

**Submission  
No 20**

## **2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

**Organisation:** Weddin Shire Council  
**Name:** Mr T V Lobb  
**Position:** General Manager  
**Date Received:** 6/02/2013



All Correspondence to be addressed to:  
The General Manager  
Camp Street or P.O. Box 125  
GRENFELL NSW 2810

Tel: (02) 6343 1212  
Fax: (02) 6343 1203  
Email: mail@weddin.nsw.gov.au  
website: weddin.local-e.nsw.gov.au  
A.B.N. 73 819 323 291

To Avoid Delay when  
Replying or Telephoning

Please Quote:

TVL:LB:C2.1.9

Your Ref:

29 January 2013

Mr Jai Rowell MP  
Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

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

I refer to your letter dated 20 December 2012 requesting submissions on the terms of reference for the subject committee. Comments from this council are as follows:

**Term (a) – The costs of the elections**

Final costs are not yet to hand but are anticipated to far exceed the costs when council conducted its own elections.

**Term (c) – possible legislative changes**

The process of counting votes is complex and requires a computerised system. Particularly when groups are nominated.

The system could be simplified by excluding group voting on the basis that this favours parties only, not the voter. Simplification of voting would also make it easier for councils to conduct their own elections.

**Term (e) – impact of Election funding Act 1981**

Whilst the objectives of this Act are supported, the implementation is not.

The Act requires candidates, particularly those who receive no political donations, to engage “agents” to administer electoral expenditure.

These should be a threshold of electoral expenditure before separate “agents” are required:

- say \$2,000, possibly \$5,000.
- the annual disclosure form for political donations should be simplified so that one “nil” is sufficient for the whole form.

The writer had the personal experience of sitting beside two potential candidates at an EFA information seminar at Young. Both attendees on conclusion of the presentation immediately declared they were not tolerating the requirements and would not be standing. Both men would have been considered to be good candidates had they stood.

Your committee’s consideration of the matters above would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully

T V LOBB  
GENERAL MANAGER