

2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT



The eleventh report of the
Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Annual Report 2015-16

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Level 3
169 Main Road
Moonah Tasmania 7009
PO Box 307
Moonah Tas 7009
Phone (03) 6208 8700
Fax (03) 6208 8791
ballot.box@tec.tas.gov.au
www.tec.tas.gov.au

Eleventh Annual Report 2015-16

To The Honourable Jim Wilkinson,
President of the Legislative Council
and
The Honourable Elise Archer,
Speaker of the House of Assembly

We have the honour to submit the eleventh 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 2015 to 30 June 2016.

Yours sincerely



Liz Gillam
CHAIRPERSON



Andrew Hawkey
ELECTORAL
COMMISSIONER



Christine Fraser
MEMBER

08 November 2016



Chigwell Barn polling place



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The Tasmanian Electoral Commission

THE COMMISSION COMPRISES THE CHAIRPERSON, THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER AND ONE OTHER MEMBER.

Liz Gillam
CHAIRPERSON



Andrew Hawkey
ELECTORAL
COMMISSIONER



Christine Fraser
MEMBER



Chairperson's Introduction

Although not a major year in the election cycle, this has been a very noteworthy one for the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC).

In February, Julian Type retired as Electoral Commissioner. Julian's enormous contribution to electoral processes in Tasmania, Australia and internationally is recorded in more detail elsewhere in this report. Suffice it to say that I doubt that anyone who has interacted with Julian as Electoral Commissioner would disagree that he has undertaken this role with prodigious knowledge, complete thoroughness, absolute fairness and utmost integrity. We wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Andrew Hawkey commenced as Electoral Commissioner, also in February. Andrew will already be well-known to many of you as he has been Deputy Commissioner for a number of years and comes to the position with an in-depth knowledge of electoral processes and the challenges facing the sector in the future.

One of the major projects Andrew has seen through to a successful and timely conclusion is the move of the TEC offices from the Hobart CBD to Moonah. These new offices provide the flexibility to be an attractive and practical workplace on a day-to-day basis, yet accommodate major election events as required. Moves such as this can be complicated and hectic and we appreciate the positive approach taken by all staff.

In April the Legislative Council Government Administration Committee B tabled its report on the Tasmanian Electoral Commission. The findings and recommendations of the Report are at Appendix D of this Annual Report. As I mentioned in last year's Annual Report, the TEC saw this as a timely opportunity to review its operations and identify more clearly where change and improvement could be made. Many of our own conclusions are supported by the findings of the Committee. The TEC is working with appropriate State Agencies to progress some of the recommendations made.

In closing, on behalf also of TEC Member Christine Fraser, I would like to thank Julian, Andrew and all the staff of the TEC for their dedicated work throughout the year.

Liz Gillam

CHAIRPERSON
TASMANIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Electoral Commissioner's Review

While not a major election period, the year has seen some major events for the office including a change of Electoral Commissioner, the conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council elections, the tabling of the report on the Legislative Council inquiry into the TEC, and the end of a 26-year period being where the office has been located within the Telstra Building in the Hobart CBD.

Julian Type ended a long career in electoral administration when he retired, resigning from the position of Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner on 10 February 2016. A summary of Julian's contributions to Tasmania's democracy is provided on page 11. I feel honoured to be appointed as the third Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner. It is a position of responsibility, as administrator, facilitator, and at times, arbiter and guardian of Tasmania's wonderful, unique and robust democratic systems.

The two central challenges for conducting periodic Legislative Council elections are the need to be innovative to encourage and grow elector participation and the need to effectively resource election services across geographically diverse divisions. The 2016 elections illustrated how conducting urban compared to rural division elections have significant operational, logistical and financial variations. Apsley had almost three times the number of polling places and more than twice the number of staff, pre-poll centres, mobile teams and Officer-in-Charge (OIC) training sessions. Apsley staff claimed for 7,277 kms travel while Elwick staff claimed for only 232 kms travel.

On 26 April the Legislative Council Committee B tabled its report and recommendations following its inquiry into the TEC and the *Electoral Act 2004*. In the report the Committee acknowledged the current resourcing pressures facing the TEC and recommended the Government work with the TEC to ensure that the TEC is adequately staffed and resourced to perform its functions (Recommendation 7). An organisational review has commenced which will develop a more suitable staffing structure and funding model to take the office into the future.

As the financial year has come to a close our staff have been preparing for a move to a new office on the third floor of the TasWater Building in Moonah. The new office is a larger, better organised space that enables us to also provide office space for up to three returning officers and their staff.

This move signifies the end of an era at the Collins Street address that has seen waves of great change for this organisation. I have had the honour and privilege to work under three of the four Chief Electoral Officers/Electoral Commissioners during this time. Each brought different skills and styles that significantly enriched the electoral administration of Tasmania.



David Farrell (CEO 1992-2001): the revolutionary who oversaw the development of the inaugural universal postal voting elections for local government, abolished the separate Legislative Council roll and brought the office into the modern age of computers and communication. David was a great leader who empowered and inspired his staff through many significant election periods.

Bruce Taylor (DCEO 1993-2002, CEO 2002-2005, EC 2005-2010): the great administrator and electoral operator, who was a vital partner during the David Farrell era and then standardised and streamlined electoral processes during his own term of leadership. Bruce's legacy includes the *Electoral Act 2004* (which established the Electoral Commission) and the creation of a number of modern electoral systems including the roll out of electronic certified lists and the establishment of VI-Vote and Express Voting for Parliamentary elections.

Julian Type (DEC 2005-2010, EC 2010-2016): the innovator whose great experience and intellect identified and brought about new services and electoral improvements. During his term the TEC established: an electronic tally board at the state election, an online system for submitting candidate statements and photos and a computerised count for local government councillor elections. Since 2013 there has been unprecedented scrutiny of Australian electoral authorities. Julian carefully guided the TEC through the 2014 state election, the 2014 local government elections which were for the first time all-in-all-out elections and a formal inquiry into the TEC.

And what of the future? As a new era starts, with a new office and Electoral Commissioner, the next 24 months will be an exciting and challenging time. Julian's retirement was the last of the many electoral giants that were involved in Tasmanian elections when I started at the Tasmanian Electoral Office in 1993. I hope that I can undertake this new role with the wisdom, intelligence, diplomacy and energy of those whom have come before me.

I wish to thank Liz and Christine for their support and wisdom during my first five months in the role and also to the marvellous hard working staff of the TEC who so professionally and tirelessly enable Tasmania's democracy to occur.

Andrew Hawkey

ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

About this Report

This 11th Annual Report of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (the Commission) covers the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. 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.

About the Tasmanian Electoral Commission

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 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 and New Zealand.

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. A list of all Commission approvals, appointments and determinations made between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016 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 TEC 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 2015*
- *Juries Act 2003*
- *Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995*
- *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*
- *Water Management Act 1999*



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 and New Zealand which regularly discusses strategies for maintenance of the electoral roll.

At year's end, Tasmanian enrolment stood at 373 911, or an estimated 96.3% of the eligible population. This rate was second highest of the eight Australian jurisdictions and compares to a national rate of 95.1%.



Legislative Council Inquiry

In late 2014, the Legislative Council Government Administration Committee 'B' determined to inquire into and report on the operations of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission with particular reference to:

- The administration of the *Electoral Act 2004*;
- The resourcing available to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission;
- Any deficiencies with the *Electoral Act 2004*;
- Any other matters incidental thereto.

