

**Submission  
No 46**

## **2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

**Organisation:** Tamworth Regional Council  
**Name:** Mr Paul Bennett  
**Position:** General Manager  
**Date Received:** 8/02/2013

The Chair  
Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Macquarie Street  
**SYDNEY NSW 2000**

Dear Mr Rowell, MP

**COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS INQUIRY INTO THE 2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

*Ref: kl/RC/SF5297*

Thank you for your letter dated 20 December 2012, in relation to an Inquiry into the 2012 Local Government Elections. Council considered this letter at its Meeting held on 15 January 2013 and resolved:

“That in relation to the report “Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters”, Council make a submission to the Committee regarding the excessive costs of running an election and inefficiencies in the Election process by not embracing electronic means of voting, and recommending a reduction of pre-polling to one week.”


Council also questioned whether mechanisms could be put in place to better ensure public awareness of Local Government Elections. It was stated in the Meeting that in the Tamworth Regional many citizens were unaware that there was an Election.

Tamworth Regional Council recently received the invoice from the NSW Electoral Commission for the cost of running the 2012 Local Government Election, this invoice was \$271,446.00 excluding GST. While this amount is slightly over our budget, this is an extraordinary large amount of money that could be better spent providing services to our Community. This election, Council recommended the removal of eight polling places in the region in an attempt to find savings in the process, the NSW Electoral Commission only allowed three of those polling places to be removed.

In this age of technology, an investigation must be undertaken as to why our citizens are forced to line up on a Saturday and vote by pencil and paper in person rather than using electronic means to vote from wherever they happen to be.

Council thanks the Committee on Electoral Matters for the opportunity to make a submission and eagerly awaits the outcome of this Inquiry.

Yours faithfully



Paul Bennett  
**General Manager**

Contact: Karen Litchfield (02) 6767 5514

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All correspondence should be addressed to the General Manager:

Telephone: 6767 5555  
Facsimile: 6767 5499

PO Box 555 (DX 6125)  
Tamworth NSW 2340

[trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au)