



West Coast Council

2007 election report

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Local Government Elections in Tasmania

Every two years elections are held in all 29 municipal areas for the positions of mayor and deputy mayor and half the councillor positions. Where required, by-elections are held concurrently for vacancies that have occurred since the last elections.

The Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) supervises the conduct of elections in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. Elections by postal ballot have been held in 1994, 1996, 1999 (deferred from 1998), 2000, 2002, 2005 (deferred from 2004), and 2007 with the next elections due in October 2009.

Since 2000, mayors and deputy mayors have been elected directly by the electors in all municipal areas. Previously, in most councils, mayors and deputy mayors were elected by the councillors at the first meeting of a new council.

Candidate information booklets and complete election results for the state are available from the TEC and are posted on the TEC website www.electoral.tas.gov.au.

2007 Election timetable

Notice of election published	Saturday 15 September
Electoral rolls closed	6 pm Thursday 20 September
Nomination period	17 September— 12 noon on 1 October
Nominations closed	12 noon Monday 1 October
Nominations announced & draw for ballot paper positions	12 noon Tuesday 2 October
Ballot material delivered to electors	16–19 October
Polling period	16–30 October
Close of poll	10 am Tuesday 30 October

Casual vacancies

Casual vacancies are filled by recount where possible, unless the vacancy occurs within 6 months of a forthcoming election. Only unelected candidates from the relevant election may contest a recount. A candidate elected at a recount serves until the next council election. If a recount is not possible, a by-election is held—with the candidate elected to serve for the remainder of the term of office of the original councillor.

Elector polls

A council may hold an elector poll on any issue it determines. It may also be required to hold an elector poll following petitions from electors in accordance with Part 6 of the Act.

A council is not bound by the result of an elector poll.

Electoral system

Voting in Tasmanian local government elections is not compulsory.

Elections for councillor positions are conducted using a system modelled on the Hare-Clark method of proportional representation used in Tasmanian House of Assembly elections.

Mayoral and deputy mayoral elections use a preferential system similar to that used for Tasmanian Legislative Council and federal House of Representatives elections.

Report on the 2007 West Coast Council Election

Elections were held for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2 year terms, and 5 Councillors, 4 of which for 4 year terms and 1 casual vacancy for a 2 year term.

3444 West Coast electors were enrolled for the 2007 elections, comprising 3378 (98.08%) from the State House of Assembly roll and 66 (1.92%) from the General Manager's roll.

66.29% of West Coast electors returned their ballot papers in comparison with 57.43% statewide.

Recounts

One recount was held between the 2005 and 2007 elections. Councillor Gerry McGushin resigned on 13 December 2006. Only one unelected candidate from the 2002 West Coast Council election contested the recount and was therefore elected unopposed on Thursday 21 December 2006. Full details are provided on the back page.

Candidates at the 2007 elections

Mayor		Councillors	
★ GERRITY, Darryl*	Strahan	★ GERRITY, Darryl*	Strahan
		★ GILES, Ross	Strahan
		★ HAMILL, Miriam	Strahan
		HEPHER, John	Queenstown
Deputy Mayor		^★ McKAY, Lewis (Shakey)*	Tullah
EL-SAID, Mo	Queenstown	★ MEDWIN, Al*	Rosebery
★ MEDWIN, Al	Rosebery	ROSE, Allen	Zeehan
VICKERS, Ted	Zeehan		

★ denotes elected candidate

* denotes seeking re-election

^ denotes filled casual vacancy

West Coast Councillors following the 2007 elections

Mayor

term ends 2009

GERRITY, Darryl

Deputy Mayor

term ends 2009

MEDWIN, Al

9 Councillors

term ends 2011

GERRITY, Darryl

HAMILL, Miriam

MEDWIN, Al

GILES, Ross

term ends 2009

REID, Peter

VICKERS, Ted

EL-SAID, Mo

GERRITY, Robyn

McKAY, Lewis (Shakey)

