

**Submission
No 50**

2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Organisation: Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Name: Mr JK Bell
Position: General Manager
Date Received: 8/02/2013



ABN 81 011 241 552

Upper Lachlan Shire Council

All correspondence addressed to the General Manager, PO Box 42, Gunning NSW 2581

Crookwell Office: 44 Spring Street, Crookwell NSW 2583

p: 02 4830 1000 | f: 02 4832 2066 | e: council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au | www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au

Gunning Office: 123 Yass Street, Gunning NSW 2581

p: 02 4845 4100 | f: 02 4845 1426 | e: council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au

Taralga Office: Taralga Community Service Centre, Orchard Street, Taralga NSW 2580

p: 02 4840 2099 | f: 4840 2296 | e: taralgacsc@ceinternet.com.au

Our Ref:F11/187 – SD2013/11

JKB:HSP

5 February 2013

The Chair
Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam


RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS INQUIRY 2012

The following issues are raised for the Joint Standing Committee's attention:

1. All fines collected by the NSW State Government should be utilised to offset the total running costs of conducting the local Council elections before the nett balance is then used to recalculate the final cost to individual Councils.
2. Upper Lachlan Shire Council holds the opinion that Council's should have the option to make a decision whether Postal and Online voting is utilised in lieu of attendance voting. The Victorian experience shows that 70 out of 78 Council's utilised Postal Voting at the last election.
3. Group voting/above the line voting in local Council elections should be abolished with first past the post utilised as the appropriate system. The current system is too complicated and there is a major lack of awareness as to how the above the line system operates.
4. There is an issue with the non residential voting system in that only one voter is eligible per property. Council has had this issue raised by its electors.
5. A review should be conducted with respect to the use of Official Agents. This review should examine the roles and responsibilities of Official Agents and the penalties for not undertaking the role in accordance with the Act.

Trusting that these details are of assistance in your deliberations.

Yours faithfully


JK Bell
General Manager