The Committee's Final Report was released on 26 April 2016. The report made 17 recommendations, most of which were specifically for the Government to consider or investigate.

A copy of the Committee's findings and recommendations is included in Appendix D. The full report can be accessed from the Parliament of Tasmania website. The Tasmanian Electoral Commission is currently reviewing the Committee's report and carefully considering the recommendations.

Chigwell Barn polling place



Significant Events of 2015-16

**2015-16 SAW NUMEROUS CHANGES OCCUR ALONG
WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION EVENT.**

Electoral Commissioner Julian Type Retires

**AFTER OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
TASMANIAN AND INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRACY**



Julian's resignation as Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner brings to an end a long and outstanding contribution to electoral administration in Tasmania and beyond. Julian's introduction to elections was working as a polling clerk at Stowport in 1981.

Whilst working in the Division of Braddon for the Australian Electoral Commission, Julian conducted many Federal, House of Assembly, Legislative Council and local government elections. Julian's professional career has also seen him provide expertise to the 1995 and 2008 Tasmanian Legislative Council electoral boundaries redistribution Committees and to a number of international hotspots for the United Nations including: East Timor, Egypt, Nepal and Afghanistan.

Julian was appointed as Tasmanian Deputy Electoral Commissioner in 2005, playing an important role in the development of Australia's first electronic certified list system, a computer system to enable vision-impaired electors to vote independently and an email voting system.

In 2011 Julian was appointed as the second Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner. During his term of office, Julian guided the TEC through major changes to local government elections, the 2014 House of Assembly elections and the Legislative Council Committee Inquiry into the TEC.

Julian will be remembered by his colleagues as someone of great honesty and compassion for his staff and the communities he has served, as someone of high intellect with an extraordinary understanding and use of the English language and as someone who calmly led a small young team through a great time of change showing great patience and generosity.

Appointment of New Electoral Commissioner



Andrew Hawkey was appointed as the third Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner on 10 February 2016.

Andrew has an extensive background in electoral administration, having first joined the Electoral Commission as a university graduate in the early 1990s. After a six year hiatus working in the Department of Education and with the Teachers Registration Board, Andrew returned in 2007 to the role of Manager of Education and Information Systems before being appointed as the Deputy Electoral Commissioner in 2011.

Andrew's achievements include:

- The creation of a Hare-Clark automation system used for elections in Tasmania, the ACT, Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria,
- Significant operational events such as the development of electronic certified lists at polling places, an electronic voting system for blind and vision impaired voters, development of the electronic tally board and the electronic counting of local government councillor ballot papers.
- Undertaking a review of Robson Rotation which led to amendments to the *Electoral Act 2004* that extended the number of rotations of candidates' names on ballot papers for Tasmanian Parliamentary elections.
- Overseeing the development of new Tasmanian electoral education web and school resources and one of the instigators of the Australian Electoral Education Network.

Andrew's passion for elections was apparent from early days. In 1989, as a year 12 student, Andrew attempted to write his own version of a proportional representation election counting system in Pascal for his College council elections. In 1993, Andrew completed his honours degree in Mathematics and Political Science with a thesis entitled 'Statistical Modelling of Electoral Systems and the Treatment of the Third Party'. Andrew also holds Graduate Certificates in Public Sector Management and Electoral Administration.

When away from the electoral environment, Andrew, his wife and three children are involved in local amateur theatre.

Legislative Council Elections

Apsley +
Elwick



The 2016 Legislative Council elections in the divisions of Apsley and Elwick formally commenced with the issue of the writs at 6pm on Monday 4 April 2016. The Tasmanian Electoral Commission appointed Garion Weller and Jocelyn Chapman as returning officers for these elections.

These were the first elections where non-party candidates could elect to use the word 'independent' on the ballot papers.

When nominations closed at 12 noon on Thursday 14 April, 7 candidates (3 men and 4 women) had been nominated.

Tania Rattray was re-elected as the Member for Apsley, and Josh Willie was elected as the Member for Elwick.

This was the first time in 12 years that the large division of Apsley had gone to ballot. In addition, both Apsley and Elwick elections were run out of the Hobart office.

As illustrated in the table below, the logistical challenges of running an election in the division of Apsley almost equate to the combined resourcing needs of running the three elections held in 2015.

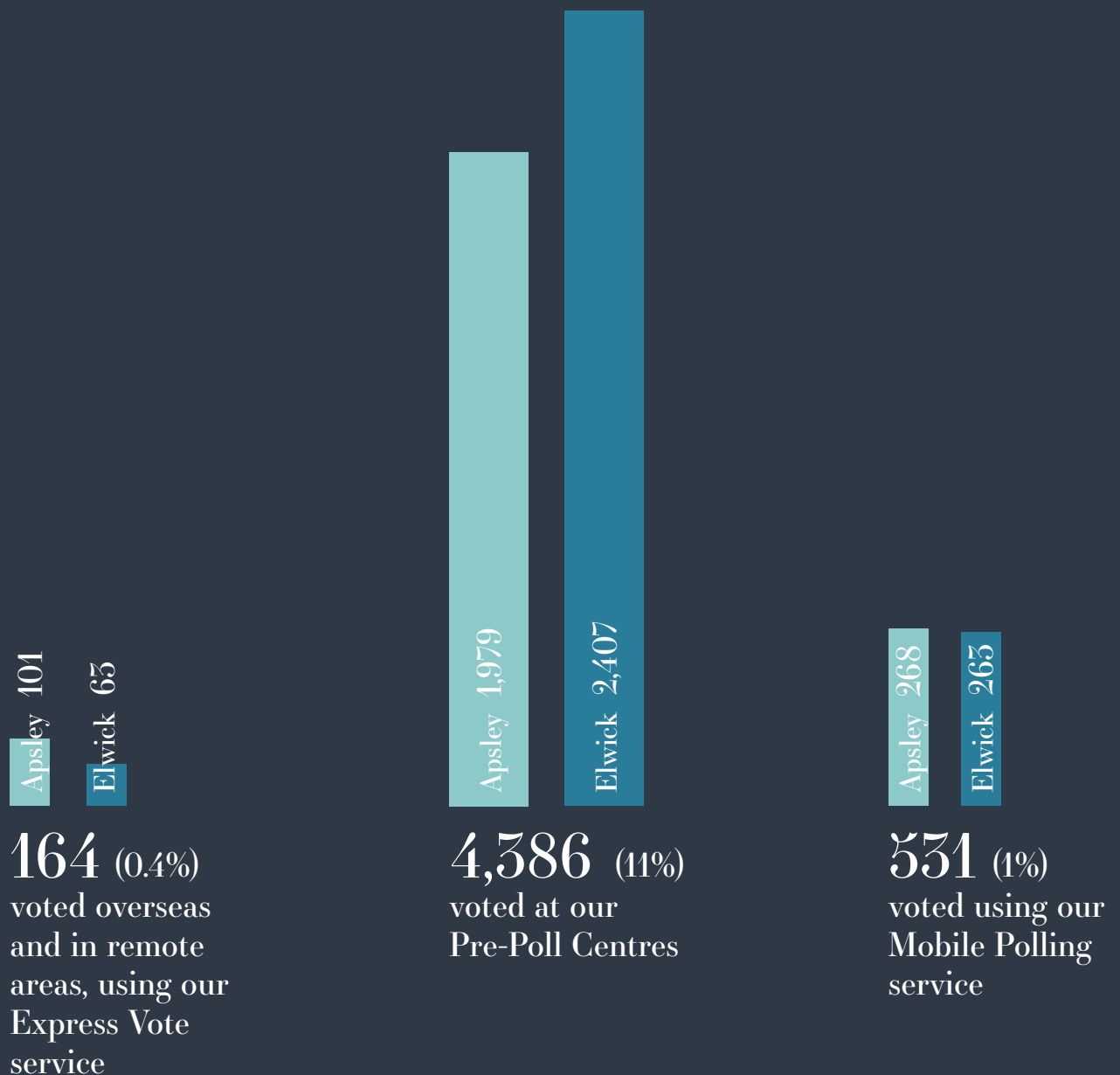
Legislative Council results are provided in Appendix B.

