

**Submission
No 26**

**INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC FUNDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ELECTION CAMPAIGNS**

Organisation: The Council of the Shire of Bourke

Name: Mr Geoff Wise

Position: General Manager

Date Received: 27/09/2010

The Council of The Shire of Bourke

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Please address all
communications to
the General Manager

Our Ref: GW-KSH-E2.1-E3.3

19th September 2010

Standing Officer
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament of NSW
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

Bourke Shire Council wishes to make the following submission in regard to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23rd August 2010 Bourke Shire Council resolved to oppose public funding of Local Government Election Campaigns. The overriding reason for this opposition is that Bourke Shire Council is totally opposed to any party political tickets and party political platforms for Local Government Elections. Our Council has a long term practice of a strong commitment to Local Government Elections not having joint candidate tickets and being totally devoid of any party political connections.

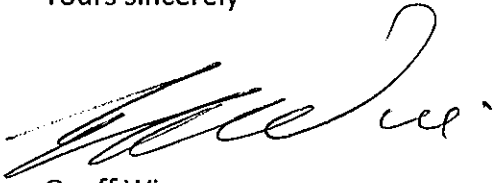
Our Council does not believe there is any necessity for Local Government Candidates and parties to be assisted for Local Government Elections. In view of this Council does not wish to submit any further responses to questions 2 to 9 within the summary of the issues paper.

Council further resolved to advise that our Council strongly opposes the necessity of the Electoral Commission conducting Local Government Elections. Our Council is committed to the view that Local Government Elections should be run by the Local Government itself. By far the greatest cost of Local Government Elections at the moment is the cost to Council associated with running the election, all of which is beyond the control of our own Local Council. This far exceeds the cost for candidates. These costs have been escalating over recent Local Government Elections and are getting to the point of being totally unrealistic relative to the number of potential voters in the Council area.

Our Council trusts that within the terms of reference of the Joint Standing Committee on electoral matters, this issue of reverting the conduct of Local Government Elections to the Local Government in lieu of the Electoral Commission to be taken into serious consideration.

Should you require further information on this submission please do not hesitate to contact me on the above address.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Wise', written in a cursive style.

Geoff Wise
General Manager