



**Tasmanian
Electoral Commission**

**2nd Annual Report
2006–2007**

Second Annual Report 2006–2007

To The Honourable Donald George Wing,
President of the Legislative Council and

The Honourable Michael Polley,
Speaker of the House of Assembly

We have the honour to submit the second report of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission for presentation to the Parliament pursuant to the provisions of section 13 of the *Electoral Act 2004*.

The report covers the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

Yours sincerely



Richard Bingham
CHAIRPERSON



Bruce Taylor
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER



Liz Gillam
MEMBER

13 November 2007

Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Annual Report 2006–07

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CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION

In the Tasmanian Electoral Commission's first Annual Report last year, I noted that the Tasmanian electoral system provides the essential underpinning for the democratic good health of our community. Tasmania is fortunate indeed to have a strength of democracy which represents an aspiration of many other people and communities around the world.

To this point, the Commission's emphasis has necessarily been on providing the essentials associated with the introduction of the new Act, and its basic processes. For the most part, the Act has proven to be very effective, and a credit to those involved in its preparation and passage.

For the future, the Commission will focus on continuing to conduct those elections for which it is responsible, and taking advantage of technological and other developments to improve our electoral system. There will also be some challenges in dealing with the privacy obligations associated with access to the electoral roll.

However, in carrying out its functions in the future, the Commission will be conscious that the basic electoral framework that has been established in Tasmania over the years is an excellent one.

The Tasmanian Electoral Commission enjoys a close working relationship with its Australian counterpart. The use of a joint electoral roll, and cooperation on staffing at election times, is important for a small State, and provides a seamless service for the people of Tasmania. I am grateful for this assistance in the Commission's work.

I'd also like to thank in particular my fellow commissioners (the Electoral Commissioner, Mr. Bruce Taylor, and Ms. Liz Gillam) and the staff of the Commission, for their contribution to what has been a very successful initial period for the Commission.



Richard Bingham
CHAIRPERSON
TASMANIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW

2006–07 has been a busy and productive year for the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.

Work on the 2006 House of Assembly election was finalised in November with the Report on Parliamentary Elections 2003 to 2006 being tabled in Parliament.

Legislative Council elections were held in May for the divisions of Montgomery, Nelson and Pembroke and incorporated the trial of some new initiatives. For the first time in Australia, Personal Digital Assistant (PDAs) were used for marking voter names on electoral rolls in polling places. A Tasmanian developed computer system (VI-Vote) enabled blind and vision impaired electors to vote in private and a new advertising campaign encouraged voters to bring a reminder postcard to the polling place to speed up the flow of voters. My thanks to the New South Wales Electoral Commission for loaning their PDAs for our use.

During the year, the Commission also assisted with Queensland, Victorian and New South Wales elections by issuing pre-poll and postal votes to visiting electors.

Under our role of conducting, on request, elections in the public interest, the Commission conducted the ballots for the merger of Connect Credit Union and Islandstate Credit Union, and the Retirement Benefits Fund (RBF) board election as well as a range of smaller elections.

Several local government recounts and a by-election were conducted and as the financial year concluded, the Commission was preparing for local government elections for all 29 councils. Planning has been difficult with a federal election also due to be held by the end of 2007. A range of timetable and logistical options have been prepared to cover various dates.

Legislative amendments to the *Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995* and electoral provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Water Management Act 1999* and Regulations have been prepared in conjunction with the relevant departments.

Australian electoral expertise is valued internationally. For six months of this year, Tasmanian Deputy Electoral Commissioner, Julian Type, worked as a Senior Electoral Advisor for the United Nations in Nepal.

My thanks to the other members of the Commission, my staff, my colleagues at the Australian Electoral Commission and our service providers for their part in continuing to provide quality electoral services.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This 2nd Annual Report of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (the Commission) covers the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

It is submitted pursuant to section 13 of the Tasmanian *Electoral Act 2004*.

Separate election reports, including full statistical details of elections, will continue to be submitted. In order to provide up-to-date information, the 2007 Legislative Council election results are included in this report and will also be included in the next Report on Parliamentary Elections.

Special reports on electoral issues may also be submitted from time to time.

Although the Commission is a statutory body, corporate support is provided by the Department of Justice and full financial and staffing reports are included in the Department of Justice Annual Reports.

ABOUT THE TASMANIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Formation

The *Electoral Act 2004* was passed in the Spring 2004 session of Parliament and received Royal Assent on 17 December 2004. The Act commenced on 16 February 2005. The Tasmanian Electoral Commission was established under the Act and commenced operation on 16 February 2005. The Commission has responsibility for administering the Act.

The Commission comprises the Chairperson, the Electoral Commissioner and one other member. The members of the Commission are Richard Bingham (Chairperson), a former Secretary of the Department of Justice, Liz Gillam (member), former Deputy Director of the Office of the Status of Women and a senior policy practitioner with the Local Government Association of Tasmania and Bruce Taylor, the current Electoral Commissioner.

Functions and powers

The following functions and powers of the Commission are specified in section 9 of the Act.

- 1 In addition to the functions conferred on it by any other provisions of this Act or any other Act, the Commission has the following functions:
 - to advise the Minister on matters relating to elections;
 - to consider and report to the Minister on matters referred to it by the Minister;
 - to promote public awareness of electoral and parliamentary topics by means of educational and information programs and by other means;
 - to provide information and advice on electoral issues to the Parliament, the Government, Government departments and State authorities, within the meaning of the *State Service Act 2000*;
 - to publish material on matters relating to its functions;
 - to investigate and prosecute illegal practices under this Act.

- 2 The Commission may do all things necessary or convenient to be done, including employing persons, for or in connection with or incidental to the performance of its functions.
- 3 Without limiting subsection (2) and in addition to any power conferred on the Commission by any other provision of this Act or any other Act, the Commission, in addition to conducting Assembly elections or Council elections may conduct ballots or elections for a person or organisation and may charge fees for that service.

