

**Submission
No 22**

INQUIRY INTO 2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Name: Cr Mike Tuffy

Date Received: 12/05/2009

Local Government Election Inquiry 2008

Dear Committee Members,

I was an Independent candidate (Mike Tuffy) in the 2008 Local Government Elections in the Great Lakes Shire and was re-elected for a third term (without preferences) with Great Lakes Council.

I would like to point out the antiquated Local Government Electoral system that exists in New South Wales which is not in line with other Australian States and Commonwealth Electoral Regulations.

There are no New South Wales Regulations covering electronic media during Local Government Elections i.e. Internet and Mobile phones.

There are no New South Wales Regulations covering vehicles parked outside polling booths displaying derogatory comments about other Candidates within the Regulated period.

During the 2008 Local Government Elections some Candidates did not adhere to Electoral Commission advisors at pre Election Candidate information sessions. Where all prospective Candidates were strongly advised not to hand out under any circumstances anything other than a How-To-Vote card during Pre Poll and Election Day period see latest Administrative Decisions Tribunal (Tuffy v Vaughan; Weate and Gill).

During the Regulated period in the 2008 Local Government Elections certain Councillors seeking re-election were given a clear advantage over other Candidates by using the Great Lakes Council crest/logo on the Candidates personal website (Tuffy v Vaughan; Weate and Gill).

I urge the committee to look at the Administrative Decisions Tribunal Tuffy v Vaughan; Weate and Gill matter. The committee will clearly see the very apparent need for a complete review of the New South Wales Electoral Act and Regulations in keeping with our democratic system.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Mike Tuffy