Logistics Comparison	2016		2015
	Elwick	Apsley	3 divisions (combined)
Land area (km ²)	103	19 204	9 815
No. polling places	13	42	56
No. Static Polling Place Staff	52	110	189
Training Sessions	2	5	7
Km claimed by polling place staff	232	7 277	8 006
Materials Collection Points	0	2	5
Couriers	2	7	9

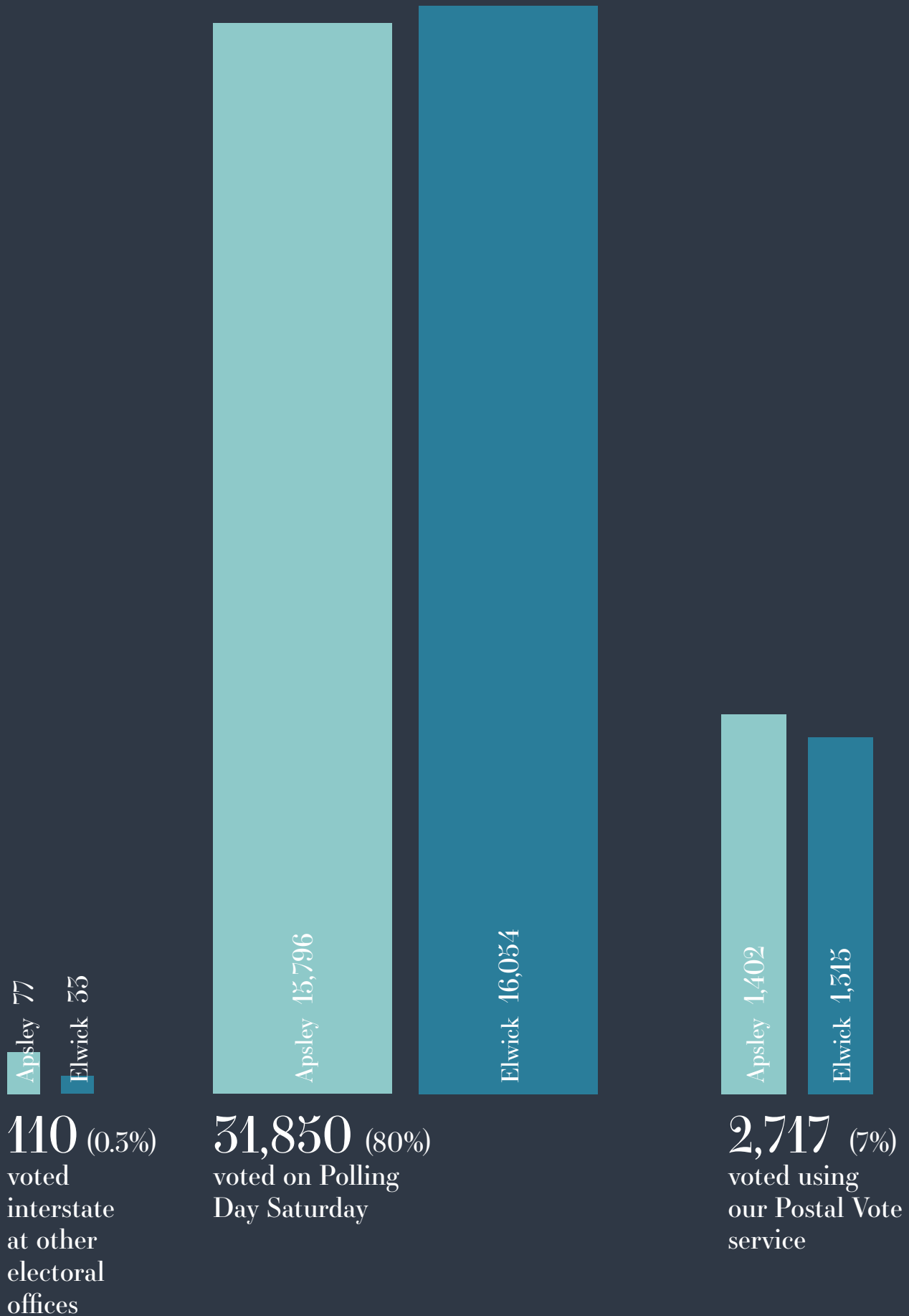
2016 Legislative Council voting

2 divisions

39,758 electors voted



services - a snapshot:



By-elections + Recounts



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

During 2015-16, the Tasmanian Electoral Commission conducted 12 recounts to fill vacancies that had arisen for the following councils:

- Circular Head Council
- Devonport City Council
- George Town Council
- Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council
- Hobart City Council
- Huon Valley Council (2 recounts)
- Kingborough Council (2 recounts)
- Launceston City Council
- Meander Valley Council
- Tasman Council

Recounts for Launceston City, Kingborough, Hobart City, George Town and Devonport councils were able to be conducted using "Computer Count", as the ballot papers for these councils were data entered at the 2014 Local Government elections.

In addition, following the death of Mayor Barry Jarvis, by-elections for mayor and councillor vacancies on the Dorset Council were completed. Also, a by-election for Central Highlands Council was required as there were no unsuccessful candidates at the 2014 election to contest a recount.

Full details of all local government elections including recounts and by-elections can be found on the TEC website.



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY CASUAL VACANCIES

Franklin - McKim

On 17 August 2015, the TEC conducted a recount to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly for the division of Franklin created by the resignation of Nick McKim.

Eight candidates nominated for the recount: Russell Mitchell of the Australian Labor Party; Richard Atkinson, Simon Burnett and Rosalie Woodruff of the Tasmanian Greens; Michael Greer Figg, John Phillip Peers, Luke Rutherford and Debra Joyce Thurley of the Palmer United Party. (Party affiliations were as at March 2014.)

Rosalie Woodruff was elected as a member of the House of Assembly for the division of Franklin until the next general election. Details of the recount are provided in Appendix C.



Franklin - Harriss

On 1 March 2016, the TEC conducted a recount to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly for the division of Franklin created by the resignation of Paul Harriss.

Eight candidates nominated for the recount: Russell Mitchell of the Australian Labor Party; Sue Bastone and Nic Street of the Liberal Party; Richard Atkinson of the Tasmanian Greens; Matt Holloway of the National Party; Michael Greer Figg, John Phillip Peers and Luke Rutherford of the Palmer United Party. (Party affiliations were as at March 2014.)

Nic Street was elected as a member of the House of Assembly for the division of Franklin until the next general election. Details of the recount are provided in Appendix C.



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:

Victorian Electoral Commission -

- By-election for Polwarth and South-West Coast State Districts

Electoral Commission of Queensland -

- Local Government elections

Assistance to the Electoral Commission of Queensland included a 1 month secondment of a TEC staff member to Queensland to assist with postal voting processes.



