



# THE SHOOTERS' PARTY

PO Box 376, Baulkham Hills NSW 1755  
Ph: 02 9686 2396 [www.shootersparty.org.au](http://www.shootersparty.org.au)

Ms Marianne Saliba MP  
Chairman  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Ms Saliba,

## Administration of 2003 NSW State Election

Thank you for the invitation to present a submission to the inquiry into the administration of the 2003 NSW State election and related matters.

As you will be aware, the Shooters Party contested the 2003 election in the Legislative Council. The following two comments are based on that experience.

### 1. Nominations

For parties nominating a group to contest the Legislative Council, the State Electoral Office requires individual nomination forms for each candidate (Form RO.221B) plus a single combined group claim (Form RO.222).

We understand the purpose of the group claim form is to confirm each member of the group and to indicate the order in which they are to appear on the ballot paper.

Our party encountered a problem arising from the fact that a single group claim form had to be signed by each candidate. With 21 candidates located all over NSW, the nomination form was faxed to and from 16 separate locations. By the time it had been returned from each of these locations, the names and signatures were indecipherable (an example is attached.). That led the SEO to question whether they were valid.

**We recommend** that other options be permitted for verifying group members and their order; for example, a statement on individual nomination forms confirming that the candidate is number X within a particular group.

### 2. Approval of how to vote leaflets

Electoral advertising material including how to vote cards cannot be distributed or handed out on polling day unless registered (ie approved) with the Electoral Commissioner.

Applications for registration of how to vote cards can only be lodged after the draw for positions on the ballot paper and must be lodged no less than eight days before polling day. This creates quite a narrow window for seeking and gaining approval, particularly for material that will be distributed both prior to the election and on election day itself.

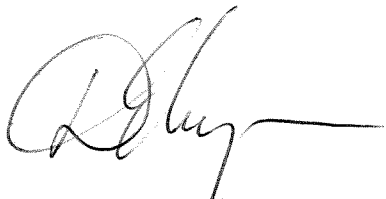
Our party found that the SEO was unable to process applications for registration in a timely fashion, due to the fact that all parties were seeking registration at the same time. As a result, we incurred substantial additional printing costs due to the need for the printers to

run presses overnight and on weekends to meet distribution deadlines.

**We recommend** that the requirement for registration of electoral advertising material be abolished (as with federal elections) and replaced with a general prohibition on the distribution of electoral material that is false or misleading, or likely to be false or misleading.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if further explanation or discussion is required.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Leyonhjelm', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Leyonhjelm  
Chairman

22 December 2004

