

INQUIRY INTO 2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Organisation: Clarence Valley Council
Name: Mr Stuart McPherson
Position: General Manager
Date Received: 21/05/2009



ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE
ADDRESSED TO:

The General Manager

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19 May 2009

The Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
electoralmatters.committee@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission on Cost of 13 September 2008 Local Government Elections

Please accept this letter as a late submission to the enquiry into the 2008 Local Government Elections.

As you are aware the Commission's costs for running the election for Clarence Valley Council was \$214,000. Local costs took the total to \$219,269.

By comparison, the March 2005 election for Clarence Valley Council cost \$160,000 including the Commission's and local costs.

Analysis of the movement in costs reveals the following:

The actual cost of the 2008 election is 37% more than the actual cost of the 2005 election, or around 10.5% p.a. over the 3½ year period

The CPI increased by a mere 12% between the 31 March 2005 quarter (148.2) to the 30 September 2008 quarter (165.9), or around 3.4% p.a. over the 3½ year period.

The rate pegging limits granted to all councils increased by 14% between 2004/05 and 2007/08, or 3.5 % p.a. over the four year period.

Council's primary concern is that the cost to Council to have this election run by the Electoral Commission was considerably greater than the cost of the previous election and greater than may have been anticipated given the CPI and rate pegging increases over the same period.

If you require further information please contact me or my Governance Coordinator, Brian Lane on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

Stuart McPherson
General Manager