Submission No 13

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

Name: Mr Michael Regan

**Position:** Member for Wakehurst

**Date Received:** 14 February 2024





14 February 2024

The Hon. Peter Primrose MLC
Chairperson
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

## Submission to the inquiry into the administration of the 2023 NSW state election and other matters

Dear Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters inquiry into the Administration of the 2023 NSW state election and other matters.

I am writing in support of the Member for Kiama's submission to the committee regarding the authorisation of election material (submitted on 11 February 2024 via email).

As a long term independent politician, the need for a physical address to authorise election material has been an ongoing headache.

In 2017 as a Northern Beaches Councillor, my family and I received death threats at home from a mentally unstable constituent. The person was later prosecuted and institutionalised.

Last year, another mentally unstable constituent threatened my wife at our home. The police intervened and an apprehended violence order was put in place.

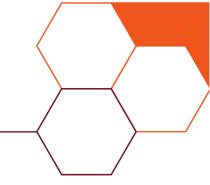
The need for a physical address to authorise election material unnecessarily puts independent and minor party candidates in harm's way, as they often do not have a supporter willing to provide their address or the funds to lease campaign premises.

Kind regards,



Michael Regan MP Independent Member for Wakehurst





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Dear Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters inquiry into the Administration of the 2023 NSW state election and other matters.

At the 2023 State election, I believe there were one too many Early Voting Centres (EVCs) within or just outside Wakehurst's boundary.

The map overpage shows Wakehurst shares boundaries with Pittwater, Manly and Davidson. The yellow boxes indicate the location of the four EVCs where Wakehurst constituents pre-polled and total votes cast.

The two EVCs with the smallest number of votes cast were South Narrabeen SLSC in the Pittwater electorate and Warringah Mall in the Wakehurst electorate.

Both sites were less than ideal.

South Narrabeen SLSC offered no shade for volunteers and very limited on-site parking. Those voters who attempted to access the parking frequently endangered volunteers as there were no options to hand out collateral between the car park and site entrance.

Warringah Mall's EVC was tucked away upstairs near the Library with strict limitations on signage and ongoing wrangling with centre security who clearly did not want any volunteers on site.

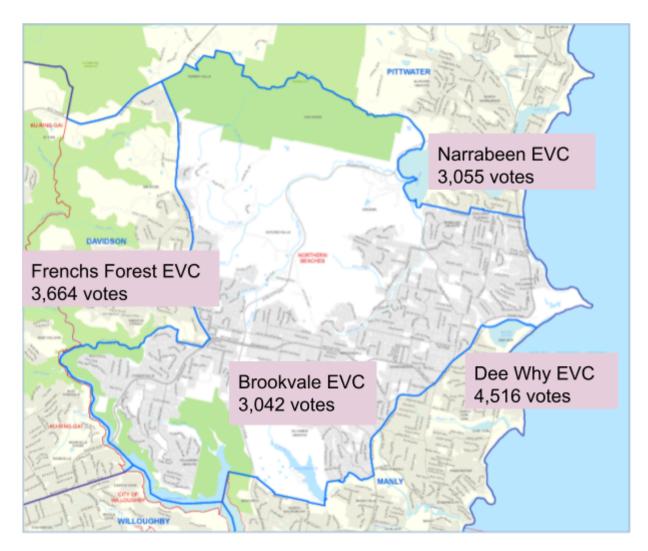
I ask the Committee to have the NSW Electoral Commission consider these issues when determining the number and location of Early Voting Centres in and around Wakehurst at the 2027 State election.

Kind regards,



**Michael Regan** Independent Member for Wakehurst

## **Electoral District of Wakehurst, 2021**



Source: NSW Electoral Commission website