Responsibilities of the Commission and the Commissioner

The Commission, and the Electoral Commissioner, have statutory responsibilities for the conduct of independent and impartial elections and referendums.

The Commission undertakes the conduct of:

- House of Assembly elections, by-elections and recounts;
- Legislative Council elections and by-elections;
- local government elections, by-elections and recounts;
- State referendums;
- local government elector polls;
- the implementation of electoral boundary redistributions;
- Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania elections;
- other statutory elections;
- semi-government and other elections conducted in the public interest; and
- public electoral information programs.

The Commission and the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) jointly manage and maintain the electoral rolls for federal, state and local government elections.

The Electoral Commissioner is a member of the Electoral Council of Australia which oversees electoral and enrolment policy and systems at a national level.

The Electoral Commissioner is a member of the Legislative Council Redistribution Committee and Tribunal for the determination of Legislative Council electoral boundaries. The Tribunal is also responsible for transition arrangements to implement each redistribution.

Approvals, appointments and determinations

The Commission met three times throughout the year.

The Act provides for a range of approvals, appointments and determinations to be made by the Commission, the Electoral Commissioner or returning officers.

A list of all Commission approvals, appointments and determinations made between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007 is shown in Appendix A. These approvals, appointments and determinations are available for public inspection at the office of the Commission and are available on the website.

LEGISLATION

The Commission and the Electoral Commissioner have legal responsibilities set out in legislation including:

- *Electoral Act 2004*
- *Electoral Regulations 2005*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulations 2005*
- *Juries Act 2003*
- *Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995*
- *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*
- *Racing (Electoral) Regulations 2004*

Legislative changes

During 2006–07 the office of the Commission was involved with the following legislative amendments:

- *Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries (Amendment) Bill 2007.*

This Bill was to change the composition of the Redistribution Committee and Tribunal and allow for the quarterly publication of Legislative Council division enrolment to only be required on the Commission website. It was expected to pass Parliament before the end of 2007.

- *Local Government Amendment (Elections) Bill 2007.*

This Bill included a number of amendments and provisions relating to councillor resignations, the notice of election, advertising, by-elections, bribery and undue influence and electoral articles. This Bill was expected to pass parliament before the end of 2007.

- *Water Management Act 1999 and Regulations.*

Amendments were being prepared for provisions relating to the conduct of elections relating to water trusts.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF 2006–07

The past 12 months have been a quieter period of elections compared to the period covered in the 1st annual report.

The AEC has, for many years, provided election services to the Commission (formerly the Tasmanian Electoral Office) to assist in the conduct of parliamentary and local government elections in Tasmania. Under a contractual arrangement, AEC staff are appointed as returning officers to manage the field work associated with these elections.

Summary statistics on performance are included later in this report.

Legislative Council elections

2007 election summary

Issue of the writ	Mon 2 April	Polling day	Sat 5 May
Close of nominations	Thur 12 April	Return of the writs	Wed 16 May

Division	Retiring Member	Elected candidate
Montgomery	Sue Smith	Sue Smith (<i>unopposed</i>)
Nelson	Jim Wilkinson	Jim Wilkinson
Pembroke	Allison Ritchie	Allison Ritchie

On 2 April 2007, writs were issued for Legislative Council elections in the divisions of Montgomery, Nelson and Pembroke. By the close of nominations, 9 candidates (7 men and 2 women) had been nominated. As Sue Smith was the only candidate for Montgomery, no poll was required and she was declared elected on polling day.

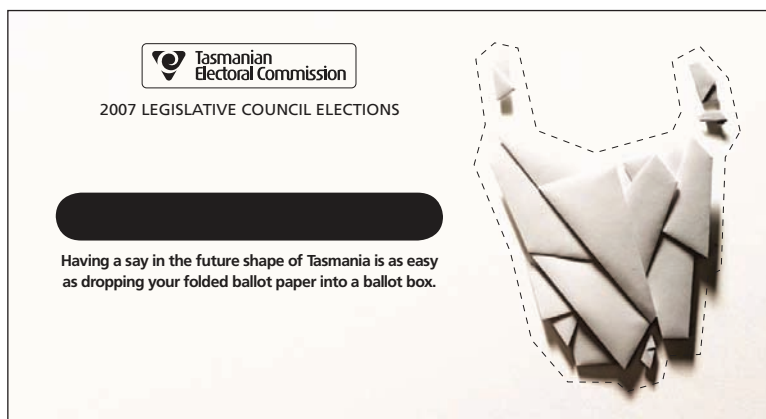
Following on from 2006, pre-poll voting was available in all AEC divisional offices around the country as well as the offices of other State and Territory electoral authorities. Electors located overseas could once again complete their postal vote application online.

Election results are provided later in this report.

Advertising campaign

A new awareness advertising campaign was developed for the elections to increase elector participation. The new campaign centred on the theme, 'Shape your State', and included, in addition to the elector brochure, a personal reminder postcard that was mailed to each elector on the Wednesday before polling day.

Electors warmly received the new campaign and reminder postcard, with between 30%–50% bringing the reminder postcard to the polling place.



Trial of electronic certified lists

The Commission approved the trial of electronic certified lists at the 2007 Legislative Council elections. Using Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) as electronic certified lists removed the need to produce printed certified lists and undertake roll scanning. Tasmania is the first State to use PDAs to mark electors off the roll.

A PC-based application downloaded the roll onto PDAs. A simple PDA interface was developed to enable an electoral official to search for an elector and mark them off the roll. The reminder postcard sent to each elector included the elector's enrolment details and election roll number. Searching on the PDAs was made easier when the elector provided their postcard at the polling place and the elector could be found using the roll number.

The use of PDAs was well received by polling officials and electors. The trial of PDAs as certified lists was considered a success. The trial showed that using PDAs as certified lists was achievable, more efficient than using printed rolls, and easier than printed rolls for election officials and electors to use. More details on the trial of PDAs are provided in Appendix C.

Trial of electronic voting for the blind and vision-impaired

The Commission also approved the trial of computer-assisted voting for blind and vision-impaired electors at the 2007 Legislative Council elections. The Tasmanian developed 'Vision-Impaired voting system' (VI-Vote) enables blind and vision-impaired electors to complete a ballot paper in private. There are two ways to vote using VI-Vote:

- The audio process provides voice prompts through headphones, which enable the elector to allocate preferences.
- The magnified ballot paper enables the elector to allocate preferences by clicking on the box next to each magnified candidate name, which are then printed on a ballot paper.

The preferences are printed on a normal sized ballot paper as numbers that resemble handwriting.



David Ransley lodges his vote with the help of his guide dog, Carla.

VI-Vote was made available at the office of the returning officer for the pre-poll period and on polling day. While the electronic system worked well, only a small number of voters used the system. The main reason for this was that only some blind and vision-impaired individuals feel comfortable using computers or want to complete their ballot paper independently. More details on the trial of VI-Vote are provided in Appendix D.

House of Assembly elections

There were no House of Assembly elections, by-elections or recounts during 2006–07.

Local government elections

The next local government elections are due in October 2007.

Recounts were held for councillor vacancies at:

- Burnie City,
- Circular Head,
- Central Coast,
- King Island (2 recounts),
- Tasman,
- Devonport City,
- West Coast,
- West Tamar (2 recounts).

One councillor vacancy at Flinders Council was filled through a by-election.

Council vacancies occurring after 16 March 2007 are not filled until the local government elections in October 2007.

Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania elections

The Electoral Commissioner is responsible for determining Aboriginality for the purposes of the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*, preparing and maintaining the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT) Electors Roll and conducting elections for the Council. Elections were previously held in 1996–97 and 2001.

The enrolment process for the current elections concluded in 2005 and six appeals were lodged in the Supreme Court. The call for nominations has been deferred until the appeals are heard.

Assistance to other State electoral authorities

The Commission assisted other Australian electoral authorities conduct their elections by issuing pre-poll votes at the Commission office in Hobart.

The office issued pre-poll votes for the Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales state elections and for by-elections in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Assisting the United Nations in Nepal

In November 2006, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed by the Maoist insurgency and the Nepalese government. The peace agreement included the conduct of national elections in 2007.

The United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) is mandated by the UN Security Council to assist with the implementation of Nepal's Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Following a request from the United Nations, the Tasmanian Deputy Electoral Commissioner, Mr Julian Type, took leave from the Commission to serve as Senior Electoral Adviser to UNMIN from January to June 2007.



Elections for a Constituent Assembly were originally scheduled for June 2007, but have been postponed until November 2007 following delays in the enactment of legislation.

Julian Type and former returning officer for the division of Denison, Mr David Clark (left), both provided electoral assistance on foreign shores this year.

Other elections and ballots

Elections were conducted for a range of statutory and non-statutory organisations. Fees are charged for these services.

Retirement Benefits Fund (RBF)—Election of 2 board members

In the period March to May 2007 the Commission conducted the statutory elections by postal ballot for 2 board members to the RBF Board. One board member was elected by 'Defined Benefit Members' (12 500 members) and the other by 'Accumulation Members' (44 000 members).

Connect Credit Union and Islandstate Credit Union—merger ballots

In April and May 2007 the Commission assisted in the ballots required for the merger of Connect Credit Union and Islandstate Credit Union. The two ballots were conducted concurrently. The Commission was responsible for receiving and counting 23 000 member proxy votes for the two ballots and conducting the final count at the two special general meetings.

Other elections

Other notable non-statutory elections included Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS), Tasmanian Council on AIDS Hepatitis & Related Diseases (TasCAHRD), Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council (TFIC) and the Tasmania University Union (TUU) Hobart.

Education and electoral promotion

Macular Degeneration Awareness Week Expo

Following the 2007 Legislative Council elections, the Commission and the AEC were invited to promote their voter-assistance computer systems at the Hobart Macular Degeneration Awareness Week Expo.

Presentations of the two systems were made on Saturday 30 June in the Boardwalk Gallery at Wrest Point. Over 200 delegates were present to test both systems and hear from a number of speakers including Commission and AEC representatives.



TEC staff member, Rennie Cornock, assists members of the public with V-I Vote at the Macular Degeneration Expo.

ELECTORAL ENROLMENT

Electoral enrolment

An up-to-date and accurate electoral roll is an essential prerequisite for the conduct of elections. The State of Tasmania and the Commonwealth of Australia have an arrangement for the management and maintenance of a joint roll.

The Tasmanian electoral roll is maintained by the AEC as part of the national roll. The Commission has on-line access to the roll. The national roll is jointly managed by the AEC and the State electoral authorities.

Eligible Tasmanians are able to enrol to vote in federal, state or local government elections or change their details on the electoral roll, by completing a single joint enrolment form.

Tasmanians have also been able to enrol using the *Service Tasmania* "Change of Address form", which also updated the person's address with nominated state government agencies. However this combined form is no longer available following changes to Commonwealth Government proof of identity requirements.

The new electoral enrolment form is available from *Service Tasmania* shops.

Under section 40 of the *Electoral Act 2004*, the Tasmanian roll is provided to Members of Parliament, registered parties and other organisations approved by the Commission.

All electors enrolled on the State roll are entitled to vote at the local government elections for the council in which their enrolled address is situated. Other individuals who are over the age of 18 and are an owner or occupier of land in the municipal area may be entitled to be on a supplementary electoral roll kept by the council general manager.

The Electoral Commissioner represents the Commission at regular meetings of the Electoral Council of Australia. This body oversees policy and systems related to the on-going development and improvement of the joint Commonwealth/State electoral roll.

The AEC keeps the electoral roll nationally on a mainframe computer. On-line access is available from Commission desktop computers via a dedicated secure line from Canberra.

Enrolment changes

The *Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Electoral Integrity and Other Measures) Act 2006* was passed by Federal Parliament. This Act contains amendments that relate to proof of identity for Commonwealth electoral enrolment. Commonwealth regulations require an applicant for enrolment to—

- provide evidence of his or her name by providing his or her driver's licence number; or
- if the applicant does not possess a driver's licence, show to an elector in a prescribed class of electors a prescribed kind of document that identifies the applicant,
- or otherwise, have the application countersigned by two electors who can confirm the applicant's name and who have known the applicant at least one month.

