

**Submission  
No 4**

## **INQUIRY INTO 2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

**Organisation:** Dubbo City Council

**Name:** Mr Mark Riley

**Position:** General Manager

**Date Received:** 14/04/2009

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9 April 2009

The Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir

**SUBMISSION - ADMINISTRATION AND CONDUCT OF THE 2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

Dubbo City Council raises its concern regarding the budgeted costs for the 2008 Local Government Elections. In support of this concern the following is raised:

- March 2004 Election cost was \$ 78,435
- August 2006 Bi Election cost was \$ 81,581
- September 2008 Election cost was \$153,500

As can be seen the 2008 Election cost is a 96% increase on the Election costs for March 2004. This is an unrealistic increase and one which is very hard to evaluate and accept.

Dubbo City Council raises no complaints regarding the administration or how the State Electoral Commission conducted the Election. Council's only concern relates to the exorbitant cost.

Dubbo City Council like many other councils believes that it would be better value for its rate payers and have less impact on its limited budget if it were to conduct the Elections internally where it has control of its expenditure and can use its internal resources which are not subject to unsubstantiated charges such as (refer attached final expenses sheet):

Local Government Electoral Programme Management	- cost	\$16,150
Financial Services	- cost	\$ 3,150
Information Technology	- cost	\$12,580
Electoral Information Services	- cost	<u>\$ 8,890</u>
		\$40,770

The printing and ballot papers is another cost (\$12,900) that Council believes could be sourced cheaper through local competition.

**All communications to:**

**THE GENERAL MANAGER** PO BOX 81 CHURCH STREET DUBBO NSW 2830 T (02) 6801 4000 F (02) 6801 4259  
CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING CHURCH STREET DUBBO NSW 2830 E dcc@dubbo.nsw.gov.au ABN 77 296 185 278

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Madam Chair when undertaking you deliberations Council strongly recommends that you look favourably on a system whereby Local Government Authorities, at a minimum, have control over the budgeting aspects of the Election if not authority to conduct the Elections as was the case prior to the implementation of the Local Government Act 1993. This statement does not extend to stipulating that the General Manager be the Returning Officer, it does imply that each Local Government Body has control over its budget. The current method dictates budgets without justification.

Who better to conduct the Local Government Elections than the Local Government Authority that serves the rate payers.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Riley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

*Mark Riley*  
General Manager

**Final Expenses for Dubbo City Council  
Local Government Election**

Item	Description	Amount
<b>Local Government Elections Programme Management</b>		
	Project Management	950
	Performance Evaluation & Reporting, Candidate Support, Legal	1,700
	NSWEC Administration Fee	13,500
<b>Programme Management Total</b>		<b>16,150</b>
<b>Finance Services</b>		
	Budget Management	140
	Payroll Processing	1,750
	Payables Processing	550
	Mail Services	710
<b>Finance Services Total</b>		<b>3,150</b>
<b>Election Services</b>		
	Council Visits	180
	Candidate Info Sessions	440
	De-brief Programme for Returning Officers	50
	Centralised Vote Counting	5,490
	Voting Centres (Incl. pre-poll, DIs & polling places)	2,000
	Election Materials	9,650
	Training Programme	1,670
	Returning Officer Support Centre	1,540
	Wages - Returning Officers	15,750
	Wages - Office Assistants	26,690
	Wages - Election Officials	28,040
	Returning Officer Accommodation	8,300
	Registration of How-to-Vote Material	30
	Printing Ballot Papers	12,900
<b>Election Services Total</b>		<b>112,730</b>
<b>Election Information Services</b>		
	Equal Access to Democracy	830
	Elector Info Campaign - NSWEC Campaign	4,220
	Elector Info Campaign - Brochure	-
	Elector Information Info Kit	510
	LG Profiling	
	Elector Enquiry Centre	1,910
	Website & Education Services	1,420
<b>Election Information Services Total</b>		<b>8,890</b>
<b>Information Technology</b>		
	Systems Support	2,520
	IT Setup	5,490
	Website (dynamic)	490
	Rolls	2,170
	IT Personnel	1,150
	Results	760
<b>Information Technology Total</b>		<b>12,580</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>153,500</b>
<b>less September 2008 Invoice</b>		<b>165,700</b>
<b>Amount to be Credited</b>		<b>- 12,200</b>

Note: All amounts listed are GST Exclusive