

**Submission
No 20**

PREFERENCE COUNTING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN NSW

Organisation: Nambucca Shire Council
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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS
<mailto:electoralmatters@parliament.nsw.gov.au>

ATTENTION Mr Leon Last

Dear Mr Last

SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO PREFERENCE COUNTING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN NSW

Nambucca Shire Council has resolved to make the following submission to the Inquiry into Preference Counting in Local Government Elections in NSW.

“that; in support of a full democratic right of voters; the Act be changed in favour a full count until all preferential votes have been exhausted.”

The debates that lead to the resolution centred on the possible impact of random ballot selection on preference counting under the current methodology and the problem of obtaining an unbiased random selection.

To quote the Mayor Cr Rhonda Hoban

“The problem with randomly selecting which ones are declared exhausted and which are transferred, is that you cannot duplicate the result. Because local government deals in relatively smaller numbers to state and federal it can mean a lot of people can be elected where if you re-ran the process and did another random selection they would be the ones who just missed out.”

Council would therefore like to recommend either full preferential voting or optional preferential voting as alternative methods of ballot counting on the basis either would produce more accurate preference flows.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Scott Norman
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES