



**Tasmanian
Electoral Commission**



**shape
your
state**



**annual report
2011-12**

Seventh Annual Report 2011–12

To The Honourable Sue Smith,
President of the Legislative Council and

The Honourable Michael Polley,
Speaker of the House of Assembly

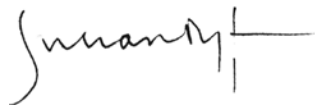
We have the honour to submit the seventh report of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission for presentation to the Parliament pursuant to the provisions of section 13 of the *Electoral Act 2004*.

The report covers the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

Yours sincerely



Liz Gillam
CHAIRPERSON



Julian Type
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER



Christine Fraser
MEMBER

16 October 2012

Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Annual Report 2011–12

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CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION

As indicated in the Electoral Commissioner's review, this has been a year of solid activity for the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) under the capable management of the Electoral Commissioner, Julian Type. We were pleased to welcome Andrew Hawkey as Deputy Electoral Commissioner. Whilst acting in this position, Andrew had already demonstrated his enthusiasm and expertise, particularly in seeking to improve engagement of the community in the electoral process.

The Commission itself has met formally on a number of occasions through the year, as well as regular informal contact as the need arises. Commission Member, Christine Fraser, joins with me in thanking Commission staff for their efficient administrative support.

A number of issues relating to the conduct of local government elections are currently the subject of some consideration, including the Inquiry of the House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development into Local Government elections.

The Commission will, in keeping with its functions under the *Electoral Act 2004*, continue to provide independent advice and information on technical aspects of these and other electoral matters, a number of which are raised in the Electoral Commissioner's review, as they arise.

The TEC is constantly seeking, within the means available to it, to adopt new and innovative ways of raising awareness of, and participation in, elections. Elsewhere in this Report information is provided about the "Elections Tas" iPhone application and the local government elections resource package for schools, building on the success of the education portal launched last year.

I once again acknowledge the close working relationship between the TEC and the Australian Electoral Commission. The importance of this relationship cannot be over-estimated in such a small jurisdiction.



Liz Gillam
CHAIRPERSON
Tasmanian Electoral Commission

ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW

2011–12 was a busy year for the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, with a full round of ordinary local government elections in spring 2011, periodic Legislative Council elections in May 2012, and the successful conduct of the triennial Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania elections over the full course of the year.

Early in the year in review His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor appointed Andrew Hawkey as Deputy Electoral Commissioner. Andrew had previously filled a number of roles at the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, the Teachers Registration Board and the Department of Education. He holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) and Graduate Certificates in Public Sector Management and Electoral Administration. As a number of our staff are approaching retirement, it was most pleasing from the perspective of organisational renewal that Andrew was appointed before his fortieth birthday.

Local government elections proceeded smoothly, and are reported in more detail in our publication *Local Government Election Report 2011*. Statewide participation declined slightly to 54.28% but still compares very favourably to the two jurisdictions with similar systems, South Australia (32.88% in 2010) and Western Australia (33.35% in 2011).

Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania elections were also completed on schedule and without the protracted litigation which delayed the previous round of elections. I do not regard it as ideal that the Electoral Commissioner has the statutory duty effectively to determine whether or not a person is an Aboriginal person, but wish to place on record my appreciation to the Review Committee for their invaluable advice enabling me to discharge the duty. I would also like to thank the former Electoral Commissioner, Bruce Taylor, Sarah Kay of the Office of the Solicitor General, and Laurette (Shep) Thorp of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs for their wise counsel.

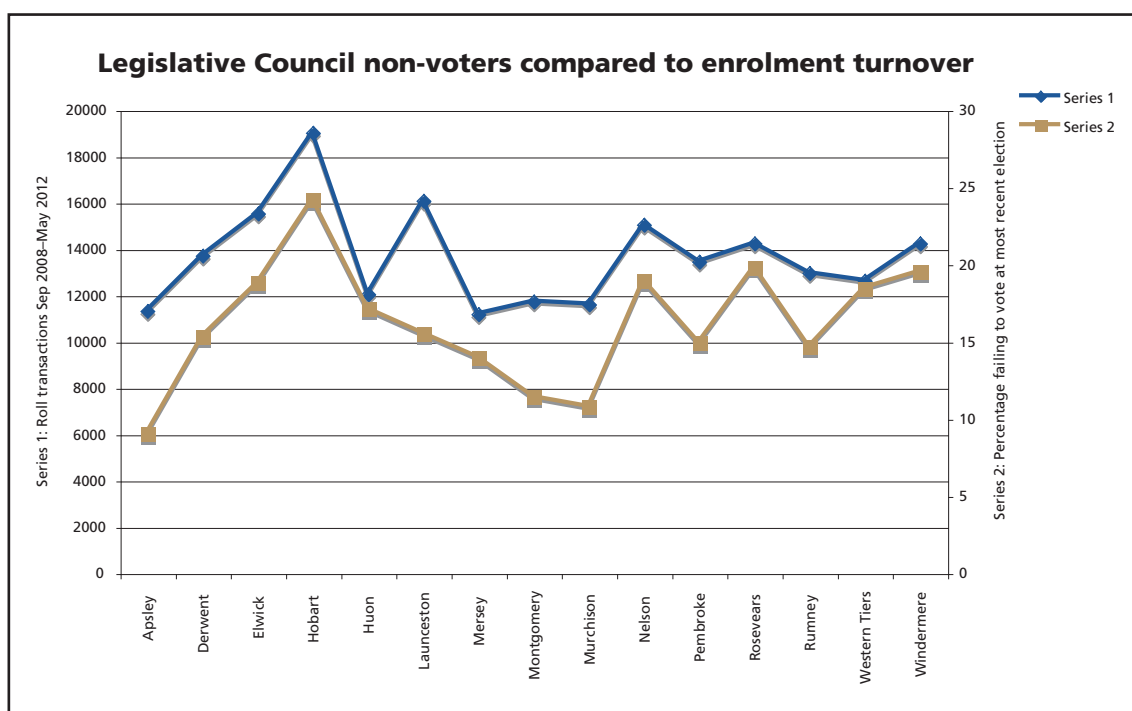
Elections for the Legislative Council divisions of Hobart and Western Tiers were held on 5 May 2012. Participation rates of, respectively, 75.77% and 81.51% were somewhat disappointing. As well as comprehensive radio, television and print advertising, we again mailed every elector a personal reminder of the opportunity and obligation to vote, trialled cinema advertising in Hobart, and continued with the experiment of a mobile billboard in Western Tiers.

