255 (made up of 14,170 using Special Hospital Teams and 85 using Remote Mobile Teams).

Question 6:

Mr Barry: (page 19) Yes, they did collect a survey but I do not know the result of that. I will have to find that out from the AEC.

The Hon Amanda Fazio: Would you be able to do that?

Mr Barry: Yes, I will.

Response 6:

AEC Survey Results

	Responses Received	Vote at Static PP	Vote at Early Vote Centre	GPV	PVA	Blank
Electors	675	90	12	565	6	2
Vacant >20k	20	3	0	17	0	
Vacant <20k	2	2	0	0	0	
TOTAL	697	95	12	582	6	2
%	100	13.63	1.72	83.50	0.86	0.29

Question 7:

The Hon Don Harwin: (page 25) Another concern has been raised in relation to the presentation of material on the website, and perhaps this is something you can consider and take on board. There was some dissatisfaction in relation to the Legislative Council count and the percentage figures that were being put on the web. They were a percentage of the total vote rather than a percentage of the total formal vote. Of course, the level of informal voting is irrelevant to the calculation of the quotas and more than one submission to us has requested that that be reformatted in future so that it is more obvious and clear how the candidates are going in the election and their prospect of success. I think it is in the Greens' submission from Chris Maltby. There certainly was quite some comment about it at the time.

The Hon Don Harwin: On the other hand, though, you release progressive totals during the process of the count and I think there is a small concern in relation to the material you put out about the percentages. It was expressed during the election as a percentage of the total vote rather than of the total formal vote.

The Hon Don Harwin: I am referring to the progressive vote counts that you put out from your Legislative Council voting centre at Riverwood – it was at Riverwood at the last election – after those papers were taken to Riverwood and as they were being progressively entered. You were putting out progressive vote totals by party. That is the information I am talking about; I am not talking about polling night.

Mr Barry: All right. We will take that one on notice, Mr Harwin.

Response 7:

I understand from the JSCM (Mr Burgess) email dated 18 March 2008 to Marie Swain of the NSWEC that the Greens' submission and Mr Harwin are referring to issues with progressive Legislative Council count information released by the NSWEC in the weeks following the election.

Before addressing the points raised in the email, it is appropriate that I provide the following overview of the information we distributed regarding the Legislative Council election between election night and the finalisation of the count:

- Election night information comprised first preference count results for each of the groups with above the live voting squares and Dawn Fraser and the number of other votes which included informals. A percentage figure was also provided for each of the groups and Dawn Fraser which was relative to the total votes in the count at that

time (which included informal votes). It should be noted that the NSWEC does not identify informal ballots on election night hence it is not possible to report this figure.

- Progressive Legislative Council count information released by the NSWEC in the weeks following the election comprised some seven separate reports on our website. These reports listed the first preference vote and informal ballots for the count at the time the report was prepared. The report did NOT contain any percentage figures.
- At the completion of the count a final report was placed on the web which was like the progressive Legislative Council count information but did contain percentage information for each group which was relative to the total FORMAL vote.

Therefore, in response to the specific points raised in the email, I provide the following specific responses:

- 1) Lacked accuracy because they included the informal vote. That is the percentage of the vote received by parties/groups was expressed as a percentage of the total votes cast and not as a percentage of the formal vote.

Response – informal votes were only included in the calculation of percentages on election night. Their inclusion was because we did not separate informal ballot papers on election night. We are not aware of any post election night percentage information containing informal votes.

- 2) Later when the informal vote was removed from these calculations the final figures for parties improved markedly. This led to some confusion in terms of how parties had performed.

Response – the final informal percentage moved about 1% higher for the Greens between election night and the final count.

- 3) Greens have requested that progressive counts released in the weeks after the election be expressed only in terms of the total formal vote to give a more accurate picture.

Response – the only result post election night percentage information containing informal votes was the final count which was expressed in terms of the formal vote.

Legislative Council Election Night Summary

Date: 02/04/2007 Time: 16:42:18

Electors Enrolled on 5 March 2007: 4,374,029

Figures represent "Group Totals"

Grp ID	Group/Party Name	Votes	% of Total
A	Group A	19,181	.58
B	THE FISHING PARTY	45,466	1.39
C	AUSTRALIANS AGAINST FURTHER IMMIGRATION	46,352	1.41
E	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	1,009,737	30.78
F	Group F	17,522	.53
G	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	50,384	1.54
H	Group H	2,992	.09
I	THE GREENS	267,393	8.15
J	UNITY PARTY	37,697	1.15
K	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	131,219	4.00
L	RESTORE THE WORKERS' RIGHTS PARTY	27,558	.84
M	Group M	3,830	.12
N	THE SHOOTERS PARTY	83,507	2.55
O	LABOR	1,188,773	36.23
P	HORSE RIDERS PARTY / OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	18,455	.56
Q	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	12,509	.38
R	SAVE OUR SUBURBS	9,119	.28
S	HUMAN RIGHTS PARTY	11,883	.36
T	Dawn Fraser	2,458	.07
OTHER	Other (inc. informal)	294,962	8.99
	TOTAL VOTES	3,280,997	100

