

**Submission
No 69**

2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Organisation: Moree Plains Shire
Name: Mr David Aber
Position: General Manager
Date Received: 6/03/2013

Enquiries to: David Aber
Direct Line: (02) 6757 3236
Email: alice.colbran@mpsc.nsw.gov.au
Reference: AC:DA



Wednesday, 6 March 2013

Mr J Rowell MP
Via email

Dear Mr Rowell MP

Committee on Electoral Matter Inquiry into the 2012 Local Government Elections

Thank you for providing Moree Plains Shire Council the opportunity to provide a submission to the enquiry into the 2012 Local Government Elections.

Council would like to provide comment on the following matters that are relevant to us as detailed by your letter dated 20 December 2012:

a) The cost of the elections

Council has been satisfied with the way the NSW Electoral Commission has conducted the last two (2) elections. The estimate provided by the NSW Electoral Commission on conducting this election was less than Council had originally budgeted. When the final invoice arrived, the actual cost was below their estimate by 4 per cent.

b) Possible legislative changes to improve the efficiency of and participation in Local Government elections

A maximum number of consecutive terms, for example two terms on then one off. Often Councillors who have served on Council for a long period of time provide a disincentive to others to stand or feel pressured to remain in office because no one else can fill the void.

In more remote local government areas, the access to voting and cost of establishing booths versus alternative systems of electronic and postal voting should be considered.

c) Any other related matter

Pre-requisites for Councillors. There is a need to develop some basic ones and a to provide a better understanding of the role.

Times of meetings. Inability to be involved if you are a PAYG employee or a carer. For more inclusion, Council's need to review times/meeting requirements and support systems if they want to be representative.

Implement shadow Councillors where people thinking of becoming a Councillor shadow another Councillor in the 6-12 months beforehand. This is particularly used to include under represented groups such as Aboriginal people and has been trialled in the Northern Territory.

PO Box 420, Moree NSW 2400
Telephone 02) 6757 3222
Facsimile 02) 6752 3934
council@mpsc.nsw.gov.au
mpsc.nsw.gov.au

Work within sections of the community as above prior to elections. Need to do a lot of work in Moree twelve months out from elections with the Aboriginal community to facilitate pathways to running a campaign and being elected.

Use of Youth Councils as true mini councils which look at the real issues going up to Council and review it from a Youth perspective. This provides experience for similar leadership roles and getting them to understand the complexity and legislation behind decisions

Better development and promotion of the role of Councillors on websites and media. Most people do not know what a Councillor actually does.

Provide the ability for Councillors to appoint people to Committees that have delegated authority to make decisions and promote this in a way of providing Local Government knowledge and experience before elections.

Should you require any further information about any of the information contained please contact me on 6757 3236 or via alice.colbran@mpsc.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



David Aber
GENERAL MANAGER