Anecdotally, it seems to us that electors are decreasingly likely to give all their post their full attention, and, even if they are aware of the obligation to vote, are increasingly distracted by the other activities in their busy lives. The number of electors who pay the penalty for failing to vote without demur appears to be increasing year on year, but the ascendancy of stick over carrot is not good for our democracy.

The following is one Hobart division non-voter's response to our failure to vote notice:

I was unaware that a person who did not own a home in the Hobart division was required to vote. I own a home in Launceston and vote in the division of Launceston Council election. I am currently renting in [a Hobart suburb].

The chart at top right shows an apparent correlation between elector turnover and the rate of failure to vote at the most recent election. (Note that some elections were pre-redistribution). The correlation may suggest that the more transient a population, the less likely it is to be aware of Tasmania's unique upper house election cycle.



I would also like to take the opportunity to comment on the coincidence of Agfest and Legislative Council polling day five years in every seven. Agfest is without doubt one of Tasmania's most important market- and meeting-places, and it is only right that members of parliament, registered parties and parliamentary aspirants like to be represented there.

However, the *Electoral Act 2004* prohibits canvassing for votes within 100 metres of a polling place and the distribution of electoral matter on polling day for a parliamentary election. Electoral matter is very widely defined, and we always make a polling place available at Agfest.

It would be relatively straightforward to legislate to exempt the grounds of Agfest from these provisions, or to hold the annual Legislative Council elections on whichever of the first two Saturdays in May did not coincide with Agfest.

As the year ended, the Federal Parliament passed legislation which will enable the Australian Electoral Commission to update current electors' enrolment, and to enrol new electors for the first time, on the basis of data provided by trusted agencies. Because of our Joint Roll Agreement with the Commonwealth, these practices will also operate on the Tasmanian electoral roll.

This will present an opportunity to engage more eligible citizens in our electoral processes, but also a challenge to secure the participation of a small segment of the eligible population who have hitherto, and for whatever reason, not taken the trouble to initiate their own enrolment.

I would like to thank everyone who has worked for the TEC over the past year, from our ten permanent staff to our 1,000 or so temporary staff, who have capably managed polling places and counted votes at the local government elections and recounts. I would also like to thank our colleagues at the Australian Electoral Commission, who have capably and professionally provided electoral roll and election management services under contractual arrangements.



Julian Type
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This 7th Annual Report of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (the Commission) covers the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

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. 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 Report.

THE TASMANIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The Commission comprises the Chairperson, the Electoral Commissioner and one other Member. The Commission members are Liz Gillam (Chairperson), Christine Fraser (member) and Julian Type, 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:
 - (a) to advise the Minister on matters relating to elections;
 - (b) to consider and report to the Minister on matters referred to it by the Minister;
 - (c) to promote public awareness of electoral and parliamentary topics by means of educational and information programs and by other means;
 - (d) 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*;
 - (e) to publish material on matters relating to its functions;
 - (f) 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 independent and impartial conduct of Tasmanian elections and referendums.

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 co-ordinates electoral and enrolment policy and systems at a national level.

Approvals, appointments and determinations

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

The Commission met five times during the year and made a number-of-out of session resolutions. A list of all Commission approvals, appointments and determinations made between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012 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 under the following legislation:

- *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*
- *Water Management Act 1999*
- *Water Management (Electoral and Polling) Regulations 2009*

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF 2011–12

Appointment of new Deputy Electoral Commissioner

Andrew Hawkey was appointed as the new Deputy Electoral Commissioner on 8 August 2011.

Mr Hawkey had been Acting Deputy Electoral Commissioner for 12 months prior to his appointment. His past work experience includes a number of roles at the Tasmanian Electoral Commission and positions with the Teachers Registration Board and Department of Education. He holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) and Graduate Certificates in Public Sector Management and Electoral Administration.

Mr Hawkey has been significantly involved in the development of electronic lists of electors at polling places, an electronic system of voting for blind and vision impaired electors, and authored a review of Robson rotation which led to an extension of rotations for Tasmanian Parliamentary elections. Following the 2010 House of Assembly election, Mr Hawkey was invited to speak in Belgium at an international conference on the use of technology for administering elections.



Legislative Council elections

On 2 April 2012, writs were issued for Legislative Council elections in the divisions of Hobart and Western Tiers. Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) staff are appointed as returning officers for these elections.

- Issue of the Writs and close of the roll: 6 pm Monday 2 April 2012
- Close of nominations: 12 noon Thursday 12 April 2012
- Polling day: Saturday 5 May 2012

Eight candidates (7 men and 1 woman) were nominated. This was the first time since 2009 that each election was contested.

The TEC developed a free election application (“app”) for the iPhone. The app was developed with the aim of providing a mobile information access point for the public, candidates and the media. More information on the phone app is provided in the Innovation section of this report.

Early voting was again available in all AEC offices around the country as well as the offices of other State and Territory electoral authorities. Electors located overseas or in remote areas during the election period could apply for an express vote.

Rob Valentine was elected as the Member for Hobart and Greg Hall was elected as the Member for Western Tiers. Legislative Council election results are provided in Appendix B.

Local government elections

Ordinary elections

Tasmania's biennial local government elections were held in September and October 2011.

The notice of election was published on Saturday 10 September 2011 with nominations closing on Monday 26 September. 283 candidates nominated for a total of 147 councillor positions, 62 candidates nominated for mayoral positions and 76 candidates nominated for deputy mayoral positions. Of the 421 nominations received, 307 were from males and 114 were from females.

Tasmanian local government elections are conducted by a non-compulsory postal ballot. A postal ballot pack was posted to each elector between 11 and 14 October. The pack included an information brochure containing voting instructions and candidate statements of up to 150 words. The ballot closed at 10am on 25 October.



Similarly to parliamentary elections, candidate names are rotated on ballot papers. 757 different ballot paper rotation combinations were produced for these elections.



A state tally room was set up at Tattersall's Park in Glenorchy following the close of the poll. Provisional first preference results for all positions and the distribution of preferences for mayoral positions were progressively displayed on tally boards. A mini tally-room was established in Launceston, which provided election results for the northern councils.

Councillors are elected using the Hare-Clark proportional representation electoral system. The majority of the election counts were completed on Wednesday 26 October, with

the more complex counts being completed on Thursday 27 October.

The following is a gender breakdown of elected candidates:

- Councillors elected 147 (100 men and 47 women)
- Deputy Mayors elected 29 (21 men and 8 women)
- Mayors elected 29 (22 men and 7 women)

Full details of all local government elections are available from the TEC website.

By-elections and recounts

During 2011–12 the TEC conducted a by-election for a councillor vacancy on King Island Council. The TEC also conducted recounts to fill councillor vacancies on the Hobart City, Clarence City and Dorset councils.

Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania elections

Over the past year the office has conducted Aboriginal Land Council elections in accordance with the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995* (the Act).

The Council consists of 8 Aboriginal persons, 2 representing each of the South, North and North-West regions, and one representing each of the Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island groups.

Under section 18 of the Act, the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania has the following functions:

- (a) to use and sustainably manage Aboriginal land and its natural resources for the benefit of all Aboriginal persons;
- (b) to exercise, for the benefit of all Aboriginal persons, the Council's powers as owner of Aboriginal land;
- (c) to prepare management plans in respect of Aboriginal land;
- (d) to use and sustainably manage any other land in which the Council acquires an interest; and
- (e) such other functions as are imposed on it by or under this Act or any other Act.

Election timetable

- Preliminary Roll closed: 5 pm Thursday 29 September 2011
- Preliminary Roll inspected from: Monday 10 October 2011
- Close of objections to enrolments: 5 pm Monday 7 November 2011
- Objections accepted or rejected by: Tuesday 13 December 2011
- Nominations open: Saturday 10 March 2012
- Nominations close: 12 noon Friday 18 May 2012
- Ballot papers posted to electors: Monday 28 May 2012
- Close of ballot: 10 am Tuesday 19 June 2012

The Commissioner's responsibilities under the Act include consideration of any objections to the transfer of the name of a person from the Preliminary Roll to the continuous Electors Roll, and acceptance or rejection of any such objections.

104 people applied to be on the Preliminary Roll, with 24 of those persons having objections lodged against their inclusion on the roll. Of those 24, one person had the objection against their enrolment rejected. A total of 81 applicants were transferred to the Electors Roll, bringing the total number of electors on the Roll as at June 2012 to 486.

The following persons were elected to the ALCT for a three-year term of office, to represent the areas shown:

- Cape Barren Island Group John Gardner
- Flinders Island Group Ralph Purdon (elected unopposed)
- North Region Clyde Mansell and Adam Thompson (elected unopposed)
- North-West region Tony Brown and Jarrod Edwards (elected unopposed)
- South region Greg Brown and Raylene Foster

Nominations for the next ALCT elections are to be called no later than 10 June 2015.

Assistance to other electoral authorities

The TEC assisted other Australian electoral authorities by issuing pre-poll votes for their elections at the Commission office in Hobart. Votes were issued for the following elections:

- Queensland state election
- State by-elections in Victoria and South Australia
- New Zealand general election

Other elections and ballots

The TEC conducted the following non-parliamentary elections:

- Elections required under the *Water Management Act 1999*
- Eat Well Tasmania Inc
- Liberal Party Senate Selection Committee
- Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)
- TasCAHRD
- St Helens RSL Club
- Showman's Guild of Tasmania
- Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS)
- Tasmanian Pacing Club
- Tasmania University Union (TUU)

The TEC conducted the following industrial ballots:

- Christian Schools Tasmania
- Veolia Environmental Services (Tas) P/L
- Hydro Tas

Fees are charged for these services.

Litigation

Following an investigation by Tasmania Police, the Commissioner made a complaint regarding an advertisement distributed in April 2011 by Legislative Council candidate Mr John Forster which contained the name of another candidate without written consent contrary to Section 196 of the *Electoral Act 2004*.

Mr Forster pleaded guilty to the charge. The Magistrate recorded a conviction and imposed a fine of \$850 with costs of \$49.

Review of the Party Register

Under section 58 of the *Electoral Act 2004* the Electoral Commission, not more than once a year, may require the registered officer of a registered party to provide it with updated party information. Each registered party must have at least 100 registered members, and if any of these registered members change address, or are no longer eligible to be registered members, the party register must be amended accordingly.

Each of the four registered parties was sent a “Review of Party Registration” form in March. All requisite documentation was returned by the registered parties within the time required, with all parties maintaining the requirements of registration. The review process was finalised in May 2012.

The currently registered parties are (ballot paper name, in alphabetical order):

- Australian Labor Party
- Liberal Party
- Socialist Alliance
- Tasmanian Greens

Office restructure

TEC staff participated in a review of roles and reporting lines during 2010–11.

A whole of office review of position responsibilities had not been undertaken for some time and staff took a fresh look at how areas of responsibility were allocated across the office.

The rapid expansion in the use of electronic information systems for administering elections and the development of new electoral education initiatives by the TEC has led to the splitting of the office structure into the following areas:

- Elections and information systems (reporting to the Operations Manager)
- Policy and Commission support (reporting to the Senior Policy Analysts)
- Education, website and publications (reporting to the Senior Policy Analysts)
- Office administration and front counter (reporting to the Deputy Commissioner)

Being a small organisation of 11 permanent staff (9.8 FTE), there is flexibility of roles across these areas. Office layout is in the process of being adjusted to facilitate enhanced communication and collaboration.

INNOVATION

“Elections Tas” app for the iPhone and iPad

An innovation this year has been the development of a free election application or app for the iPhone. “Elections Tas”, developed by Wendy Polzin, was trialled at the 2012 Legislative Council elections with the aim of providing a mobile information access point for the public, candidates and the media.

The app presents information about current elections and other general information in a contemporary way, enabling electoral information to be available at any time.

Election information at the user’s fingertips includes:

- election dates and divisions,
- candidates’ names,
- polling place addresses and maps,
- information about voting early or from interstate and overseas and
- progressive results after the close of polling.

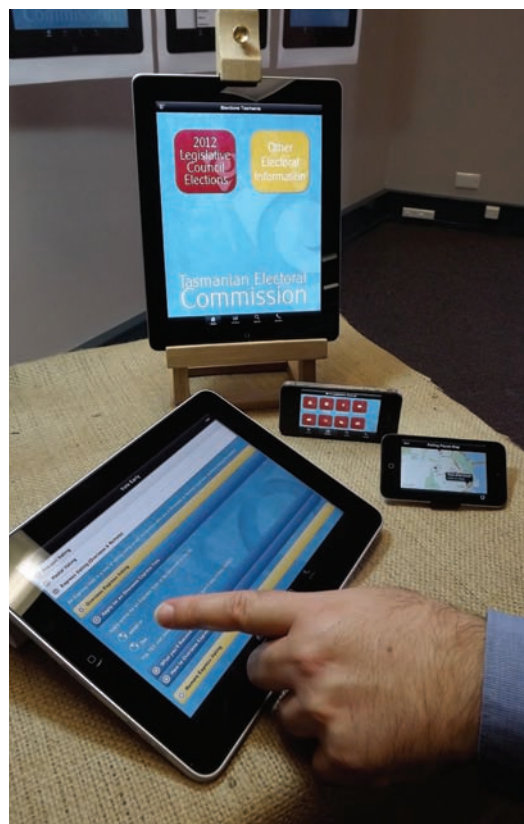
It also presents relevant forms (enrolment forms, postal vote applications and more), some of which can be completed and submitted from the user’s phone. Utilised features such as GPS location services enabled electors to find the polling place closest to their current location anywhere in the State.

Other general election information provided included a link to “My Reps”, where electors can find out their federal, state and local government representatives, and the ability to subscribe to the TEC’s voter reminder service.

Local media staff were personally invited to the launch of “Elections Tas” on 2 April. The launch was well attended which resulted in a television news item, newspaper article, numerous brief telephone interviews on ABC local radio and a half hour interview about the election and the app on the youth radio station Edge Radio.

From the launch of the app in April to date there have been over 400 installations. Given its success, it is anticipated that the trial will be extended to other elections and the development of an app for Android phones.

The TEC is only the second electoral authority in Australia to create such an app, and the only authority to have one available outside election periods.



Mock postal ballot kits—local government elections

Under the *Electoral Act 2004* the functions and powers of the Commission include:

to promote public awareness of electoral and parliamentary topics by means of educational and information programs and by other means.

Following the success of the TEC's Civics, Citizenship and Tasmania Gateway in early 2011, the TEC retained Education Consultant Wendy Polzin to develop and trial a new teaching resource focused on local government elections—a hands-on mock postal ballot election kit for schools.

This resource aimed to deepen students' understanding and experience of the postal ballot processes through role-play that could also generate conversations between students and their families around the 2011 Local Government elections.

In late September 2011, 63 election kits (resources for almost 2000 students) were delivered to 29 schools around the state. Students were able to use the kit to run mock elections for mayor, deputy mayor and 5 councillor vacancies, and could take on the role of a candidate, the returning officer or other roles involved in an election.

The election kit included:

- templates for producing mock candidate statements
- templates for including Robson rotation of candidate names on ballot papers
- educational versions of all 3 envelopes that form part of a postal ballot pack and
- a CD of education resources that could be used on modern classroom teaching facilities.

The kits were used by teachers of classes of year 4 through to year 12.

Feedback from teachers using the trial kits was positive and indicated that they would be useful even outside local government elections, and so the decision was taken to produce additional kits as an on-going educational resource. The kits were again offered to schools at the start of the 2012 school year, with 300 kits being distributed in early March.

The TEC will re-advertise the kits again later in 2012, as some schools cover civics education when end-of-year student elections are conducted.

This resource will assist Tasmanian teachers to deliver quality electoral education, and engage students in learning activities that have a real and lasting impact on their lives as adult citizens.

Appendix C includes photos of materials provided to schools and the kits in use.



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 Tasmanian roll.

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.

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.

All electors enrolled on the State roll are entitled to vote at the local government elections for the municipal area in which their enrolled address is situated. Other individuals who are over the age of 18 and are owners or occupiers of land in the municipal area may be entitled to be on a supplementary electoral roll kept by the Council's General Manager.

Enrolment management

The national roll is jointly managed by the AEC and State electoral authorities. The Electoral Commissioner represents the TEC at regular meetings of the Electoral Council of Australia. This body co-ordinates policy and systems related to the on-going development and improvement of the joint Commonwealth/State electoral roll.

At year's end, Tasmanian enrolment stood at 358,649, or an estimated 94.24% of the eligible population. This rate was the highest of the eight Australian jurisdictions and compares to a national rate of 90.57%.

Changes in enrolment management

As the year ended, federal legislation enabling the AEC to directly enrol electors, or update electors' enrolment, based on information provided by trusted agencies was awaiting Royal Assent. Federal direct enrolment and update, or FDEU, will carry over to the Tasmanian roll by virtue of our Joint Roll Agreement, and has the potential to arrest a declining rate of enrolment participation nationwide.

REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

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.

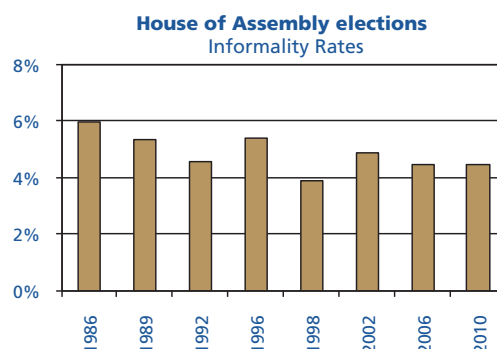
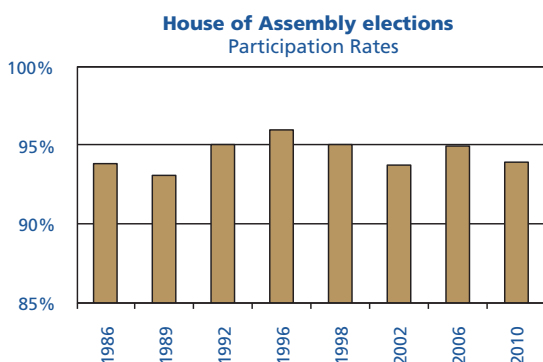
While cost effectiveness is important, so are other performance measures such as voter turn-out (number of electors who voted as a percentage of the number of electors on the election roll) and the level of informal voting (number of informal votes as a percentage of the number of votes cast).