30/03/2007

15:28:03

**NEW SOUTH WALES ELECTORAL COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION SYSTEM**

Page 1 of 13

GROUP AND CANDIDATE VOTES REPORT**(Version 3/07)****Report For :****ELECTION ID : LC2007**

GROUP ID	A	GROUP NAME	GROUP A	
		CANDIDATE NAME		CANDIDATE TOTAL
		BROWN,NELL		113
		CARTER,MARYLOU		21
		MOCKLER,LUISA		9
		MOCKLER,MARY		15
		AGGETT,LINA		1
		BELLCHAMBERS,JOYCE		1
		STEPKOVITCH,WENDY		4
		CHAPMAN,ROBYN		3
		ALLEN,LYN		0
		SHIELDS,ESTELLE		1
		PESA,MEL		4
		CARTER,DAVID		5
		BUCKWALTER,MAREE		4
		STEPKOVITCH,NICK		5
		STEPKOVITCH,BETTY		6
		RICKETSON,ELLA		2
			CANDIDATES VOTES	194
			GROUP VOTES	6,581
			GROUP TOTAL	6,775

GROUP ID	B	GROUP NAME	THE FISHING PARTY	
		CANDIDATE NAME		CANDIDATE TOTAL
		SMITH,ROBERT		49
		STOCKER,ELIZABETH		4
		STOCKER,MARK		5
		SHEPHERD,DEANNE		3
		HYLAND,GARY		1
		PATERSON,STEWART		3
		SOANE,MARCUS		0
		HITCHCOCK,DAVID		3
		OATEN,CRAIG		2
		MCCOOK,DARREN		2
		DOWNIE,JASON		1
		MCCARTNEY,CRAIG		0
		MCCARTNEY,DAVID		1
		PROCTOR,LES		0

31/03/2007

14:47:23

**NEW SOUTH WALES ELECTORAL COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION SYSTEM**

Page 1 of 13

GROUP AND CANDIDATE VOTES REPORT**(Version 3/07)****Report For :****ELECTION ID : LC2007**

GROUP ID	A	GROUP NAME	GROUP A		
		CANDIDATE NAME			CANDIDATE TOTAL
		BROWN,NELL			295
		CARTER,MARYLOU			50
		MOCKLER,LUISA			21
		MOCKLER,MARY			32
		AGGETT,LINA			11
		BELLCHAMBERS,JOYCE			7
		STEPKOVITCH,WENDY			12
		CHAPMAN,ROBYN			10
		ALLEN,LYN			10
		SHIELDS,ESTELLE			4
		PESA,MEL			6
		CARTER,DAVID			12
		BUCKWALTER,MAREE			5
		STEPKOVITCH,NICK			10
		STEPKOVITCH,BETTY			10
		RICKETSON,ELLA			12
				CANDIDATES VOTES	507
				GROUP VOTES	11,432
				GROUP TOTAL	11,939

GROUP ID	B	GROUP NAME	THE FISHING PARTY		
		CANDIDATE NAME			CANDIDATE TOTAL
		SMITH,ROBERT			161
		STOCKER,ELIZABETH			13
		STOCKER,MARK			11
		SHEPHERD,DEANNE			5
		HYLAND,GARY			2
		PATERSON,STEWART			4
		SOANE,MARCUS			3
		HITCHCOCK,DAVID			4
		OATEN,CRAIG			9
		MCCOOK,DARREN			2
		DOWNIE,JASON			10
		MCCARTNEY,CRAIG			1
		MCCARTNEY,DAVID			1
		PROCTOR,LES			2

**NEW SOUTH WALES ELECTORAL COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION SYSTEM****GROUP AND CANDIDATE VOTES REPORT****(Version 3/07)****Report For :****ELECTION ID : LC2007**

GROUP ID	A	GROUP NAME	GROUP A	
		CANDIDATE NAME		CANDIDATE TOTAL
		BROWN,NELL		471
		CARTER,MARYLOU		65
		MOCKLER,LUISA		35
		MOCKLER,MARY		48
		AGGETT,LINA		15
		BELLCHAMBERS,JOYCE		13
		STEPKOVITCH,WENDY		23
		CHAPMAN,ROBYN		17
		ALLEN,LYN		20
		SHIELDS,ESTELLE		9
		PESA,MEL		6
		CARTER,DAVID		19
		BUCKWALTER,MAREE		7
		STEPKOVITCH,NICK		12
		STEPKOVITCH,BETTY		14
		RICKETSON,ELLA		16
			CANDIDATES VOTES	790
			GROUP VOTES	15,324
			GROUP TOTAL	16,114