Other Elections + Ballots

During 2015-16, the TEC conducted the following non-parliamentary elections:

Statutory elections:

- Elizabeth Macquarie Irrigation Trust
- Mowbray Swamp Drainage Trust

Industrial ballots:

- Nyrstar Hobart
- Veolia Environmental Services

Non-Statutory elections:

- Cherry Growers Australia Inc.
- Cricket Tasmania
- The Liberal Party of Australia, Tasmanian Division
- Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)
- Shearwater Country Club Resort Ownership (Tas) Limited
- Showmen's Guild of Tasmania
- St Helens R.S.L. Ex-Servicemen's & Citizens' Club Inc.
- Tasmanian Council of Social Service Inc.
- Tasmanian Greens
- Tasmanian Pacing Club
- Tasmania University Union (TUU)

Fees are charged for these services.

Party Register

In August 2015 the Commission resolved to review all 6 parties registered at that time. Under section 58 of the *Electoral Act 2004* the Commission may review a party but not more than once in any year. It has been the practice to conduct such a review midway between House of Assembly elections – the previous review occurred in 2011-2012.

The review commenced with a *review of party registration* form being provided to the registered officer of each party. The review was completed by December 2015 and the register was updated for the following 5 parties – Australian Christians; Australian Labor Party; The Liberal Party of Australia, Tasmanian Division; Socialist Alliance; Tasmanian Greens.

As the review form was not returned by the Palmer United Party by the initial due date, a notice of the prospective cancellation of registration of the Palmer United Party was published in the *Gazette* and in the *Mercury, Examiner* and *Advocate* on 28 November 2015.

The review form was not returned before the expiration of 30 days after this notice (as required under legislation). Accordingly, on 10 February 2016, the Commission cancelled the registration of the party.

An application to register the Shooters and Fishers Party Tasmania was lodged with the Commission in February 2016, and was advertised on 20 February 2016 in the *Gazette* and in the *Mercury, Examiner* and *Advocate*.

No objections to the application were lodged within the 30 day period required under legislation, and the Commission registered the party on 23 March 2016.

As at 30 June 2016, the following parties were registered under the *Electoral Act 2004* (alphabetical order):

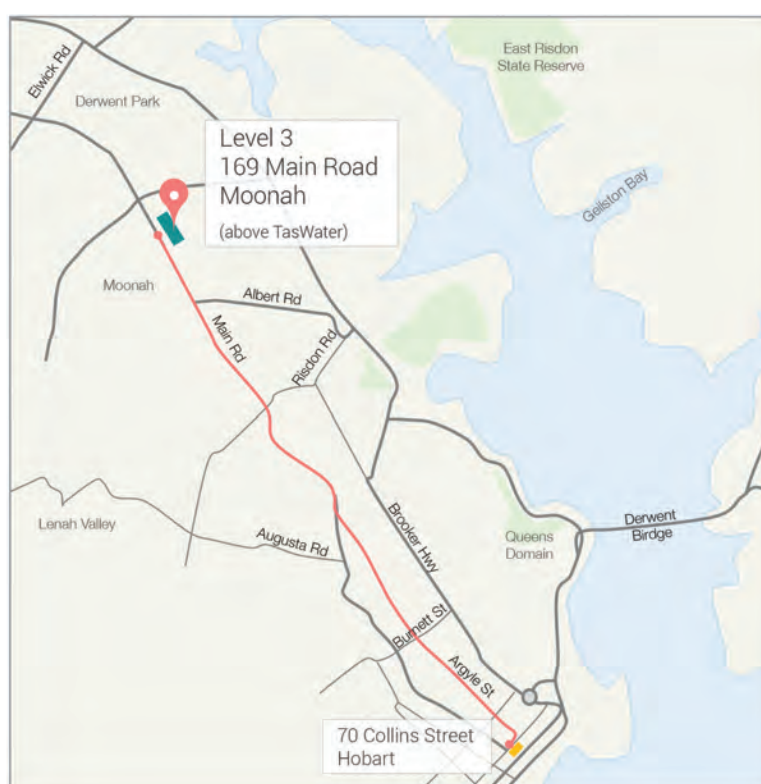
- Australian Christians
- Australian Labor Party
- The Liberal Party of Australia, Tasmanian Division
- Shooters and Fishers Party Tasmania
- Socialist Alliance
- Tasmanian Greens

New Location for the TEC

AFTER 25 YEARS IN THE CBD, THE TEC IS SET TO MOVE TO A NEW LOCATION IN MOONAH.

Early in July, the TEC will be moving to level 3, 169 Main Road, Moonah - in the TasWater building.

The new, larger office provides greater capacity to undertake Parliamentary elections and other electoral processes onsite. The space is a more secure environment, with better capacity for function specific rooms suited to different purposes.



A Snapshot of our History at 70 Collins Street



Tasmanian Electoral Office [TEO] moves to level 2, 70 Collins St, Hobart

1990

Chief Electoral Officer, Mr Colin Ball, retires

1991

Mr David Farrell appointed Chief Electoral Officer

State Election: 1 February

1992

Single enrolment form created for both the House of Assembly roll and Legislative Council roll

Local Government Act 1993 provides that the Chief Electoral Officer supervises local government elections and undertakes some specific tasks - like production of ballot papers and advertising

1993

New combined State roll for House of Assembly, Legislative Council and local government elections

First statewide (universal postal) local government elections conducted by TEO

1994

Modern election awareness campaigns for Legislative Council and local government elections

Board of Inquiry into the Size and Constitution of the Tasmanian Parliament (Morling Inquiry)

Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995, establishing a 'one-vote-one-value' principle, is passed by Parliament

1995

TEO introduces election brochures personally addressed to Legislative Council electors

Aboriginal Lands Act 1995 passed by Parliament

State Election, 24 February, followed just one week later by the Federal Election, 2 March

First Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT) election

1996

Legislative Council electoral boundary redistribution completed for the 19 divisions

'HC—Auto' - software that undertakes all computations for conducting a Hare-Clark election scrutiny - developed by the TEO.

Parliamentary Reform Act 1998 reduces the number of members in both Houses to 25 and 15 respectively.

Second Legislative Council electoral boundary redistribution undertaken - creates 15 new divisions

10 elector polls conducted in relation to the amalgamation of local councils

Elections for the 14 amalgamated local councils aborted due to Supreme Court challenge

1998

State election: 29 August (electing 5 members per division)

Parliament defers local government elections to 1999

First TEO website commences in August – includes live ABC telecast from the tally-room

Tasmania's first cross-Agency change of address form established in Service Tasmania shops. TEO is lead agency for the project

Deferred local government elections conducted (March)

- TEO takes full responsibility for 24 of 28 elections due
- First elections to include the 24 hour period between close of nominations and the announcement of candidates and ballot paper draw
- Inclusion of Robson rotation of councillor ballot paper names
- Amalgamation of transfer values for Hare-Clark counts

1999

Biennial local government elections conducted (October)

- TEO takes full responsibility for 27 of 29 elections
- First election for all mayors and deputy mayors by electors
- Candidate names on mayor and deputy mayor ballot papers not rotated
- Deputy mayor candidates required to have served 12 months as a councillor
- Mayor vacancy to be filled by a by-election

2000

Mr David Farrell resigns as Chief Electoral Officer, to take up senior position with NSW branch of AEC

2001

Mr Bruce Taylor appointed Chief Electoral Officer

State Election: 20 July

2002

Kentish Council dismissed in August

Biennial local government elections (October) – TEO responsible for 26 of 28 elections due

Biennial local government elections deferred due to major review local government act