The new proof of identity form for electoral enrolment replaced the previous electoral enrolment forms in April 2007.

REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

This section details the performance results for the Commission. The Commission conducts a range of elections on behalf of the Tasmanian community. The cost per elector for these elections varies depending on the statutory requirements, and the scale and complexity of the election.

The performance assessment, in the first instance, focuses on the cost effectiveness of the electoral process. Two measures are reported in tables 7 and 8—the cost per enrolled elector to conduct State elections and the cost per enrolled elector to maintain the electoral roll.

While cost effectiveness is important, it is essential that other performance measures such as voter turn-out (number of electors who voted as a percentage of the number of electors on the election roll), and the level of informal voting (number of informal votes as a percentage of the number of votes cast), are maintained at existing satisfactory levels or better.

House of Assembly elections

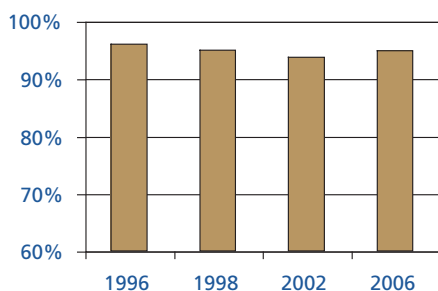
Table 1: House of Assembly elections statistics 1996–2007

	1996	1998	2002	2006
Number of electors at close of roll	324 556	322 754	332 473	341 481
Ballot papers cast	311 486	306 655	311 637	324 008
Participation rate	95.97%	95.01%	93.73%	94.88%
Formal votes	294 671	294 678	296 470	309 622
Informality rate	5.40%	3.91%	4.87%	4.44%
Number of candidates*	158	138	112	95
Total number of counts**	3 363	3 271	2 500	198

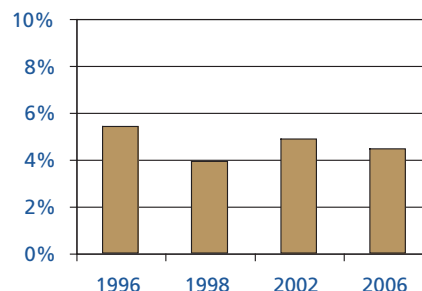
* The number of members of the House of Assembly was reduced in 1998 from 35 to 25.

** The number of counts reduced dramatically in 2006 with the adoption of the process of amalgamating parcels of ballot papers with the same transfer value when excluding candidates.

House of Assembly elections
Participation rates



House of Assembly elections
Informality rates



Legislative Council elections

Table 2: Legislative Council elections statistics by division 2006–2007

	2006		2007		
	Rowallan	Wellington	Montgomery	Nelson	Pembroke
Number of electors at close of roll	21 511	23 333	23 540	23 118	23 451
Ballot papers cast	17 889	17 579	Uncontested	18 729	20 525
Participation rate	83.16%	75.34%	—	81.01%	87.52%
Formal votes	16 915	16 957	—	18 235	19 856
Informality rate	5.44%	3.54%	—	2.64%	3.26%
Number of candidates	2	6	1	2	6

Table 3: Legislative Council elections participation and informality rates 2003–2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of electors at close of roll	66 366	44 442	46 474*	44 844	46 569*
Ballot papers cast	57 908	39 201	40 703	35 468	39 254
Participation rate	87.26%	88.21%	87.58%	79.09%	84.29%
Informality rate	4.69%	5.39%	3.62%	4.50%	2.96%

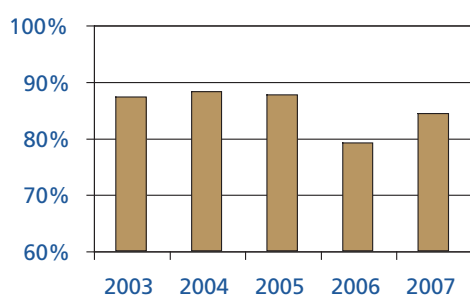
Note: Enrolment numbers for 2005 and 2007 include only divisions that required a poll.

The participation rate at the 2006 Legislative Council elections was disappointingly low. This was probably due to a number of factors, including the following:

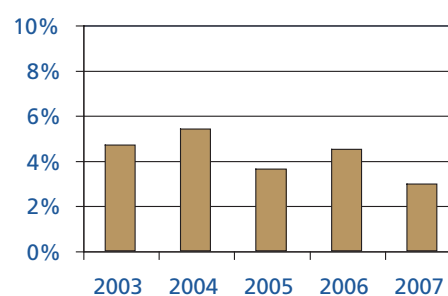
- the elections closely followed the 2006 House of Assembly elections;
- there was extensive media coverage of the Beaconsfield Mine incident at the time;
- the inner city metropolitan division of Wellington has a history of low participation for a number of demographic reasons including the higher transient population;
- the small number of candidates contesting the election in the division of Rowallan.

The participation rate at the 2007 Legislative Council elections was considerably higher than the rate in 2006, but did not quite meet the participation rate of the earlier elections.

Legislative Council elections
Participation rates



Legislative Council elections
Informality rates



Local government elections

Table 4: Local government elections participation and informality rates 1996–2005

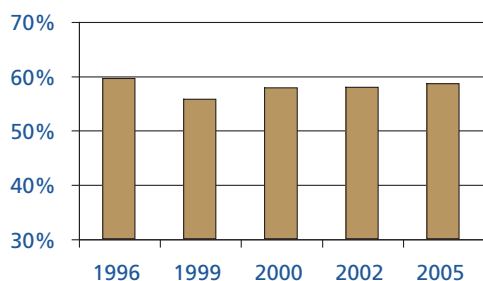
	1996	1999	2000	2002	2005
Number of electors at close of roll*	316 475	330 004	334 592	340 283	350 026
Number of council elections fully conducted by TEC	22/28	24/28	27/29	26/28	28/29
Declarations returned	188 230	183 673	193 337	196 903	204 846
Response rate	59.48%	55.66%	57.78%	57.86%	58.52%
Total ballot papers**	321 329	291 890	514 858	525 772	563 532
Formal votes	317 011	287 896	505 123	516 100	553 809
Informality rate	1.34%	1.37%	1.89%	1.84%	1.73%
Number of candidates	381	377	454	437	487
Total number of counts***	1 833	503	622	570	708

* Comprises those electors on the House of Assembly roll for an address within the municipal area as well as other owners, occupiers and nominees who have enrolled on the general manager’s roll. Only includes figures for those councils having elections.