House of Assembly elections

Table 1: House of Assembly elections statistics 1998–2010

	1998	2002	2006	2010
Number of electors at close of roll	322 754	332 473	341 481	357 315
Ballot papers cast	306 655	311 637	324 008	335 353
Participation rate	95.01%	93.73%	94.88%	93.85%
Formal votes	294 678	296 470	309 622	320 438
Informality rate	3.91%	4.87%	4.44%	4.45%
Number of candidates	138	112	95	89
Total number of counts*	3 271	2 500	198	194

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



Legislative Council elections

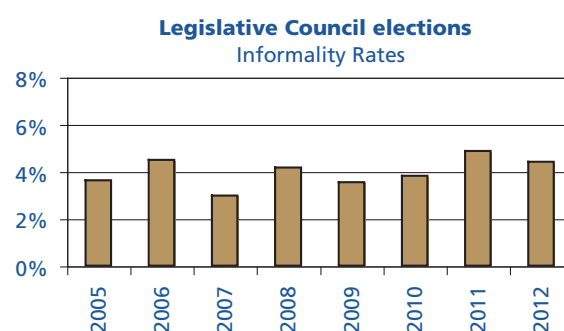
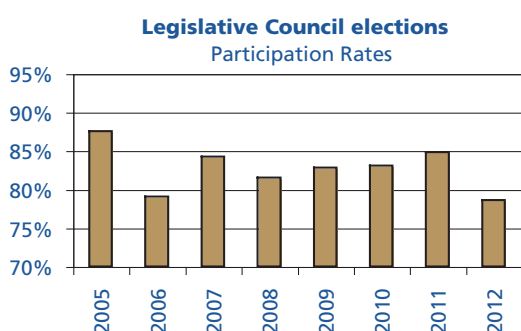
Table 2: Legislative Council elections statistics by division 2011–2012

	2011				2012	
	Derwent	Launceston	Murchison	Rumney	Hobart	Western Tiers
Number of electors at close of roll	24 905	23 689	24 010	25 289	23 690	23 478
Ballot papers cast	21 085	20 010	Uncontested	21 578	17 949	19 136
Participation rate	84.66%	84.47%	—	85.33%	75.77%	81.51%
Formal votes	19 675	19 337	—	20 610	17 399	18 056
Informality rate	6.69%	3.36%	—	4.49%	3.06%	5.64%
Number of candidates	5	4	1	6	6	2

Table 3: Legislative Council elections participation and informality rates 2008–2012

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of electors at close of roll	47 941	71 370	49 939*	73 883*	47 168
Ballot papers cast	39 092	59 125	41 481	62 673	37 085
Participation rate	81.54%	82.84%	83.06%	84.83%	78.62%
Informality rate	4.17%	3.54%	3.81%	4.87%	4.40%

* Enrolment numbers for 2010 and 2011 only include divisions that required a poll. 2010 figures also include the 2009 Pembroke by-election. 2011 figures also include the 2011 Derwent by-election.



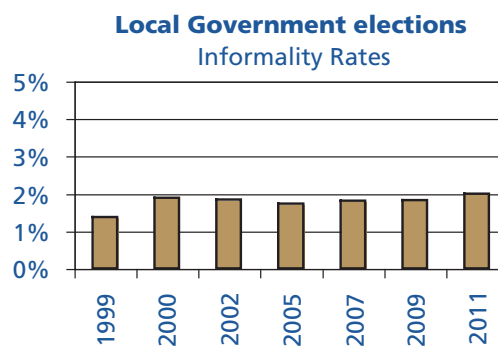
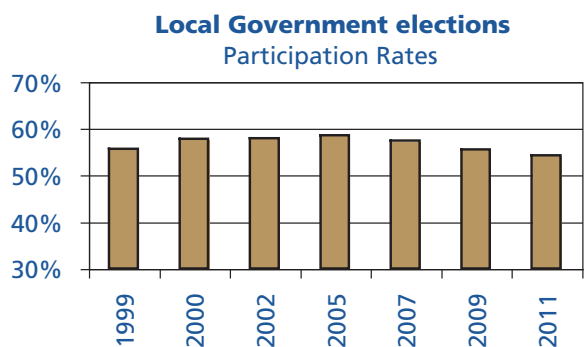
Local government elections

Table 4: Local government elections statistics 2002–2011

	2002	2005	2007	2009	2011
Number of electors at close of roll*	340 283	350 026	357 091	362 890	366 906
Number of council elections fully conducted by TEC	26/28	28/29	29/29	29/29	29/29
Declarations returned	196 903	204 846	205 074	201 550	199 153
Response rate	57.86%	58.52%	57.43%	55.54%	54.28%
Total ballot papers**	525 772	563 532	538 411	526 117	510 563
Formal votes	516 100	553 809	528 649	516 524	500 410
Informality rate	1.84%	1.73%	1.81%	1.82%	1.99%
Number of candidates	437	487	444	449	421
Number of counts	570	708	602	553	489

* 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.

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



Tasmania *Together* indicators and targets for local government elections

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 2000–2011

Participation in local government elections	2000	2002	2005	2007	2009	2011
Local government	57.78%	57.86%	58.52%	57.43%	55.54%	54.28%

Electoral enrolment

Table 7: Electoral enrolment 2007–2012

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Tasmanian enrolment	346,911	352,180	356,065	356,203	358,485	358,649
Estimated eligible population	362,800	364,452	369,172	377,085	376,629	380,577
Participation rate	95.62%	96.63%	96.45%	94.46%	95.18%	94.24%

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This section contains breakdowns of election costs and historical comparisons. Expenditure and Revenue statements can be found in the 2011–2012 Department of Justice Annual Report.