GROUP ID	B	GROUP NAME	THE FISHING PARTY	
		CANDIDATE NAME		CANDIDATE TOTAL
		SMITH,ROBERT		260
		STOCKER,ELIZABETH		21
		STOCKER,MARK		13
		SHEPHERD,DEANNE		7
		HYLAND,GARY		7
		PATERSON,STEWART		6
		SOANE,MARCUS		7
		HITCHCOCK,DAVID		7
		OATEN,CRAIG		11
		MCCOOK,DARREN		5
		DOWNIE,JASON		11
		MCCARTNEY,CRAIG		3
		MCCARTNEY,DAVID		3
		PROCTOR,LES		4

GROUP AND CANDIDATE VOTES REPORT

(Version 3/07)

Report For :

ELECTION ID : LC2007

GROUP ID	A	GROUP NAME	GROUP A	
		CANDIDATE NAME		CANDIDATE TOTAL
		BROWN,NELL		581
		CARTER,MARYLOU		79
		MOCKLER,LUISA		44
		MOCKLER,MARY		61
		AGGETT,LINA		17
		BELLCHAMBERS,JOYCE		19
		STEPKOVITCH,WENDY		26
		CHAPMAN,ROBYN		22
		ALLEN,LYN		25
		SHIELDS,ESTELLE		10
		PESA,MEL		8
		CARTER,DAVID		23
		BUCKWALTER,MAREE		7
		STEPKOVITCH,NICK		14
		STEPKOVITCH,BETTY		15
		RICKETSON,ELLA		19
			CANDIDATES VOTES	970
			GROUP VOTES	16,262
			GROUP TOTAL	17,232

GROUP ID	B	GROUP NAME	THE FISHING PARTY	
		CANDIDATE NAME		CANDIDATE TOTAL
		SMITH,ROBERT		347
		STOCKER,ELIZABETH		28
		STOCKER,MARK		15
		SHEPHERD,DEANNE		9
		HYLAND,GARY		8
		PATERSON,STEWART		8
		SOANE,MARCUS		9
		HITCHCOCK,DAVID		7
		OATEN,CRAIG		12
		MCCOOK,DARREN		6
		DOWNIE,JASON		11
		MCCARTNEY,CRAIG		5
		MCCARTNEY,DAVID		3
		PROCTOR,LES		4

GROUP AND CANDIDATE VOTES REPORT

(Version 3/07)

Report For :

ELECTION ID : LC2007

GROUP ID	A	GROUP NAME	GROUP A	
		CANDIDATE NAME		CANDIDATE TOTAL
		BROWN,NELL		830
		CARTER,MARYLOU		115
		MOCKLER,LUISA		54
		MOCKLER,MARY		72
		AGGETT,LINA		26
		BELLCHAMBERS,JOYCE		29
		STEPKOVITCH,WENDY		37
		CHAPMAN,ROBYN		33
		ALLEN,LYN		38
		SHIELDS,ESTELLE		12
		PESA,MEL		13
		CARTER,DAVID		31
		BUCKWALTER,MAREE		15
		STEPKOVITCH,NICK		22
		STEPKOVITCH,BETTY		21
		RICKETSON,ELLA		25
			CANDIDATES VOTES	1,373
			GROUP VOTES	20,119
			GROUP TOTAL	21,492

GROUP ID	B	GROUP NAME	THE FISHING PARTY	
		CANDIDATE NAME		CANDIDATE TOTAL
		SMITH,ROBERT		539
		STOCKER,ELIZABETH		35
		STOCKER,MARK		23
		SHEPHERD,DEANNE		17
		HYLAND,GARY		10
		PATERSON,STEWART		11
		SOANE,MARCUS		11
		HITCHCOCK,DAVID		13
		OATEN,CRAIG		17
		MCCOOK,DARREN		9
		DOWNIE,JASON		14
		MCCARTNEY,CRAIG		6
		MCCARTNEY,DAVID		6
		PROCTOR,LES		5

GROUP AND CANDIDATE VOTES REPORT

(Version 3/07)

Report For :

ELECTION ID : LC2007

GROUP ID	A	GROUP NAME	GROUP A		
		CANDIDATE NAME			CANDIDATE TOTAL
		BROWN,NELL			949
		CARTER,MARYLOU			134
		MOCKLER,LUISA			60
		MOCKLER,MARY			85
		AGGETT,LINA			33
		BELLCHAMBERS,JOYCE			36
		STEPKOVITCH,WENDY			42
		CHAPMAN,ROBYN			37
		ALLEN,LYN			44
		SHIELDS,ESTELLE			13
		PESA,MEL			15
		CARTER,DAVID			41
		BUCKWALTER,MAREE			15
		STEPKOVITCH,NICK			24
		STEPKOVITCH,BETTY			26
		RICKETSON,ELLA			30
				CANDIDATES VOTES	1,584
				GROUP VOTES	21,763
				GROUP TOTAL	23,347

