

**Submission
No 8**

2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Organisation: Wentworth Shire Council
Name: Mr Donald McKinnon
Position: Mayor
Date Received: 23/01/2013



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Our Ref: DOC/13/907

21 January 2013

Jai Rowell MP
Chair
Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email: electoralmatters.committee@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS INQUIRY INTO THE 2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

On behalf of my fellow Councillors and Council staff, I would like to submit the following matters to the Committee on Electoral Matters in relation to the 2012 Local Government Elections.

As our Council is a rural remote Council, the large costs incurred for the conduct of Council Elections is an added burden on Council's budget. We received an estimate from the NSWEC in 2012 which was between \$43,000-\$48,000. The NSWEC have advised that they will be sending out the confirmed invoice in late February 2013. If Local Government Councils were to undertake postal voting (as is done in our Victorian neighbour's Council of Mildura City), costs would be no doubt be minimised.

The Wentworth Shire Council has an area of over 26,000km² with a population of 7,500. We have electors that live approximately 2-3 hours away and live/travel on dirt roads, which makes voting in person at Polling Booths very difficult and extremely costly. Over the years there has been a steady increase on pre-poll voting which indicates that voters are voting when it is convenient for them to make the long trip into Wentworth and combine other tasks at the same time. If postal voting was introduced this would ensure that travel was kept to a minimum for the remote voters.

For further information regarding this matter please contact me on ☎ 03 5027 5002.

Yours faithfully



Donald McKinnon
Mayor