

## **2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

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**Position:** General Manager  
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**GWYDIR**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

7<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
By Fax: (02) 9230 3309

Attention Mr. Jason Arditi

Dear Jason

**Submission regarding 2012 Local Government Elections**

This Council is writing in response to your Committee's request for submissions regarding the conduct of the 2012 Local Government Elections in NSW.

The legislation is designed to basically exclude local government from the overall electoral process other than for some administrative matters. The justification, no doubt, is to ensure the impartiality of the process.

One of the administrative matters involving local government is authorising the Non Resident Roll, which is collected for each election. At the conclusion of each election the Non Resident Roll becomes redundant.

Prior to each election the Council advertises extensively inviting non-resident ratepayers to apply for inclusion on the Non-Resident Roll. This was undertaken prior to the last election and the Council advertised for nominations in all the local newspapers.

Unfortunately, and in spite of the extensive advertising, at the last two elections there were less than five nominations at each election for inclusion on the Non-Resident Roll and, of course, some non-residents, interested in the operations of the Council, arrived at the Polling Places and experienced the problems associated with not being on either Roll.

Currently, the Council is not allowed to use the names submitted for the previous Non-Resident Roll for any subsequent election and each person seeking inclusion onto the Non-Resident Roll must complete and sign the regulated nomination form.

The Council has consistently put before the NSW Electoral Commission that any person seeking to vote, who is not on either the Resident or Non-Resident Roll, should be allowed to have a section vote and that his or her entitlement be checked and authorised by the Council if he or she is a non-resident ratepayer, prior to inclusion into the count.

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WINNER OF THE A R BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD \* WINNER OF THE NSW TRAINING INITIATIVE AWARD

The suggestion is practical and workable. The Commission do not accept this position.

According to the NSW Electoral Commission any departure from the current process will require a legislative change.

This suggestion is now submitted to your Committee for its consideration.

Yours faithfully



Max Eastcott  
General Manager