Cost of elections

Table 8: Cost of House of Assembly elections

	1995–96	1998–99	2002–03	2005–06	2009–10
Total cost (\$'000)	1 635	1 565	1 752	1 897	2 271
Number of electors on the roll	324 556	322 754	332 473	341 481	357 315
Cost per elector on the roll	\$5.10	\$5.06	\$5.27	\$5.56	\$6.36

Table 9: Cost of federal elections

	1998–99	2001–02	2004–05	2007–08	2010–11
Cost per elector on the roll	\$5.06	\$5.29	\$5.79	\$8.29*	\$7.68

* The significant increase in costs includes two initiatives undertaken in response to the introduction of new enrolment and close of roll arrangements: targeted enrolment stimulation (\$6 million) and a major public awareness and advertising strategy (\$29 million). With over 13.5 million electors on the roll, the combined \$35 million equates to \$2.56 of the cost per elector.

These figures were obtained from the AEC's *Electoral Pocket Book*.

Table 10: Cost of Legislative Council elections

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Total cost (\$'000)	307	418	362	577	421
Number of electors on the roll	47 941	71 370	73 447	97 893	47 168
Cost per elector on the roll	\$6.40	\$5.86	\$4.93*	\$5.89*	\$8.93

* Denotes that the figure includes an election that did not require a ballot (candidate elected unopposed)

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 usually higher when only two elections are held due to fixed costs.

In 2009–10, the cost per elector was affected by the conduct of a separate by-election for the division of Pembroke in August and a poll not being required in the periodic election for the division of Apsley.

In 2011–12, the cost per elector was affected by increased advertising costs due to the requirement to advertise in all three Tasmanian daily newspapers for the Western Tiers division and additional advertising elements intended to increase elector awareness in Hobart, which consistently has the lowest participation rate of all Legislative Council divisions.

Table 11: Cost of local government elections

	2002–03	2005–06	2007–08	2009–10	2010–11
Total cost (\$'000)	977	1 147	1 211	1 248	1 337
Number of electors on the roll	340 283	350 026	357 091	362 890	366 906
Cost per elector on the roll	\$2.87	\$3.28	\$3.39	\$3.44	\$3.65

Cost of electoral enrolment

Table 12: Cost of managing and maintaining the electoral roll

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Expenditure on roll (\$'000)	214	224	238	247	246
Number of electors on the roll at June 30	353 031	356 065	356 203	358 485	358 649
Cost per elector on the roll	\$0.61	\$0.63	\$0.67	\$0.69	\$0.69

These costs include the cost to the State of the State/Commonwealth joint roll arrangement, communications lines to the national roll management system, 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

No approvals were made by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012.

Appointments

Section No.	Subject	Date Approved
24 (1)	Returning Officers for the 2012 Legislative Council elections	20/03/12
93 (1) & 92 (4)	Polling places for the 2012 Legislative Council elections	20/03/12
93 (3)	Additional ordinary polling place for the 2012 Legislative Council elections	02/04/12
92 (4)	Additional mobile polling place for the 2012 Legislative Council elections	03/04/12

Determinations

No determinations were made by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012.

APPENDIX B—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

2012 election summary

Issue of the Writs	Mon 2 April
Close of Nominations	Thu 12 April
Polling Day	Sat 5 May
Return of the Writs	Wed 9 May

Division	Retiring Member	Elected candidate
Hobart	Doug Parkinson	Rob Valentine
Western Tiers	Greg Hall	Greg Hall

Periodical cycle

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

Year	Division	Current Member
2013	Montgomery	Sue Smith
	Nelson	Jim Wilkinson
	Pembroke	Vanessa Goodwin
2014	Huon	Paul Harriss
	Rosevears	Kerry Finch
2015	Derwent	Craig Farrell
	Mersey	Mike Gaffney
	Windermere	Ivan Dean
2016	Apsley	Tania Rattray
	Elwick	Adriana Taylor
2017	Launceston	Rosemary Armitage
	Murchison	Ruth Forrest
	Rumney	Tony Mulder
2018	Hobart	Rob Valentine
	Western Tiers	Greg Hall

Division of HOBART

Election held on 5 May 2012

Retiring member—Doug Parkinson

Returning Officer—Maree Ward

Elected member to serve for a six year term until May 2018

Electors enrolled 23 690
Electors who voted 17 949 (75.77%)
Informal votes 550 (3.06%)

First preference votes and informal ballot papers—by polling place

	CANDIDATES						Formal votes	Informal	Total ballot papers counted
	ANN Penelope Tasmanian Greens	FORSTER John Michael	HISCUTT Paul Thomas	SUGDEN James	VALENTINE Rob	WINTER Dean Australian Labor Party			
1 Battery Point	212	29	43	191	284	119	878	41	919
2 Battery Point West	70	6	11	54	133	57	331	6	337
3 Cascades	330	18	26	90	283	123	870	32	902
4 Hobart	50	5	11	23	52	38	179	6	185
5 Hobart City	118	10	19	46	165	80	438	17	455
6 Lenah Valley	146	36	52	142	439	261	1 076	45	1 121
7 Lenah Valley East	243	45	78	185	578	337	1 466	54	1 520
8 Mount Stuart	139	22	35	123	255	138	712	19	731
9 New Town	205	43	57	167	482	219	1 173	19	1 192
10 New Town West	260	70	69	172	546	324	1 441	55	1 496
11 North Hobart	172	24	27	101	208	158	690	29	719
12 North Hobart Central	179	26	28	88	242	181	744	25	769
13 South Hobart	343	22	51	128	404	173	1 121	36	1 157
14 West Hobart	77	5	9	51	100	72	314	6	320
15 West Hobart Central	251	31	35	159	332	174	982	29	1 011
16 West Hobart North	249	24	60	162	415	265	1 175	30	1 205
17 West Hobart South	246	18	15	101	212	131	723	24	747
Mobile	27	13	17	26	117	30	230	12	242
Total Ordinary	3 317	447	643	2 009	5 247	2 880	14 543	485	15 028
Pre-poll	292	43	45	161	503	191	1 235	30	1 265
Postal	272	48	69	157	603	228	1 377	25	1 402
Provisional	23	3	2	9	18	11	66	1	67
Out of division*	31	6	9	20	75	37	178	9	187
Total	3 935	547	768	2 356	6 446	3 347	17 399	550	17 949
% Formal vote	22.62%	3.14%	4.41%	13.54%	37.05%	19.24%			

* Statewide ordinary voting was introduced in 2010 for all polling places in Tasmania. Absent declaration envelopes are no longer required.