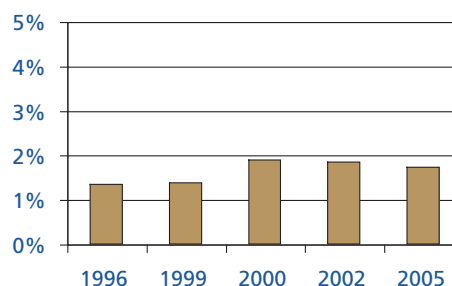
** Includes all ballot papers for mayor, deputy mayor and councillors.

*** The number of counts reduced dramatically after 1996 with the adoption of the process of amalgamating parcels of ballot papers with the same transfer values when excluding candidates.

Local government elections
Response rates



Local government elections
Informality rates



Tasmania *Together* indicators and targets for local government elections

Tasmania *Together* is a community system of goal setting and measurement, used to guide decision-making in the government and community sectors. The headline indicator for Goal 8 (open and accountable government that listens and plans for a shared future) is the level of voter participation in local government elections.

Table 5: Local government election participation

Tasmania <i>Together</i> indicator	Tasmania <i>Together</i> target
8.1.3 Participation in local government elections	2005: 60% 2010: 65% 2015: 70% 2020: 75%

Table 6: Local government election participation 1994–2005

Participation in local government elections	1994	1996	1999	2000	2002	2005
Local government	55.00%	59.48%	55.66%	57.78%	57.86%	58.52%

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This section contains breakdowns of election costs and historical comparisons. Expenditure and Revenue statements can be found in the 2006–2007 Department of Justice Annual Report.

Cost of elections

Table 7: Cost of state, local government and federal elections

	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07
<i>House of Assembly</i>					
Total cost (\$'000)	1 752	—	—	1 897	—
Number of electors on the roll	332,473	—	—	341 481	—
Cost per elector on the roll	\$5.27	—	—	\$5.56	—
<i>Legislative Council</i>					
Total cost (\$'000)	377	346	335	280	346
Number of electors on the roll	66 366	44 442	70 008	44 844	70 109
Cost per elector on the roll	\$5.68	\$7.79	\$4.79	\$6.24	\$4.94
<i>Local government</i>					
Total cost (\$'000)	977	—	—	1 147	—
Number of electors on the roll	340 283	—	—	350 026	—
Cost per elector on the roll	\$2.87	—	—	\$3.28	—
<i>Federal general election</i>					
Cost per elector on the roll	—	—	\$5.79	—	—

Periodic Legislative Council elections are conducted annually. Elections for two divisions are held in even-numbered years, and for three divisions in odd-numbered years. Costs per election are always higher when only two elections are held due to fixed costs.

In 2003–04, the cost per elector was high due to the geographic spread of the new division of Apsley and the use of additional election awareness brochures and other advertising.

In 2004–05, the cost per elector was low due to a poll not being required in the division of Paterson as there was only one nomination.

In 2006–07, the cost per elector was low due to a poll not being required in the division of Montgomery as there was only one nomination.

The cost per elector for the 2004 Federal election is included for information. The figure was obtained from the AEC's *Electoral Pocket Book* of June 2005. Federal election costs do not include a component for the decentralised structure of permanent divisional returning officers and staff.

Cost of electoral enrolment

Table 8: Cost of managing and maintaining electoral roll

	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07
Expenditure on roll (\$'000)	204	226	243	249	218
Number of electors on the roll at June 30	331 788	335 402	341 172	343 494	346 893
Cost per elector on the roll	\$0.61	\$0.67	\$0.71	\$0.72	\$0.63

These costs include the cost to the State of the State/Commonwealth joint roll arrangement, communications lines to the national roll, associated IT costs and the cost of providing the roll to members of the Tasmanian Parliament, registered parties and other organisations approved by the Commission under section 40 of the *Electoral Act 2004*.

APPENDIX A—APPROVALS, APPOINTMENTS AND DETERMINATIONS

Approvals

Section No.	Subject	Date Approved
39 (2)	Form of election and candidate rolls (in electronic form)	16/03/07
77(2)	Nomination form—Legislative Council non-party candidates (minor changes)	16/03/07
77(5)	Nomination form—Legislative Council party candidates (minor changes)	16/03/07
111	Use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) as certified lists	16/03/07
113	Computer assistance for blind and vision-impaired electors	16/03/07

Appointments

Section No.	Subject	Date Approved
24(1)	Returning officers for the 2007 Legislative Council elections	16/03/07
25(1)	Appointment of an acting returning officer for the 2007 Legislative Council elections (delegated to the Electoral Commissioner)	01/05/07
26(1)	Election officials for the 2007 Legislative Council elections	16/03/07
93(1)	Polling places for the 2007 Legislative Council elections	16/03/07

Determinations

Section No.	Subject	Date Approved
27(1)	Remuneration and allowances	16/03/07

APPENDIX B—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

2007 election summary

Issue of the writ	Mon 2 April	Polling day	Sat 5 May
Close of nominations	Thur 12 April	Return of the writs	Wed 16 May

Division	Retiring Member	Elected candidate
Montgomery	Sue Smith	Sue Smith (<i>unopposed</i>)
Nelson	Jim Wilkinson	Jim Wilkinson
Pembroke	Allison Ritchie	Allison Ritchie

A candidate must obtain a majority of the formal vote to be elected under the preferential voting system used for Legislative Council elections. If no candidate has a majority of the formal vote from first preferences, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is excluded. This process of excluding candidates continues until one candidate obtains a majority.

