

**Submission  
No 7**

## **2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

**Organisation:** Bland Shire Council  
**Name:** Mr Ray Smith  
**Position:** General Manager  
**Date Received:** 23/01/2013



## **Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry Local Government Elections 2012**

### **Terms of Reference**

- (a) The cost to Bland Shire Council was \$38,619.00 and was very close to the estimated cost advised by the NSWEC.
- (b) Bland Shire Council did not conduct their own elections. After due consideration by Council it was resolved to engage the NSWEC based on their previous experience.
- (c) No suggested changes
- (d) Non residential voting should continue however, Council believes that **all** rateable owners of a property should be eligible to vote. The current situation allows for only one rateable owner of a property to vote. This disenfranchises the other property owners.
- (e) No suggested changes
- (f) Council By-Elections. The current legislation requires a by-election if a councillor, for any reason, cannot continue as an elected representative within the first three years of being elected. There is dispensation, to be approved by the Minister, in the last 12 months leading up to a general election. The costs of by-elections are expensive and for smaller rural and remote councils are an added expense that has an adverse effect on the council's budget.

Can there be a review of this legislation that may allow a council appointing the 'next in line' candidate, if they are still interested and available. This would result in significant savings and should still be considered to be a democratic method of filling a vacancy on council.

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