Distribution of preferences

		ANN	FORSTER	HISCUTT	SUGDEN	VALENTINE	WINTER	Exhausted votes	Formal votes	Remarks
		Penelope Tasmanian Greens	John Michael	Paul Thomas	James	Rob	Dean Australian Labor Party			
Count 1	Total votes	3 935	547	768	2 356	6 446	3 347		17 399	First preferences
Count 2	Votes transferred	40	- 547	109	203	142	53			Forster excluded
	Total votes	3 975	0	877	2 559	6 588	3 400		17 399	
Count 3	Votes transferred	110		- 877	371	286	110			Hiscutt excluded
	Total votes	4 085		0	2 930	6 874	3 510		17 399	
Count 4	Votes transferred	508			-2 930	1 584	656	182		Sugden excluded
	Total votes	4 593			0	8 458	4 166	182	17 399	
Count 5	Votes transferred	1 783				2 159	-4 166	224		Winter excluded
	Total votes	6 376				10 617	0	406	17 399	Valentine elected

Division of WESTERN TIERS

Election held on 5 May 2012

Retiring member—Greg Hall

Returning Officer—Damian Read

Elected member to serve for a six year term until May 2018

Electors enrolled 23 478

Electors who voted 19 136 (81.51%)

Informal votes 1 080 (5.64%)

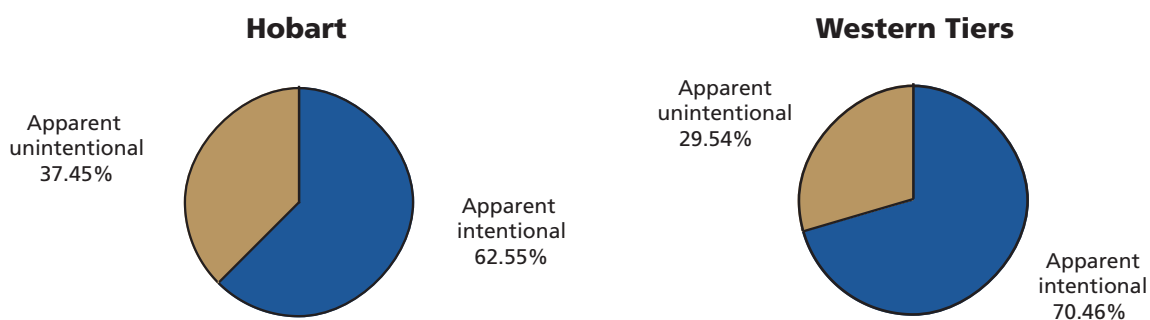
First preference votes and informal ballot papers—by polling place

	CANDIDATES		Formal votes	Informal	Total ballot papers counted
	HALL Greg	HAWKINS John			
1 Agfest	676	165	841	55	896
2 Bishopsbourne	70	14	84	4	88
3 Bothwell	218	67	285	18	303
4 Bracknell	260	68	328	14	342
5 Carrick	330	105	435	23	458
6 Chudleigh	157	82	239	5	244
7 Claude Road	92	47	139	22	161
8 Cressy	417	157	574	30	604
9 Deloraine	1 370	451	1 821	64	1 885
10 Elizabeth Town	231	57	288	18	306
11 Hadspen	92	30	122	7	129
12 Hagley	202	38	240	8	248
13 Latrobe	416	173	589	53	642
14 Launceston	75	42	117	7	124
15 Longford	1 322	491	1 813	121	1 934
16 Lower Barrington	286	97	383	46	429
17 Meander	159	61	220	8	228
18 Miena	50	19	69	3	72
19 Mole Creek	224	81	305	17	322
20 Moriarty	158	57	215	13	228
21 Perth	1 035	493	1 528	103	1 631
22 Port Sorell	1 265	494	1 759	139	1 898
23 Railton	448	186	634	39	673
24 Sassafra	152	22	174	11	185
25 Sheffield	722	279	1 001	92	1 093
26 Wesley Vale	93	44	137	11	148
27 Westbury	765	296	1 061	60	1 121
28 Whitemore	53	16	69	2	71
29 Wilmot	117	73	190	22	212
Mobile	111	23	134	3	137
Total Ordinary	11 566	4 228	15 794	1 018	16 812
Pre-poll	295	92	387	11	398
Postal	1 271	454	1 725	46	1 771
Provisional	15	10	25	1	26
Out of division*	86	39	125	4	129
Total	13 233	4 823	18 056	1 080	19 136
% Formal vote	73.29%	26.71%			

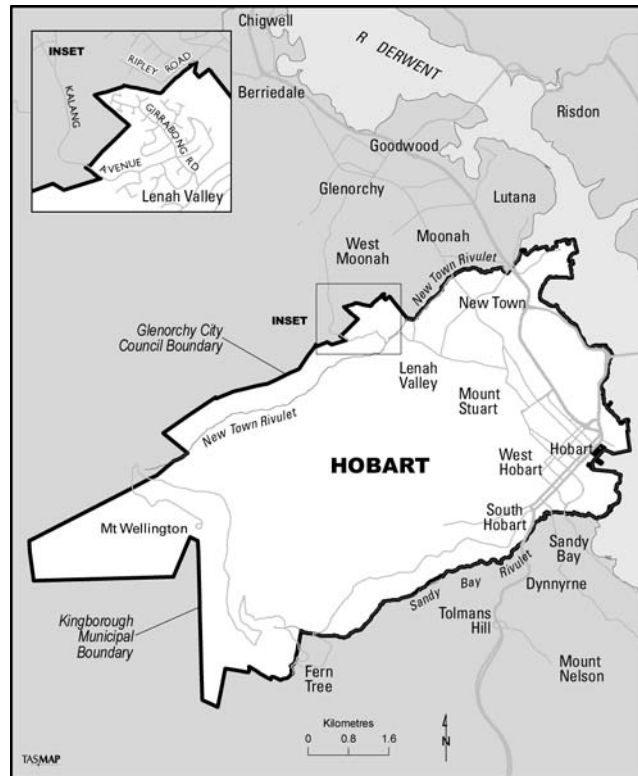
* Statewide ordinary voting was introduced in 2010 for all polling places in Tasmania. Absent declaration envelopes are no longer required.

