

**Submission
No 27**

INQUIRY INTO 2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Organisation: Wentworth Shire Council

Name: Mr Peter Kozlowski

Position: General Manager

Date Received: 13/05/2009



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12 May 2009

CONFIDENTIAL

The Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

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Dear Sir

ELECTORAL INQUIRY 2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS - CONFIDENTIAL

In reply to an email received 27 March 2009, please find herewith a list of problems experienced by this Council with regard to the 2008 Local Government Elections undertaken by the NSW Electoral Commission:-

- Burden for Councillors to fill in six monthly donations form when none of the Councillors at the Wentworth Shire Council received donations – once advised of the fact that nil donations were received from Councillors this should suffice
- The initial costing estimate received from NSW Electoral Commission was some 100% increase on the 2004 elections, and now that representations have been made to the EC costs have been reduced
- The cost of statutory advertising is outrageous for small Councils
- There were extra polling places for electors to vote, but due to the reasonably small number of electors in this Shire, the extra polling places were an extra cost for Council when there were very small numbers using the polling places
- Wentworth Shire Council is of the view that a new system of compulsory postal voting as is used in Victoria would be a welcomed alternative
- There were problems experienced with Polling Officials not aware of the correct counting procedure of exhausted or incorrect marking of ballot papers with duplicated numbers which caused total recounts with staff recruited for double and triple checking of all ballot papers
- Voting instructions were to vote 1 to 5 which was misleading for electors when they could have voted 1 to 9
- On the positive side of the election, our Returning Officer Laurie Jaensch conducted the elections in our Shire with enthusiasm and absolute professionalism.

Yours faithfully

PETER KOZLOWSKI
General Manager