2004

New *Electoral Act 2004* passed by Parliament

The *Electoral Act 2004* commenced on 16 February 2005, establishing the Tasmanian Electoral Commission as an independent body responsible for administration of electoral laws

2005



The Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) is established. Inaugural Commission appointed: Chair - Mr Richard Bingham, Commissioner - Mr Bruce Taylor, Member - Mrs Liz Gillam

Biennial local government elections conducted (October) - TEC takes full responsibility for 26 of 29 elections

State Election: 18 March

2006

TEC develops new computerised staff and polling place management system - 'TED'

Elector cards introduced - elector's name and roll number, mailed to each elector with the election brochure, and used on polling day

For the first time in Australia, Personal Digital Assistant (PDAs) used for marking voter names on electoral rolls in polling places

Tasmanian developed computer system ('VI-Vote') enables blind and vision impaired electors to vote in private

2007

Biennial local government elections conducted (October)

- Councillors could resign mid-term and be replaced at ordinary election
- Period for lodging advertising returns halved to 45 days
- Changes to rules on electoral advertising and bribery and undue influence

Third Legislative Council boundary redistribution - only 3.5% of electors transferred

2008

The Tasmanian Parliamentary Hare-Clark proportional representation system turns 100

Mr Richard Bingham resigns as Chair to take up the position of South Australian Ombudsman

Mrs Liz Gillam appointed as new Commission Chair and Mrs Christine Fraser appointed as new Member

TEC advertises on the websites of Tasmania's three daily newspapers for the first time

2009

New election software developed - NomSys (for nominations) and PVMS (postal vote management)

'Vote Alert' developed - a free SMS service to remind electors when it is time to vote

Biennial local government elections conducted (October) – TEC takes full responsibility for all 29 council elections

State Election: 18 March

- Netbooks introduced as electronic certified lists, containing roll for all divisions
- Absent voting replaced with "out of division" voting

Extension of Robson rotation for Parliamentary election ballot papers doubles number of different orders of candidate names

2010

'Express vote' introduced for overseas or remote voters to receive ballot material electronically and return via fax, email or post

Simple database ('HA-Tally') developed to provide election night figures to the tally room & website

New interactive online tools developed - 'My Representatives' and 'Polling Places Near You'

Inaugural Electoral Commissioner, Mr Bruce Taylor, retires

Mr Andrew Hawkey speaks at an international electoral conference in Brussels on the use of electronic systems to provide election services

New Electoral Commissioner,
Mr Julian Type, appointed

'Civics, Citizenship & Tasmania' -
education gateway developed and
launched

'ElectionsTas' iPhone app
developed and launched

2011

Free hands-on local government
education kits developed and
distributed to Tasmanian schools

Biennial local government elections conducted (October) – TEC takes full
responsibility for all 29 councils

TEC hosted an IT forum of senior operational staff from interstate electoral
commissions

2012

Enactment of the *Local Government Amendment (Elections) Act 2013*

- Councillors elected "all-in-all-out" every four years
- Mayor's & deputy mayor's terms extended to four years
- Dual representation as a Councillor and a Member of Parliament no longer permitted
- Express voting introduced to local government elections

2013

Review of polling place procedures - balancing election materials to polling
place, rather than issuing point level; an overhaul of OIC Returns and packaging
labels; and the simplification of manuals

State election: 15 March

Two election animations produced - 'Make Your Vote Count' and 'Hare-Clark Explained'

New training package for polling place managers (OICs, 2ICs and PPOs) developed

Electronic tally board introduced - elections results to be projected as a 12m wide electronic tally board in the Tally Room. The data feed from returning officers refreshed every 2 minutes with figures automatically updated on-screen

2014

9 councils reduce their number of councillors

All-in-all-out biennial local government elections - October

Animation produced for local government elections - 'Ballot of Power'

Introduction of online submission of all local government candidate statements and photos

'ComputerCount' developed - data entry and computerised Hare-Clark counting system, used for the 10 most complex councillor elections

2015

Electoral Act amended - allowing non-party candidates to choose to have the word 'independent' appear on Legislative Council ballot paper

Individual QR codes added to the Elector Cards that are personally mailed to each elector

Electoral Commissioner Mr Julian Type, retires

Mr Andrew Hawkey is appointed as Electoral Commissioner

2016

Three regional pre-poll centres trialled in the 2 days prior to Legislative Council polling day

TEC relocating to level 3, 169 Main Road, Moonah

St Anne's Church Hall polling place



Legislative Council Elections - Innovations 2015-16



REGIONAL PRE-POLL VOTING CENTRES

This year, in addition to the pre-poll centres in Launceston, Hobart and Glenorchy, the Tasmanian Electoral Commission trialled new regional centres within the division of Apsley - at Scottsdale, St Helens and Triabunna - for the final two days of early voting.

As the chart below shows, during this short period, the three regional pre-poll centres issued 1,425 votes - almost one third of the number of pre-poll votes issued.

Interestingly, the number of votes issued at these regional locations during pre-poll and on polling day clearly exceeded what was estimated, based on previous elections, suggesting that the pre-poll centres increased the turnout in these areas.

In light of this success the TEC anticipates establishing regional pre-poll centres for future Legislative Council elections.

Pre-poll location + votes issued	Pre-polling period
Hobart 567	3 WEEKS
Launceston 552	3 WEEKS
Glenorchy 2,042	1 WEEK
Triabunna, Scottsdale & St Helens 1,425	2 DAYS



TEC CALL CENTRE

In preparation for 2017 and 2018, a new model for call centre operations was trialled. A call centre supervisor was responsible for overseeing a team of 6 casual staff who were rostered across the election period. These staff were mainly recruited from applications received via the TEC website.

A new comprehensive eLearning training package was developed in-house, which enabled flexible delivery of training to new staff. In addition, the decision was taken to trial a small, simple intranet.

Across the election period, the call centre received around 2,600 calls. The majority of calls were enquiries about early voting and enrolment, plus a significant number of queries about the 2016 Federal election.

Rechecking Votes Issued



Report on Performance 2015-16

Electoral Enrolment

TABLE 1: ELECTORAL ENROLMENT 2012 – 2016

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Tasmanian enrolment (excluding provisional enrolments)	358 649	360 889	365 598	366 991	373 911
Voting eligible population (VEP)	380 577	383 232	383 003	385 809	388 456
Enrolment rate (% of VEP)	94.24%	94.17%	95.46%	95.12%	96.26%

TABLE 2: HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS STATISTICS 2002 – 2014

	2002	2006	2010	2014
Close of roll enrolment	332 473	341 481	357 315	366 442
Ballot papers cast	311 637	324 008	335 353	342 595
Turnout	93.73%	94.88%	93.85%	93.49%
Number of candidates	112	95	89	126
Total number of counts*	2 500	198	194	330
Formal ballot papers	296 470	309 622	320 438	326 163
Informality rate	4.87%	4.44%	4.45%	4.80%
Apparent intentional	6 164	5 723	6 378	8 787
Apparent unintentional	9 003	8 375	8 324	7 435

*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.