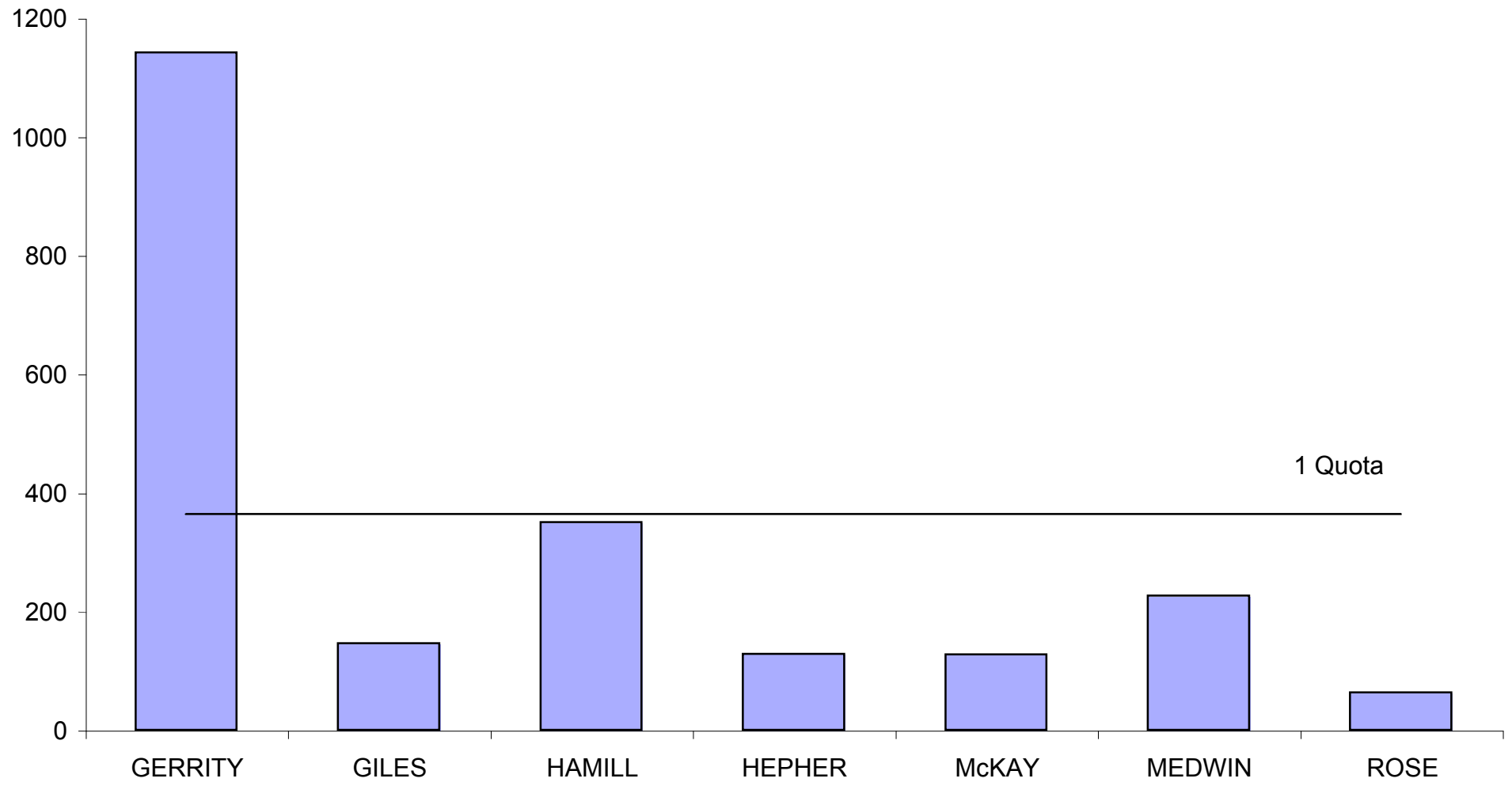
West Coast Council - 2007 Councillor election

Polling closed at 10am 30 October 2007 Electors enrolled: 3444 Declarations rejected: 53 Ballot paper adjustment: 1 Formal Votes: 2182
 Number to be elected: 5 Declarations returned: 2283 Declarations admitted: 2230 Total ballot papers: 2229 Informal ballot papers: 47
 Returning Officer: Mr Andy Brockbank Response: 66.29% Rejection rate: 2.32% Informality rate: 2.11%

