

**Submission
No 6**

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2023 NSW STATE ELECTION AND OTHER
MATTERS**

Name: Mr Gareth Ward
Position: Member of Parliament
Date Received: 11 February 2024

Dear Members of the Committee,

I wish to make a minor recommendation which will only concern independent and minor party candidates. However, it does involve an issue of safety and security which I hope that policymakers from all sides will appreciate.

Current rules stipulate that a post office box cannot be used for authorising certain election-day and electoral material. For example, a PO Box cannot be used to authorise how-to-vote cards on election day. Ironically, the rules currently allow a PO Box to be used for pre-poll but not for election-day material.

What this does mean is that candidates are either forced to place their home address at the bottom of a how-to-vote card, a supporter's home address or lease premises for the campaign when that may not be necessary.

As security around MPs and candidates is becoming a more serious and sensitive issue, to effectively force independent candidates to use a home address, or the home address of another, is not necessary.

Not every candidate will have access to a property that they feel comfortable listening in such a public way.

Frankly, electoral law should evolve to the point where an email address is satisfactory. Given that postal delivery services are winding back to the point where daily mail delivery will be a thing of the past, an email address would provide electoral participants with more effective means of communication, should this be necessary. The requirement for a physical address should be re-considered.

Kind regards,
Gareth Ward MP
Member for Kiama