



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

#### **Inquiry into the conduct of elections in New South Wales**

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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.

The terms of reference were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 11 May 2022.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Committee membership**

<b>Hon Robert Borsak MLC</b>	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	<i>Chair</i>
<b>Hon Courtney Houssos MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
<b>Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC</b>	The Greens	
<b>Hon Wes Fang MLC</b>	The Nationals	
<b>Hon Scott Farlow MLC</b>	Liberal Party	
<b>Hon Peter Primrose MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	

<sup>1</sup> *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 May 2022, pp 3283-3285.