

**41 SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS UNDER COVID-19
CONDITIONS**

Mr Borsak moved, according to sessional order: That private members' business item no. 1763 be considered in a short form format.

Question put and passed.

Mr Borsak moved, according to notice:

- (1) That a select committee be established to inquire into and report on the conduct of elections under COVID-19 conditions by the NSW Electoral Commissioner, including the local government elections held on 4 December 2021 and the four New South Wales by-elections held on 12 February 2022, with particular reference to the appropriateness of similar settings in a general election, including:
 - (a) the COVID-19 restrictions that were in place for the conduct of these elections and any implications that had for the conduct of the elections,
 - (b) the issuing of postal votes in both elections to all registered voters in the four New South Wales by-elections and the rationale for doing so, the administrative arrangements and processes employed to support this, and any implications for the conduct of the elections,
 - (c) the adequacy or otherwise of material alerting voters to the upcoming by-elections and explanatory information provided in languages other than English,
 - (d) the use of the iVote system in the local government elections, the performance of that system and its implications, and future arrangements for use of the iVote system, including the possibility of a replacement software system, and
 - (e) any other related matter.
- (2) That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders, the committee consist of six members comprising:
 - (a) two government members,
 - (b) two opposition members, and
 - (c) two crossbench members, one being Mr Borsak.
- (3) That the Chair of the committee be Mr Borsak.
- (4) That, unless the committee decides otherwise:
 - (a) submissions to the inquiry are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration,
 - (b) the Chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the Chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement,
 - (c) the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings is to alternate between government, opposition and crossbench members, in order determined by the committee, with equal time allocated to each,
 - (d) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published,
 - (e) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within 21 calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness, and

- (f) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration. (*insert motion*)

Debate ensued.

Question put.

The House divided.

Ayes18
 Noes12
 Majority.....6

AYES

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Banasiak | Fachrmann | Latham |
| Borsak | Field | Moriarty |
| Boyd | Graham | Moselmane |
| Buttigieg (teller) | Houssos | Primrose |
| D'Adam (teller) | Hurst | Roberts |
| Donnelly | Jackson | Sharpe |

NOES

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|
| Amato | Maclaren-Jones | Rath |
| Farlow (teller) | Mallard (teller) | Taylor |
| Farraway | Martin | Tudehope |
| Franklin | Poulos | Ward |

PAIRS

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| Mookhey | Barrett |
| Searle | Cusack |
| Secord | Mason-Cox |
| Veitch | Mitchell |

Question resolved in the affirmative.