Quota = 364

Count	GERRITY	GILES	HAMILL	HEPHER	McKAY	MEDWIN	ROSE	Votes Exhausted	Loss (Gain) by Fraction	Total Votes	Remarks
1	1 142.00	146.00	350.00	128.00	127.00	226.00	63.00			2 182.00	GERRITY elected 1
2	- 778.00	121.94	204.37	82.43	81.75	226.17	61.31		0.03		GERRITY's surplus distributed
	364.00	267.94	554.37	210.43	208.75	452.17	124.31		0.03	2 182.00	HAMILL elected 2, MEDWIN elected 3
3		75.51	- 190.37	31.72	38.70		44.41		0.03		HAMILL's surplus distributed
	364.00	343.45	364.00	242.15	247.45	452.17	168.72		0.06	2 182.00	
4		28.68		17.52	25.76	- 88.17	16.19		0.02		MEDWIN's surplus distributed
	364.00	372.13	364.00	259.67	273.21	364.00	184.91		0.08	2 182.00	GILES elected 4
5		- 8.13		2.03	4.21		1.88		0.01		GILES' surplus distributed
	364.00	364.00	364.00	261.70	277.42	364.00	186.79		0.09	2 182.00	
6 to 8				66.42	99.97		- 168.72	2.31	0.02		ROSE part excluded
	364.00	364.00	364.00	328.12	377.39	364.00	18.07	2.31	0.11	2 182.00	McKAY elected 5

2007 West Coast Councillor election - first preferences



West Coast Council

Polling closed at 10am 30 October 2007

Returning Officer: Mr Andy Brockbank

Mayor – Darryl Gerrity (elected unopposed)

Deputy Mayor

Declarations admitted: 2230

Ballot paper adjustment: 1

Total ballot papers: 2229

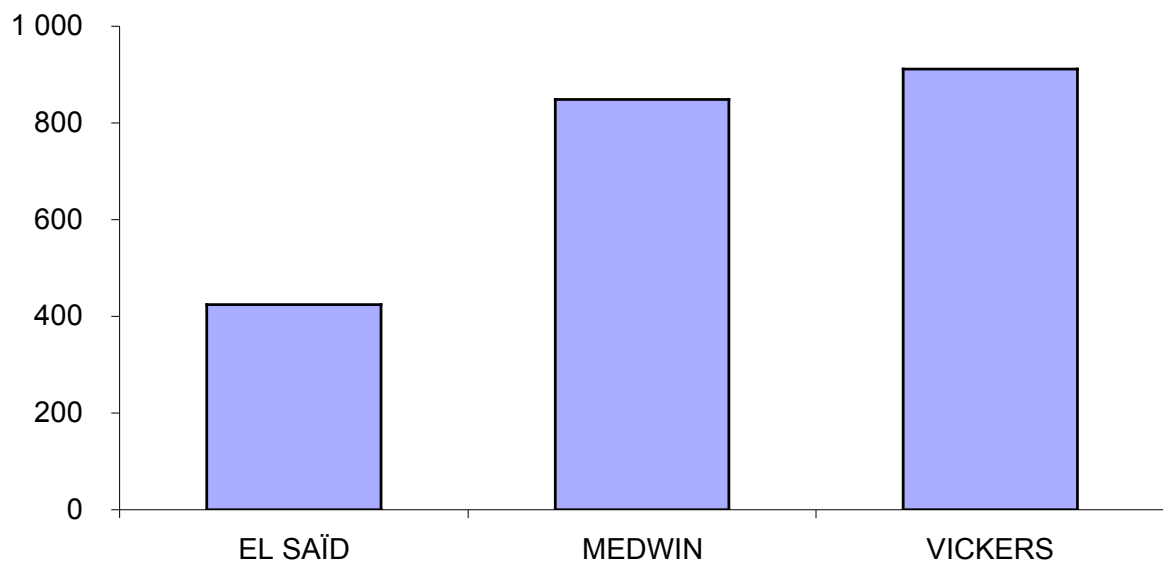
Formal Votes: 2183

Informal ballot papers: 46

Informality rate: 2.06%

		Candidates			Votes Exhausted	Total Votes	Absolute Majority	Remarks
		EL SAÏD	MEDWIN	VICKERS				
Count 1	Total	424	848	911		2 183	1 092	First preferences
Count 2	Votes transferred	- 424	227	155	42			EL SAÏD excluded
	Progress Total	0	1 075	1 066	42	2 183	1 071	Medwin elected

2007 West Coast Deputy Mayor election - first preferences



2007 West Coast Council - Recount

Recount due to resignation of Councillor Gerry McGushin

21 December 2006

Lewis James McKay elected unopposed