

**Submission  
No 18**

**INQUIRY INTO CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS IN NEW  
SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mr Michael Moon

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## Accountability

The NSW Electoral Commissioner fought in the Supreme Court of NSW to over turn its own electoral decision based on the abject failure of its own i-Vote system and yet no one individual or group have been held in anyway accountable for the failure.

The production failure of the i-Vote during the Local Council elections is bad enough but it is not the first time the system has failed. As an IT professional of 40 years standing I can confidently affirm that no system should be released into a production environment without adequate user and load testing. The simple fact that this was the second election in a row where the i-Vote system failed due to load issues is evidence of gross incompetence. It is frankly staggering that an IT system designed to be used in anger just once every two years for council and state elections was not production ready and fully load tested.

Despite the load issues the system was functioning with delays, a decision to promote an emergency fix into production is understandable but the Electoral Commission took the system down for hours on election day, this is not promoting an emergency fix, this was an attempt to code fixes directly into the production environment. This was an abject failure and the result was voter suppression. Despite this not one person has been dismissed from the Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Commissioner himself is entirely responsible and should be held accountable, his IT head Mr Kwok has no business running a complex Information Technology organisation after two such failures. Millions of taxpayers funds have been squandered over the last decade and the people of NSW have nothing to show other than failure and more funds in expensive court cases.