

## **INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (ELECTIONS) BILL 2025**

**Organisation:** Dubbo Regional Council

**Date Received:** 8 July 2025

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This submission is being lodged on behalf of Dubbo Regional Council with regard to the Local Government Amendment (Elections) Bill 2025. I will be addressing two of the three amendments that are proposed, being;

The requirement that all local council elections be administered by the NSW Electoral Commissioner only, effectively prohibiting the use of private electoral service providers to administer elections.

Comment regarding this proposed amendment, that if resolved, fees will need to be set to allow councils to budget effectively, to be reviewed by IPART who can then set the maximum increase that NSW EC and apply which will restrict the significant increase in costs to councils for this service.

Also, if NSW EC is to have the monopoly on conducting NSW Local Government Elections there will need to be better oversight on their performance in conducting the elections, by an independent body for example the Auditor General.

The requirement that council vacancies be filled by candidates from the same group as a vacating councillor.

Council resolved after the last election that if a casual vacancy was to occur then the methodology for filling such vacancy be by countback of votes. Council supports that this option remain and not be changed.