



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES • LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

David Campbell, M.P.
Member for Keira

21 December 2004

Ms Marianne Saliba MP
Chairman
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Saliba

I refer to your recent correspondence advising of an inquiry into the 2003 Election and make the following comments which may be of interest to the Committee.

In relation to pre-poll voting places – the experience in the Keira Electorate at the 2003 Election may assist the Committee.

In Keira there were 2 pre-poll voting places located approximately 500 metres apart in the suburb of Woonona.

One was the District Returning Officers main office located in a former church and the other was the storeroom in the rear of a former pharmacy in the shopping centre.

Neither location was compliant with disabled access building codes even though that was the reason given for the use of the storeroom.

There was a duplication of effort required from the District Returning Officers staff and a great deal of confusion to potential pre-poll voters as to where they should attend.

In regard to Pre-poll voting in small city based electorates such as Keira, consideration should be given to using a single visible location to improve customer service to pre-poll voters and to avoid duplication of resources by the State Electoral Office.

Another issue that has been raised with me by confused constituents is a multitude of small polling places within close proximity to each other which is seen as an unnecessary duplication.

Two examples of this are the Corrimal and Corrimal Central polling places which are approximately 250 metres apart and the Corrimal East and Corrimal High polling places which are approximately 200 metres apart.

Constituents have put to me that there is confusion between different elections as to where polling places will be located and what is seen as unnecessary expenditure on extra rental and two lots of staff.

The Committee and the SEO may wish to consider the criteria in selecting polling places in locations such as this.

Your Inquiry may also wish to consider the confusion which exists at polling places near the boundary of electorates.

Many people have expressed frustration at the lack of clear signage. In one location – Millbrook – at the 1999 and 2003 Election, 3 electorates Wollongong, Illawarra and Keira were served by this polling place leading to anger and argument. Where possible this conflict should be avoided.

I trust these comments and experiences will be of some assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Campbell".

David Campbell MP
Member for Keira