Informal ballot paper survey

	Hobart	Western Tiers	Total
Apparent intentional informal voting			
Blank	145	320	465
Deliberate informal or scribble/messages only	199	441	640
<i>Total</i>	<i>344</i>	<i>761</i>	<i>1 105</i>
Apparent unintentional informality			
Contains writing identifying elector	0	0	0
Contains only ticks or crosses	109	251	360
No first preference	4	14	18
Repetitions or omissions	80	20	100
Two or more first preferences	13	34	47
<i>Total</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>525</i>
Total	550	1 080	1 630



Divisional maps



4125/10



4125/10

APPENDIX C—MOCK ELECTION KITS

Material provided to schools



Run Your Own Mock Local Government Election

1 Explore the "Story of a Local Government Election"

(zoomable Flash presentation on the CD, or on our website)

2 Define the Roles that play a part in a local government election



3 Students take on those Roles + Perform the associated duties

eg: the students undertaking the Educ8me Electoral Commission Role will prepare the Electoral Roll + they will prepare each Ballot Pack
OR
the students taking on the Australia Post Role will create a post box + ensure it is cleared right on 10am at the Close of Polls + deliver the ballots to the Returning Officers

4 Create a Timeline for your Election

Begin with your Close of Poll date + work back from there.

Important events to include are:

- Notice of Election
- Electoral Awareness Advertising
- Close of the Roll
- Close of Nominations
- Printing Ballot Paper Envelopes
- Preparing Ballot Packs
- Announcement of Candidates
- Distribution of Ballot Materials
- Close of Polls
- Return of Ballot Papers
- Preparing Ballot Papers
- Counting Votes
- Certificate of Election

These events are explained in the 'Story of a Local Government Election' in Tasmania on the CD.

5 Conduct your mock Local Government Election

Use the envelopes in the Kit + the editable templates + printable materials on the CD to run your election.

Refer back to the 'Story of a Local Government Election' for information + tips on how conduct your election

The Candidate Handbook on the CD (+ on our web site) is also full of useful information

You may wish to:
Make your own Australia Post Box + use the Role Labels on the CD Rom to create Lanyards / Name tags for students taking on roles

FAQs

Help build a bank of FAQs - email your questions to education@tec.tas.gov.au
Check the CC&T Gateway for your answer

With your guidance + the contents of this kit, your students will engage in some of the interesting elements that are part of conducting a postal ballot, rather than an attendance ballot. No ballot box required - just a post box!

Students can...

- learn what a Candidate Statement is by reading the statements on the TEC website, then write their own statements + enter them into the template provided + print them
- generate Ballot Papers with their own candidate names, using an authentic Robson Rotation tool
- create Ballot Packs that include all 3 types of envelopes + Ballot Papers + Candidate Statements
- act as a Returning Officer + organise the preparation of the ballot papers + the counting of the vote
- act as the advertising agency who assists the Commission to promote the election, using the provided poster template, or creating new materials... perhaps even their own TV ad!



email: education@tec.tas.gov.au
web: www.tec.tas.gov.au/pages/Education



Introducing your town council + electoral commission



Make Real World Connections

Students' parents may have received real ballot materials for the 2011 Local Government election. Encourage students to examine them + discuss what they've learned with their parents



Included in your kit:



CD ROM containing printables + editable templates + the 'Story of a Local Government Election' + an actual Candidate Handbook + more!



30 each of 3 different envelopes that form part of each ballot pack



Each delivery will also contain a Tasmanian Local Government Areas Map, plus a CC&T Gateway poster for your staffroom.



Head to www.tec.tas.gov.au + click on the CC&T logo to find more Local Government Education resources



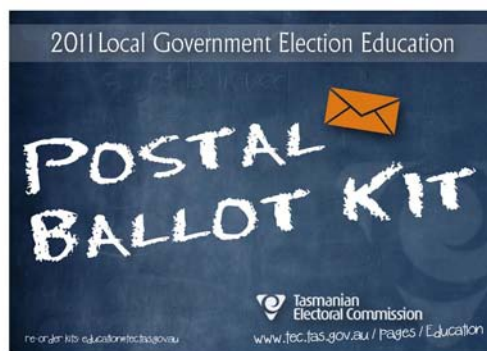
Please record what you and your students do with this kit - we would love to receive photos + stories: education@tec.tas.gov.au

An electoral education initiative of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, as part of the CC&T [Civics, Citizenship & Tasmania] Gateway



Local Government Elections in Tasmania are conducted as an entirely postal ballot

This kit seeks to give students an authentic experience of that process



School feedback

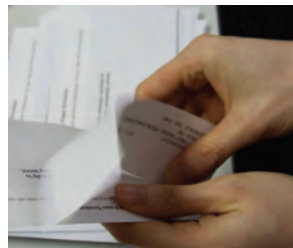
“A worthwhile venture which should be built upon.”

“Exceeded expectations.”

“The class have really enjoyed the experience and now want to have a council meeting every Monday to discuss issues - which means I have to reschedule all my planning but I love it when they say they have to take the hours and they mean the ‘minutes’ of a meeting.”

“I would use this resource each year, as part of my regular civics education.”

“Thanks for the opportunity - kids (even disengaged readers and voters) loved watching the winners emerge as preferences were distributed.”



Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Level 2 Telstra Centre
70 Collins Street
Hobart Tasmania 7000

GPO Box 300
Hobart TAS 7001

Phone (03) 6233 2000
or 1800 801 701

Fax (03) 6224 0217
ballot.box@tec.tas.gov.au
www.tec.tas.gov.au