

INQUIRY INTO 2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

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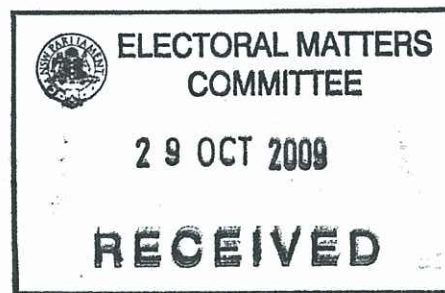


Western Division of the Shires Association of NSW

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Tuesday, October 20, 2009

The Chair
Mr Robert Furolo, MP.
Joint standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Mr Furolo,

The Western Division of Shires meets tri annually and was unable to provide a submission in time for the Review into the 2008 Local Government election. We understand your report is due in March 2010.

At a recent meeting of the Association the 12 member Councils felt it was important to write to the Standing Committee to express their views as a whole Region.

The Western Division covers 45 per cent of the State and includes 12 Council areas with a unique set of circumstances for local government elections.

The Councils reported a great deal of frustration with the running of the 2008 Local Government elections in the Western Division. Issues include the increased cost, inefficiencies, delay in receiving results; inadequacy of the shared Returning Officer across shires, high charge for shires with only a small number of residents and the unfair impost on some Council's to pay, even when an election was not held.

The Members feel strongly that the Local Government elections should be run by individual Local Governments with an Independent Returning Officer.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Longfellow,
President
WSD

WESTERN DIVISION GROUP OF THE SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NSW

Members: Balranald – Bogan – Bourke – Brewarrina – Carrathool – Central Darling
Cobar – Hay – Lachlan – Moree Plains – Walgett – Wentworth – Department of Lands
Associate Members: Broken Hill City – Tibooburra Village Committee – Silverton Village Committee