TABLE 3: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS STATISTICS BY DIVISION 2015 – 2016

	2015			2016	
	Derwent	Mersey	Windermere	Apsley	Elwick
Close of roll enrolment	25 816	23 857	23 374	23 334	25 580
Ballot papers cast	20 698	20 245	18 375	19 623	20 135
Turnout	80.18%	84.86%	78.61%	84.10%	78.71%
Number of candidates	2	2	4	4	3
Formal ballot papers	19 415	19 508	17 403	18 835	19 116
Informality rate	6.20%	3.64%	5.29%	4.02%	5.06%

TABLE 4: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS PARTICIPATION AND INFORMALITY RATES 2012 – 2016

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Close of roll enrolment	47 168	71 576	50 323	73 047	48 914
Ballot papers cast	37 085	60 793	41 897	59 318	39 758
Turnout	78.62%	84.93%	83.26%	81.21%	81.28%
Informality rate	4.40%	4.17%	3.91%	5.04%	4.54%
Apparent intentional	1 105	1 815	1 203	2 180	1 280
Apparent unintentional	525	723	437	812	527

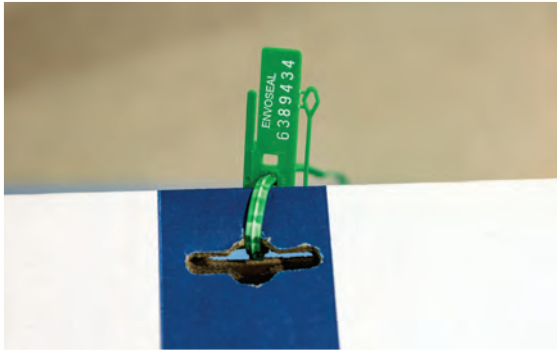
TABLE 5: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS STATISTICS 2005 – 2014

	2005	2007	2009	2011	2014
Close of roll enrolment*	350 026	357 091	362 890	366 906	375 355
Declarations returned	204 846	205 074	201 550	199 153	204 875
Turnout	58.52%	57.43%	55.54%	54.28%	54.58%
Total ballot papers**	563 532	538 411	526 117	510 563	591 180
Number of candidates**	487	444	449	421	716***
Number of counts**	708	602	553	489	1365***
Formal ballot papers**	553 809	528 649	516 524	500 410	574 335
Informality rate	1.73%	1.81%	1.82%	1.99%	2.85%
Apparent intentional	4 702	4 769	4 994	5 471	7 478
Apparent unintentional	5 021	4 943	4 599	4 682	9 367

* Comprises those electors on the House of Assembly roll for an address within the municipal area as well as other owners, occupiers and company nominees who have enrolled on general managers' rolls.

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

*** Increase in number of candidates and number of counts due to the move to "all-in, all-out" elections in 2014.



Rechecking the First Preference Count



Financial Performance 2015-16

This section contains breakdowns of election costs and historical comparisons.

Expenditure and revenue statements can be found in the 2015-16 Department of Justice Annual Report.

TABLE 6: COST OF HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

	1998-99	2002-03	2005-06	2009-10	2013-14
Total cost (\$'000)	1 565	1 752	1 897	2 271	2 743
Number of electors on the roll	322 754	332 473	341 481	357 315	366 442
Cost per elector on the roll	\$5.06	\$5.27	\$5.56	\$6.36	\$7.49

TABLE 7: COST OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Total cost (\$'000)	421	544	465	752	818
Number of electors on the roll	47 168	71 576	50 323	73 047	48 914
Cost per elector on the roll	\$8.93	\$7.60	\$9.25	\$10.29	\$16.73

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 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 aimed to increase elector awareness in Hobart which consistently has the lowest participation rate of all Legislative Council divisions.

In 2015-16 the cost per elector was significantly affected by:

- The need to allocate 25% of permanent staff salaries against Legislative Council elections
- The Commission's determination of remuneration under section 27(1) of the Act that increased election casual rates to create parity with the Tasmanian public sector.
- The increased complexity and cost of conducting a ballot for the division of Apsley compared to the division of Elwick.

The inclusion of permanent salaries provides a more accurate cost of conducting elections. A comparison of the main logistics of Legislative Council elections has been included on page 16.

TABLE 8: COST OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

	2005-06	2007-08	2009-10	2010-11	2014-15
Total cost (\$'000)	1 147	1 211	1 248	1 337	2 098
Number of electors on the roll	350 026	357 091	362 890	366 906	375 355
Cost per elector on the roll	\$3.28	\$3.39	\$3.44	\$3.65	\$5.59*

*Increase in cost reflects the move to "all-in all-out" elections in 2014.

TABLE 9: COST OF FEDERAL ELECTIONS

	2001-02	2004-05	2007-08	2010-11	2013-14
Cost per elector on the roll	\$5.09	\$5.79	\$8.36	\$7.68	\$9.48

These figures were obtained from the AEC's *2013 Electoral Pocket Book*. Federal election costs do not include a component for the decentralised structure of permanent divisional returning offices.

TABLE 10: COST OF MANAGING AND MAINTAINING THE ELECTORAL ROLL

This time series has been revised to include costs charged to Tasmania's 29 local government councils.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Expenditure on roll (\$'000)	371	418	417	433	413
Number of electors on the roll at June 30	358 649	360 889	365 598	366 991	373 911
Cost per elector on the roll	\$1.03	\$1.16	\$1.14	\$1.18	\$1.10

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*.



Appendices

Appendix A

APPOINTMENTS

Appointments for the 2016 Legislative Council elections.

Electoral Act 2004

Section no.	Subject	Date approved
93(1)&(2) & 92(4)	Polling places	15/12/15
24(1)	Returning officers	05/02/16
92(3) & (4)	Additional Apsley mobile polling team	05/02/16
92(3) & (4)	Appointment of additional mobile polling places and termination of a mobile polling place (Apsley)	23/03/16

APPROVALS

Electoral Act 2004

Section no.	Subject	Date approved
77(2)	Legislative Council nomination form ('non-party' candidates)	15/12/15
126	Postal vote application form	15/12/15
126(g) & 128(1)	Approved person for receiving applications for postal votes for 2016 Legislative Council elections	07/04/16

DETERMINATIONS

Electoral Act 2004

Section no.	Subject	Date approved
27(1)	Remuneration & allowances payable to returning officers & election officials	15/12/15

Appendix B

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

2016 ELECTION SUMMARY

Issue of the writs	6pm	Monday 4 A
Close of nominations	12 noon	Thursday 14
Polling day	8am - 6pm	Saturday 7 I
Return of the writs		Wednesday



Division	Retiring Member	Elected candidate
Apsley	Tania Rattray	Tania Rattray
Elwick	Adriana Taylor	Josh Willie

PERIODIC CYCLE

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

Year	Division	Current Member
2017	Launceston	Rosemary Armitage
	Murchison	Ruth Jane Forrest
	Rumney	Tony Mulder
2018	Hobart	Rob Valentine
	Western Tiers	Greg Hall
2019	Montgomery	Leonie Hiscutt
	Nelson	Jim Wilkinson
	Pembroke	Vanessa Goodwin
2020	Huon	Robert Armstrong
	Rosevears	Kerry Finch
2021	Derwent	Craig Farrell
	Mersey	Mike Gaffney
	Windermere	Ivan Dean
2022	Apsley	Tania Rattray
	Elwick	Josh Willie

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

Legislative Council Elections

Results - Apsley

Election held	7 May 2016	Electors enrolled	23 334
Retiring Member	The Honourable Tania Verene Rattray	Electors who voted	19 623 (84.10%)
Returning Officer	Garion Weller	Informal votes	788 (4.02%)
Elected member to serve for a six year term until May 2022			

FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES AND INFORMAL BALLOT PAPERS - BY POLLING PLACE

APSELEY	CLARK	HALL	HOUGHTON	RATTRAY	Total formal votes	Informal	Total ballot papers counted
	Darren Scott	Brett	Sophie	Tania			
Polling place	Australian Labor Party	Independent	Tasmanian Greens	Independent			
Agfest	113	127	27	236	503	24	527
Avoca	41	12	6	90	149	8	157
Bagdad	383	141	51	247	822	45	867
Bicheno	128	88	68	256	540	27	567
Blessington Upper	16	20	12	40	88	2	90
Branxholm	15	24	9	126	174	5	179
Bridport	61	107	35	683	886	16	902
Broadmarsh	54	54	17	67	192	6	198
Buckland	31	29	5	38	103	3	106
Campania	131	132	45	120	428	27	455
Campbell Town	246	137	34	196	613	47	660
Colebrook	66	40	16	46	168	14	182
Coles Bay	26	19	22	45	112	5	117
Derby	9	11	17	63	100	1	101
Epping	40	37	8	70	155	12	167
Evandale	219	204	112	420	955	48	1 003
Fingal	65	35	18	111	229	15	244
Gladstone	10	12	8	117	147	4	151
Karoola	83	53	32	124	292	19	311
Kempton	106	66	17	82	271	14	285
Lady Barron	17	15	5	77	114	8	122
Lebrina	28	18	22	108	176	4	180
Levendale	35	35	0	52	122	4	126
Lilydale	122	96	101	350	669	41	710
Mathinna	24	7	7	42	80	5	85
Nunamara	46	38	36	90	210	23	233
Oatlands	149	160	29	148	486	11	497
Orford	82	110	43	125	360	8	368

Apsley first preference votes continued

Polling place	CLARK Darren Scott	HALL Brett	HOUGHTON Sophie	RATTRAY Tania	Total formal votes	Informal	Total ballot papers counted
Parattah	41	57	5	28	131	12	143
Pyengana	9	4	8	57	78	2	80
Ringarooma	26	23	10	208	267	5	272
Ross	74	66	17	68	225	16	241
Scamander	100	38	61	200	399	22	421
Scottsdale	104	189	55	1 018	1 366	34	1 400
St Helens	272	182	164	508	1 126	57	1 183
St Marys	151	52	77	214	494	23	517
Swansea	125	164	52	296	637	26	663
Targa	7	8	4	23	42	4	46
Triabunna	221	72	27	135	455	21	476
Tunnack	29	67	7	28	131	1	132
Whitemark	45	36	42	182	305	6	311
Winnaleah	13	18	8	152	191	1	192
Mobile	45	31	19	163	258	10	268
Total Ordinary	3 608	2 834	1 358	7 449	15 249	686	15 935
Postal	342	262	134	809	1 547	33	1 580
Pre-poll	375	294	157	1 094	1 920	59	1 979
Provisional	15	7	1	14	37	2	39
Out of division	27	18	11	26	82	8	90
TOTALS	4 367	3 415	1 661	9 392	18 835	788	19 623
% Formal vote	23.19%	18.13%	8.82%	49.86%		4.02% informal	

DISTRIBUTION OF PREFERENCES

APSLEY		CLARK Darren Scott	HALL Brett	HOUGHTON Sophie	RATTRAY Tania	Formal votes	Absolute majority	Remarks
		Australian Labor Party	Independent	Tasmanian Greens	Independent			
Count 1	Total votes	4 367	3 415	1 661	9 392	18 835	9 418	First preferences
Count 2	Votes transferred	596	447	-1 661	618			Houghton excluded
TOTALS		4 963	3 862	0	10 010	18 835	9 418	
		26.35%	20.50%	0.00%	53.15%			

RATTRAY elected

Legislative Council Elections

Results - Elwick

Election held	7 May 2016	Electors enrolled	25 580
Retiring Member	The Honourable Adriana Johanna Taylor	Electors who voted	20 135 (78.71%)
Returning Officer	Jocelyn Chapman	Informal votes	1 019 (5.06%)
Elected member to serve for a six year term until May 2022			

FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES AND INFORMAL BALLOT PAPERS - BY POLLING PLACE

ELWICK	ANN	TAYLOR	WILLIE	Total formal votes	Informal	Total ballot papers counted
	Penelope	Adriana	Josh			
Polling place	Tasmanian Greens	Independent	Australian Labor Party			
Agfest	9	50	55	114	9	123
Chigwell	107	413	566	1 086	88	1 174
Claremont	84	380	372	836	65	901
Collinsvale	63	143	136	342	9	351
Glenorchy	348	1 290	1 524	3 162	192	3 354
Glenorchy Central	125	366	425	916	52	968
Goodwood	62	140	268	470	26	496
Lutana	122	284	457	863	45	908
Merton	233	839	863	1 935	106	2 041
Moonah	237	623	669	1 529	84	1 613
Moonah East	186	360	521	1 067	62	1 129
Moonah North	238	552	688	1 478	115	1 593
Rosetta	66	323	233	622	16	638
Windermere	53	241	325	619	30	649
Mobile	27	141	72	240	23	263
Total Ordinary	1 960	6 145	7 174	15 279	922	16 201
Postal	103	639	653	1 395	16	1 411
Pre-poll	248	1 048	1 038	2 334	73	2 407
Provisional	7	20	19	46	2	48
Out of division	14	16	32	62	6	68
TOTALS	2 332	7 868	8 916	19 116	1 019	20 135
% Formal vote	12.20%	41.16%	46.64%		5.06% informal	

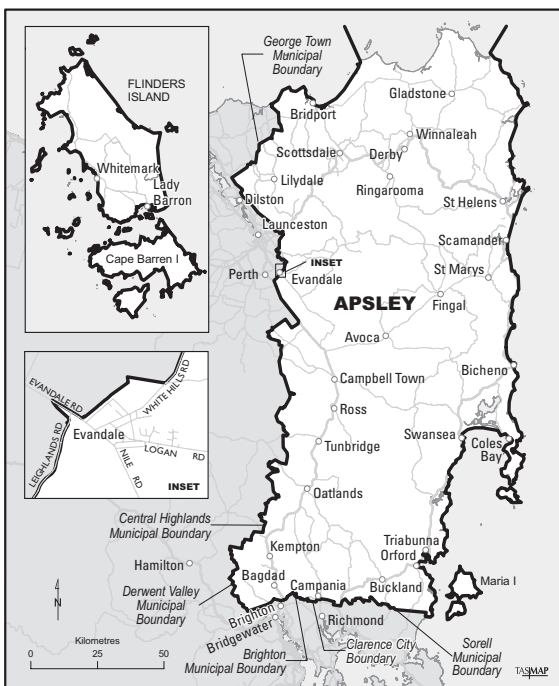
DISTRIBUTION OF PREFERENCES

ELWICK		ANN Penelope Tasmanian Greens	TAYLOR Adriana Independent	WILLIE Josh Australian Labor Party	Formal votes	Absolute majority	Remarks
Count 1	Total votes	2 332	7 868	8 916	19 116	9 559	First preferences
Count 2	Votes transferred	-2 332	1 083	1 249			Ann excluded
TOTALS		0	8 951	10 165	19 116	9 559	
		0.00%	46.82%	53.18%			

WILLIE elected

Legislative Council Elections Divisional Maps

Divisional maps are also available on our website.