The two divisions that required a poll were Nelson and Pembroke and the sitting members, Jim Wilkinson and Allison Ritchie were re-elected (see the following pages for the full results).

Periodical cycle

Periodic Legislative Council elections are held on the first Saturday in May each year.

Year	Division	Current Member
2008	Huon	Paul Harris
	Rosevears	Kerry Finch
2009	Derwent	Michael Aird
	Mersey	Norma Jamieson
	Windemere	Ivan Dean
2010	Apsley	Tania Rattray-Wagner
	Elwick	Terry Martin
2011	Murchison	Ruth Forrest
	Paterson	Don Wing
	Rumney	Lin Thorpe
2012	Rowallan	Greg Hall
	Wellington	Doug Parkinson
2013	Montgomery	Sue Smith
	Nelson	Jim Wilkinson
	Pembroke	Allison Ritchie

Division of NELSON

Election held on 5 May 2007

Retiring member—The Honourable Jim S Wilkinson

Returning Officer—Maree Ward

Elected member to serve for a six year term until May 2013

Electors enrolled 23 118

Electors who voted 18 729 (81.01%)

Informal votes 494 (2.64%)

First preference votes and informal ballot papers—by polling place

	CANDIDATES		Formal votes	Informal	Total ballot papers counted
	NILSSON Tom Tasmanian Greens	WILKINSON Jim			
1 Agfest	55	113	168	5	173
2 Cascades	413	309	722	19	741
3 Dynnyrne	419	511	930	23	953
4 Fern Tree	258	140	398	6	404
5 Hobart (electoral office)	108	110	218	5	223
6 Hobart South	665	633	1 298	32	1 330
7 Kingston	780	1 645	2 425	85	2 510
8 Kingston Beach	615	916	1 531	53	1 584
9 Lower Sandy Bay	548	1 444	1 992	62	2 054
10 Mount Nelson	501	696	1 197	41	1 238
11 Queenborough	153	219	372	7	379
12 Sandfly	36	47	83	7	90
13 Sandy Bay	502	905	1 407	24	1 431
14 Sandy Bay Beach	162	490	652	18	670
15 Tarooma	585	669	1 254	49	1 303
16 Waimea Heights	190	402	592	10	602
Mobile*	45	160	205	8	213
Total Ordinary	6 035	9 409	15 444	454	15 898
Pre-poll	449	767	1 216	19	1 235
Postal	441	940	1 381	11	1 392
Provisional	51	72	123	7	130
Absent	27	44	71	3	74
Total	7 003	11 232	18 235	494	18 729
% Formal vote	38.40%	61.60%		2.64% informal	

* Votes taken at institutions are now issued as ordinary votes.

Jim Wilkinson elected

Division of PEMBROKE

Election held on 5 May 2007

Retiring member—The Honourable Allison M Ritchie

Returning Officer—Kristi Gmelig

Elected member to serve for a six year term until May 2013

Electors enrolled 23 451

Electors who voted 20 525 (87.52%)

Informal votes 669 (3.26%)

First preference votes and informal ballot papers—by polling place

	CANDIDATES						Formal votes	Informal	Total ballot papers counted
	JACKSON David Lawrence	JAMES Richard	PEERS John	RITCHIE Allison Australian Labor Party	SMITH Neil Tasmanian Greens	ZUCCO Marti			
1 Agfest	8	26	11	69	19	19	152	6	158
2 Bellerive	138	461	242	854	389	361	2 445	84	2 529
3 Bligh	32	95	98	515	68	58	866	34	900
4 Geilston Bay	49	305	172	689	202	178	1 595	82	1 677
5 Hobart (electoral office)	5	3	4	24	18	10	64	5	69
6 Howrah	122	418	211	1 017	257	291	2 316	85	2 401
7 Lindisfarne	74	449	234	717	384	271	2 129	59	2 188
8 Loatta Road	35	275	120	471	204	152	1 257	31	1 288
9 Montagu Bay	32	212	85	431	191	104	1 055	27	1 082
10 Risdon Vale	37	187	74	772	59	88	1 217	58	1 275
11 Tranmere	72	334	142	757	238	275	1 818	62	1 880
12 Warrane	42	125	76	571	126	90	1 030	49	1 079
13 Wentworth Street	59	184	88	405	149	123	1 008	48	1 056
Mobile*	13	53	19	70	17	26	198	7	205
Total Ordinary	718	3 127	1 576	7 362	2 321	2 046	17 150	637	17 787
Pre-poll	56	145	84	308	128	107	828	15	843
Postal	78	363	163	781	179	168	1 732	14	1 746
Provisional	5	8	9	28	9	4	63	1	64
Absent	3	7	7	34	25	7	83	2	85
Total	860	3 650	1 839	8 513	2 662	2 332	19 856	669	20 525
% Formal vote	4.33%	18.38%	9.26%	42.87%	13.41%	11.74%		3.26%	informal

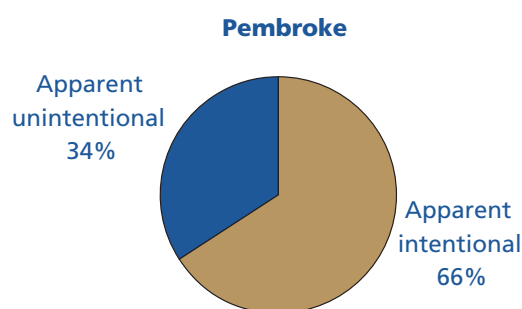
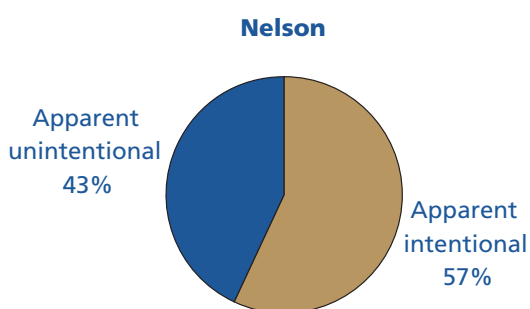
* Votes taken at institutions are now issued as ordinary votes.