GROUP ID	B	GROUP NAME	THE FISHING PARTY		
		CANDIDATE NAME			CANDIDATE TOTAL
		SMITH,ROBERT			632
		STOCKER,ELIZABETH			40
		STOCKER,MARK			26
		SHEPHERD,DEANNE			19
		HYLAND,GARY			10
		PATERSON,STEWART			11
		SOANE,MARCUS			14
		HITCHCOCK,DAVID			17
		OATEN,CRAIG			20
		MCCOOK,DARREN			11
		DOWNIE,JASON			16
		MCCARTNEY,CRAIG			9
		MCCARTNEY,DAVID			7
		PROCTOR,LES			5

GROUP AND CANDIDATE VOTES REPORT

(Version 3/07)

Report For :

ELECTION ID : LC2007

GROUP ID	A	GROUP NAME	GROUP A	
		CANDIDATE NAME		CANDIDATE TOTAL
		BROWN,NELL		1,075
		CARTER,MARYLOU		160
		MOCKLER,LUISA		66
		MOCKLER,MARY		99
		AGGETT,LINA		37
		BELLCHAMBERS,JOYCE		43
		STEPKOVITCH,WENDY		50
		CHAPMAN,ROBYN		41
		ALLEN,LYN		46
		SHIELDS,ESTELLE		16
		PESA,MEL		16
		CARTER,DAVID		45
		BUCKWALTER,MAREE		20
		STEPKOVITCH,NICK		30
		STEPKOVITCH,BETTY		27
		RICKETSON,ELLA		32
			CANDIDATES VOTES	1,803
			GROUP VOTES	22,508
			GROUP TOTAL	24,311

GROUP ID	B	GROUP NAME	THE FISHING PARTY	
		CANDIDATE NAME		CANDIDATE TOTAL
		SMITH,ROBERT		722
		STOCKER,ELIZABETH		47
		STOCKER,MARK		29
		SHEPHERD,DEANNE		21
		HYLAND,GARY		15
		PATERSON,STEWART		13
		SOANE,MARCUS		15
		HITCHCOCK,DAVID		19
		OATEN,CRAIG		22
		MCCOOK,DARREN		12
		DOWNIE,JASON		18
		MCCARTNEY,CRAIG		9
		MCCARTNEY,DAVID		8
		PROCTOR,LES		10

NEW SOUTH WALES ELECTORAL COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION SYSTEM

Election Id/Name: LC2007/LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION 2007

SUMMARY OF FIRST PREFERENCE AND GROUP VOTES
FOR EACH CANDIDATE

Group	Candidate	1st Pref	Group	Total	Group Total	%
A	BROWN N.	1310	23736	25046	25942	0.6807
	CARTER M.	183	0	183		
	MOCKLER L.	78	0	78		
	MOCKLER M.	118	0	118		
	AGGETT L.	58	0	58		
	BELLCHAMBERS J.	58	0	58		
	STEPKOVITCH W.	60	0	60		
	CHAPMAN R.	51	0	51		
	ALLEN L.	51	0	51		
	SHIELDS E.	23	0	23		
	PESA M.	19	0	19		
	CARTER D.	59	0	59		
	BUCKWALTER M.	22	0	22		
	STEPKOVITCH N.	40	0	40		
	STEPKOVITCH B.	32	0	32		
	RICKETSON E.	44	0	44		
B	SMITH R.	925	56992	57917	58340	1.5307
	STOCKER E.	58	0	58		
	STOCKER M.	47	0	47		
	SHEPHERD D.	26	0	26		
	HYLAND G.	22	0	22		
	PATERSON S.	18	0	18		
	SOANE M.	21	0	21		
	HITCHCOCK D.	28	0	28		
	OATEN C.	28	0	28		
	MCCOOK D.	18	0	18		
	DOWNIE J.	21	0	21		
	MCCARTNEY C.	16	0	16		
	MCCARTNEY D.	11	0	11		
	PROCTOR L.	11	0	11		
	LEE B.	19	0	19		
	BESIREVIC E.	25	0	25		
	BUCKLEY R.	13	0	13		
	MARTIN K.	5	0	5		
	WALL B.	3	0	3		
	MARTIN R.	33	0	33		
C	WOODGER J.	1511	60400	61911	62386	1.6369
	HEINRICHS A.	44	0	44		
	O'LEARY K.	73	0	73		
	GIRVAN R.	31	0	31		
	SPRAGG K.	23	0	23		
	BATEMAN J.	58	0	58		
	BATEMAN P.	48	0	48		
	SHERWOOD E.	18	0	18		