

INQUIRY INTO 2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Organisation: Australian Business Party

Name: Mr Joseph Adams

Date Received: 11/05/2009

Dear Members,

Greetings!

I would like to address a few points for your consideration regarding current Legislation pertaining to Electoral Laws in the State of NSW and Electoral procedure.

Under the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912 reference is only made to State Registered Political Parties and not those registered under the Local Government Act. This results in some confusion during election time as certain privileges are only made available to State Political Parties are not made possible for Local Government Political Parties.

A prime example of this is the fact that the Registered Officer of a State Political Party is allowed to obtain the Electoral Roll at any particular time, however the Registered Officer of a Local Government Party will have to wait for the official Election Period to commence. The greatest irony is that the definition of Registered Officer for both State and Local Government Political Parties is one and the same but the definition of "Party" under the 1912 Act only refers to State Registered Political Parties. In the interest of democracy in the State of NSW all Registered Officers and Political Parties should be given the same privileges.

In terms of Electoral Procedure, I have found that most Staff working during the Elections do not have an in depth understanding of what is and what isn't allowed to occur during Elections in terms of the relevant legislation. I would like to see more training to occur prior to elections to ensure that Staff are better equipped with the Law.

Funding is another issue in which the NSW Government should consider when dealing with Local Government Elections. Local Government Parties do not receive any form of funding under the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912, yet most people would consider Local Government as the closest form of Government to the community.

I pray that these points may be deliberated.

Regards,

Joseph Adams
Australian Business Party