Distribution of preferences

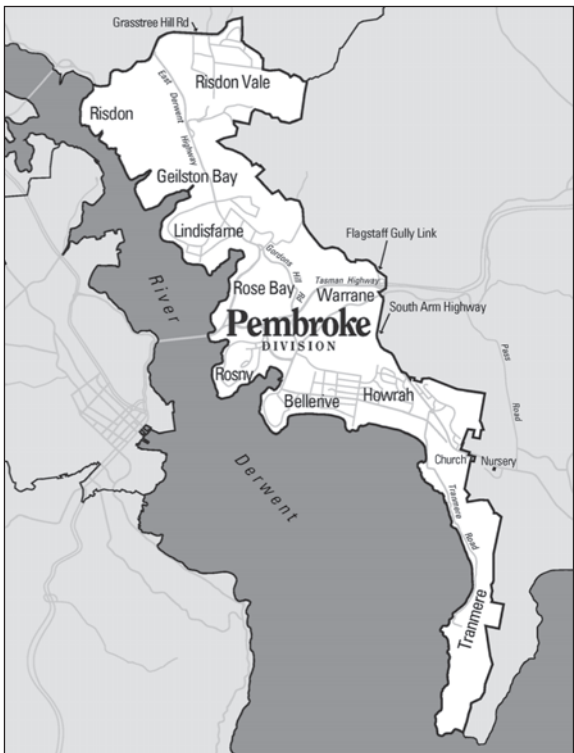
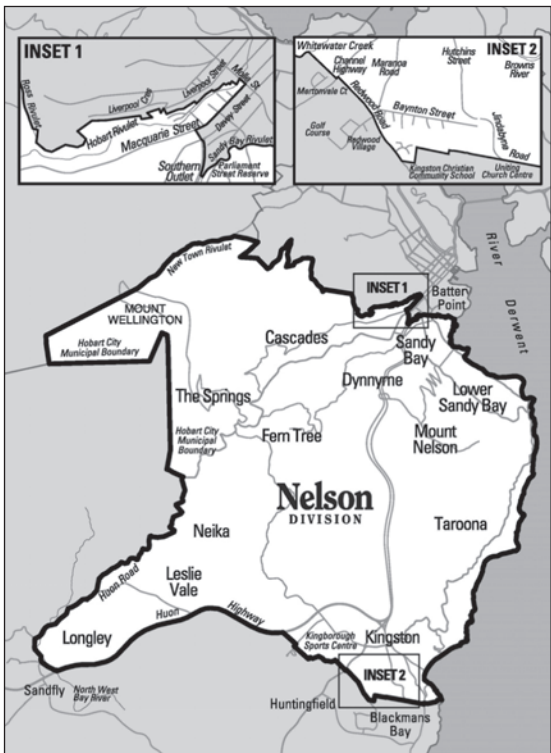
	JACKSON David Lawrence	JAMES Richard	PEERS John	RITCHIE Allison	SMITH Neil	ZUCCO Marti	Exhausted votes	Formal votes	Remarks
Count 1 Total votes	860	3 650	1 839	8 513	2 662	2 332		19 856	First Preferences
Count 2 Votes transferred	- 860	259	225	162	76	138			Jackson Excluded
Total votes	0	3 909	2 064	8 675	2 738	2 470		19 856	
Count 3 Votes transferred		753	-2 064	641	202	468			Peers Excluded
Total votes		4 662	0	9 316	2 940	2 938		19 856	
Count 4 Votes transferred		1 494		845	488	-2 938	111		Zucco Excluded
Total votes		6 156		10 161	3 428	0	111	19 856	Ritchie Elected

Informal ballot paper survey

	Nelson	Pembroke	Total
Apparent intentional informal voting			
Blank	135	206	341
Deliberate informal or scribble/messages only	147	236	383
<i>Total</i>	282	442	724
Apparent unintentional informality			
Contains writing identifying elector	0	0	0
Contains only ticks or crosses	193	129	322
No first preference	10	7	17
Repetitions or omissions	2	57	59
Two or more first preferences	7	33	40
For other division	0	1	1
<i>Total</i>	212	227	439
Total	494	669	1 163



Divisional maps



APPENDIX C—THE TRIAL OF PDAS AS CERTIFIED LISTS

The Commission approved the trial of electronic certified lists at the 2007 Legislative Council elections. The New South Wales Electoral Commission provided 200 Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) on loan for the trial.

Using PDAs as electronic certified lists removed the need to produce printed certified lists and undertake roll scanning. PDAs have been used at recent Victorian and New South Wales elections in polling places to check elector enrolment details. Tasmania is the first State to use PDAs to mark electors off the roll.

What was developed

A PC-based application downloaded the roll onto PDAs. A simple PDA interface was developed to enable an electoral official to search for an elector and mark them off the roll.

The main search screen

The results screen

The elector detail screen



To search for the elector, the election official either entered the elector’s name or roll number. It was recommended that only the first three letters of the elector’s family and given names be entered, as this usually produced a list of less than six names.

The main issues with the trial

PDA theft and the battery life were considered the main risks associated with using PDAs.

Similar to ballot papers, PDAs in the polling place were either directly controlled by election officials or securely stored away from the public. No PDAs were stolen or lost at the election.

While battery life was estimated to last only six hours, PDAs could be charged and operated at the same time. PDAs were kept charged by either having all issuing points continuously plugged into a power source or rotating a power cord between the PDAs during the day.

Preparing the PDAs

The election roll was loaded onto each PDA prior to being issued to polling places. The PDAs for each polling place were combined in a clear plastic resealable bag with a receipt card which listed the PDA's serial numbers.

Special material was developed for training election officials. Backup procedures and reference rolls were provided in case there were problems.

Reminder postcard sent to electors

A reminder postcard was sent out before polling day to each elector required to vote. The postcard included the elector's name, enrolled address and roll number. Electors were encouraged to take the postcard to the polling place to make it easier for them to be marked off the roll.

PDAs in polling places

Election officials enjoyed using the PDAs and found that it was easier and quicker than using the printed lists. Some polling places used their spare PDA during the early morning peak periods to ensure waiting lines were cleared quickly.

Polling places reported between 30% and 50% of electors brought their reminder postcard to the polling place, which assisted in speeding up the process of marking names off the roll. Many electors liked having the postcard and were positive about the use of PDAs.

Uploading voter details

Uploading PDA details to the central computer commenced on the day after polling day. This involved uploading the roll number of the electors marked on each PDA.

A problem was identified during the upload of PDAs from the division of Nelson. This problem resulted in 500 voters not being identified for the non-voter process. Additional processes were undertaken to ensure that the problem did not occur for PDAs used in the division of Pembroke.

Non-voter and multi-voter reports

Once the uploading process was completed, non-voter lists, multi-voters and non-voter analysis reports (age, gender, locality) were produced. This was significantly quicker, simpler and cheaper than the normal transport and scanning process undertaken with printed rolls.

Since 500 Nelson voters could not be identified, non-voter notices were not issued for the division of Nelson. However, multi-voters were still investigated.

One suggested change

One of the returning officers suggested that the PDA should include a time and date stamp for marking electors off the roll. A date and time stamp would enable a true voter flow to be recorded for every PDA.

Overall comments

The trial of PDAs as certified lists was considered a success. The trial showed that using PDAs as certified lists was achievable, more efficient than using printed rolls, and easier than printed rolls for election officials and electors to use.

APPENDIX D—THE TRIAL OF COMPUTER-ASSISTED VOTING

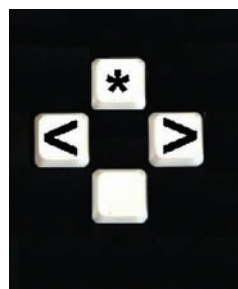
The Commission approved the trial of computer assisted voting for blind and vision-impaired electors at the 2007 Legislative Council elections.

The Tasmanian developed 'Vision-Impaired voting system' (VI-Vote) enables blind and vision-impaired electors to complete a ballot paper in private. The system has two modes of use:

The **Audio Voting** mode is an audio process that reads out the names of the candidates and enables an elector to allocate sequential preferences, which can be printed on a ballot paper. Via a series of voice prompts, the elector chooses their preferences using a specially designed keypad.

Once the elector has finished voting, the system will read their vote back to them, before giving the elector the option to print the ballot paper or start again.

Keypad



The **Vote Magnification** mode enables an elector to magnify the candidate names on a computer screen so they can allocate sequential preferences, which can be printed on a ballot paper.

The elector uses the mouse to control the level of magnification and to allocate preferences.

Magnified screen



The order of candidate names on the ballot papers is rotated using Robson Rotation, as required under the Tasmanian *Electoral Act 2004*.

If the voter tries to print their ballot paper before marking enough preferences to cast a formal vote, they will receive a warning that their vote is informal. The elector is then given the options of either starting again or printing the informal ballot paper. The elector's preferences are printed in a font that closely resembles handwriting. The elector then places the printed ballot paper into a nearby ballot box.

Neither mode stores any record of the elector's vote on the computer's hard-drive. Instead, at the completion of voting, the computer prints a ballot paper that includes the elector's preferences that is very similar in appearance to a standard ballot paper.

Although VI-Vote has been designed and approved for electors needing assistance to vote, electors not requiring assistance were encouraged to use the system. Broader use of VI-Vote increases the number of ballot papers with printed preferences and provides a process during the polling period for independently verifying that the system is working correctly.

Access to VI-Vote

VI-Vote was set up in the Hobart pre-poll centre for the pre-polling period and on polling day. VI-Vote contained ballot papers for the Nelson and Pembroke elections and a sample ballot paper for electors wanting to practice using the system before completing their ballot paper.

Awareness and promotion

Guide Dogs Association staff and blind and vision-impaired electors tested VI-Vote during the development and early election period. All who tested the system provided positive feedback.

Along with other forms of promotion, details about VI-Vote were provided on the elector brochure mailed to each elector required to vote at the elections and the media were present to film and ask questions of a blind elector using VI-Vote, resulting in an article and photograph in *The Mercury* and some television coverage.

Usage

VI-Vote was only used by one vision-impaired elector and one blind elector to cast their vote at the election. The feedback from these two electors could not have contrasted more and highlights that only some blind and vision-impaired electors will embrace the new service.

The blind elector had considerable experience working with computers in a work environment and interacting with other people. He was a strong supporter of improved services for the blind and was very positive of VI-Vote.

The vision-impaired elector was elderly, had not been into the city for a number of years, did not use computers and came to cast a pre-poll vote unaware of the new service. She was completely overwhelmed by the system, became upset and did not complete her ballot paper.

The low usage of VI-Vote is attributed to three factors:

- The blind and vision-impaired communities did not have a real opportunity to become aware of or trial the new system prior to the election.
- Many blind and vision-impaired electors may not want to use the system as they already have a way to complete their vote, which they have confidence in—such as voting from home with their own magnification systems, or with a friend or family assistance.
- Those who tested the system were not enrolled in either of the two Legislative Council divisions going to election.

The Commission will consider providing access outside election periods in Guide Dog Association offices to broaden awareness, acceptance and use of VI-Vote within the blind and vision-impaired communities.

VI-Vote could also assist electors who have trouble reading or who find it hard to mark numbers on the ballot paper. The Commission will consider ways in which VI-Vote will help other groups in the community to complete their ballot paper.

Summary

A computerised process was developed for blind and vision-impaired electors to independently complete their ballot paper at the 2007 Legislative Council elections. While the usage of VI-Vote was low, where feasible, electoral authorities should provide services that makes it easier for electors to vote.



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