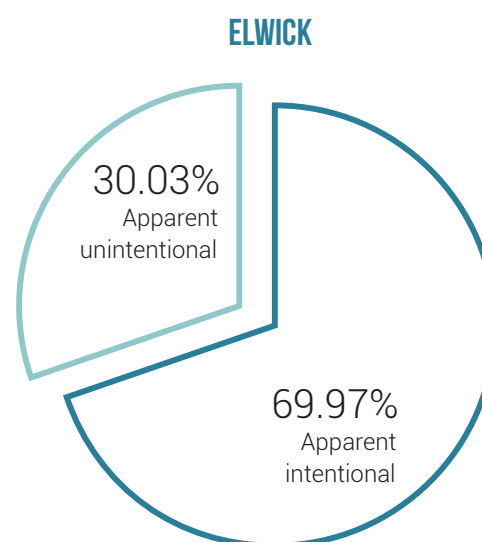
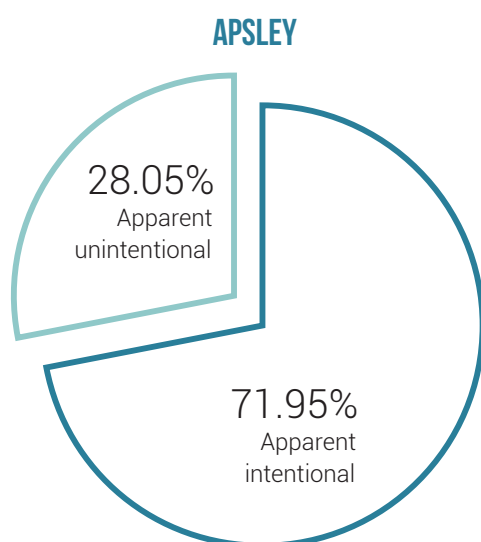
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Legislative Council Elections Informal Ballot Paper Survey

Apparent intentional informal voting	Apsley	Elwick	Total
Blank	224	271	495
Deliberate informal or scribble/ messages only	343	442	785
Total	567	713	1 280
Apparent unintentional informal voting			
Contains writing identifying elector	0	0	0
Contains only ticks or crosses	128	235	363
No first preference	12	13	25
Repetitions or omissions	58	52	110
Two or more first preferences	23	6	29
Total	221	306	527
Total	788	1 019	1807



Appendix C

House of Assembly Recounts

MCKIM RECOUNT

On 17 August 2015 a recount was conducted to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly created by the resignation of Nick McKim on 4 August 2015.

Franklin												
	Australian Labor Party	Tasmanian Greens			Palmer United Party							
	Russell MITCHELL	Richard ATKINSON	Simon BURNETT	Rosalie WOODRUFF	Michael Greer FIGG	John Phillip PEERS	Luke RUTHERFORD	Debra Joyce THURLEY	Exhausted votes	Lost by fraction	Total votes	Absolute majority
Votes	235	1 767	2 401	6 251	51	67	41	80	274	17	11 184	5 456
Percentage	2.2%	16.2%	22.0%	57.3%	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%	0.7%				

Rosalie Woodruff was elected as a Member of the House of Assembly for the division of Franklin until the next general election.

(Party affiliations as at March 2014.)

Appendix D cont'd

HARRISS RECOUNT

On 1 March 2016 a recount was conducted to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly created by the resignation of Andrew Paul Harriss on 18 February 2016.

Franklin												
	Australian Labor Party	Liberal Party	Tasmanian greens	National Party	Palmer United Party							
	Russell MITCHELL	Sue BASTONE	Nic STREET	Richard ATKINSON	Matt HOLLOWAY	Michael Greer FIGG	John Phillip PEERS	Luke RUTHERFORD	Exhausted votes	Lost by fraction	Total votes	Absolute majority
Votes	115	3 618	6 410	59	139	199	200	261	166	17	11 184	5 510
Percentage	1.0%	32.8%	58.2%	0.5%	1.3%	1.8%	1.8%	2.4%				

Nic Street was elected as a Member of the House of Assembly for the division of Franklin until the next general election.

(Party affiliations as at March 2014.)

Appendix D

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE 'B' FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INQUIRY INTO THE TASMANIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

6. FINDINGS

Election materials and campaigns

1. The Inquiry did not receive sufficient evidence to support any changes to Section 196 of the *Electoral Act 2004* to allow the publication of names, photographs or likenesses of candidates without their consent.
2. There are inconsistencies in Local Government rules for electoral signage across the State for all elections.

Announcement of election results

3. The Inquiry acknowledges the frustration of some candidates with the announcement of local government election results during the trial of computer counting in 2014.

Voter awareness and education

4. The TEC does a considerable amount of public education and awareness campaigns with the resources available but it is inevitable that a proportion of voters will not be fully engaged in the election process.

Instructions on ballot papers, House of Assembly

5. Redrafting ballot papers to merge the instructions and place them at the top of the ballot paper would not require an amendment to the *Electoral Act 2004* but could be at the discretion of the TEC to redraft ballot papers.

Informal voting, Local Government

6. A number of votes where the voter intention is clear may be discarded as unintentional informal votes due to not fully conforming with voting instructions.

Robocalls

7. The Australian Government is the legislative authority with responsibility for telephony and any action to stop or limit robocalls would require amendment of the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900*.⁵⁵

Social media

8. Social media is increasingly used in election commentary and campaigns. It is subject to the existing publication rules but is extremely difficult to monitor and enforce compliance.

Lost or damaged ballot papers

9. Damaged ballot papers in the 2014 Denison Division could have placed election results in doubt for the entire Division and may have created the need for a further election.

Limits on campaign spending

10. There was no compelling evidence that the current system of limits on Legislative Council and Local Government election spending should be changed.

⁵⁵ *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900, Part V, Sect 51 (v)*

Appendix D cont'd

Disclosure of campaign donations

11. Currently, campaign donations are not required to be disclosed in Tasmania.
12. There may be instances where in-kind donations occur and are not reported.
13. There is a lack of clarity as to whether in-kind donations should be included as expenditure.
14. There are currently no bans on candidate campaign donations from specific sources.
15. Mandatory disclosure of candidate campaign donations would provide transparency as to the source of political donations.

Campaigning on polling day

16. There was insufficient evidence to support changing the status quo in respect of campaigning on polling day.

Identification of independent candidates

17. Independent candidates were disadvantaged as they were not able to identify themselves as 'independent' on their ballot papers.
18. At the time of drafting this report, it had been determined that candidates can now identify themselves as 'independent' on their ballot papers.

Electronic voting

19. Electronic voting would have considerable resource implications for the TEC.

Compulsory voting

20. The Inquiry heard a number of different views both in favour of, and against, compulsory voting in all spheres of government but did not receive any compelling evidence that consideration should be given to changing the status quo.

Size of the Tasmanian Parliament

21. While the size of the Tasmanian House of Assembly falls outside the Inquiry Terms of Reference, a significant number of submissions and witnesses took the opportunity to express concern at the impact of the 1998 downsizing of the House of Assembly and called for numbers to be increased.

Hare-Clark system

22. Despite a number of comments from witnesses and in submissions, the Hare-Clark system falls outside the Inquiry Terms of Reference.

Public funding for parties and candidates

23. Tasmania is one of two States in Australia that does not provide state-based election funding of political parties and candidates.

General Managers' Rolls

24. General Managers' Rolls can provide opportunities for non-citizens with a genuine stakeholder interest in their local government electorate to participate in Local Government elections.
25. General Managers' Rolls may provide opportunities for voters with a limited genuine stakeholder interest in their local government electorate to participate in Local Government elections.

Election of Mayors and Deputy Mayors

26. The current option of a single vote in elections for Mayors and Deputy Mayors can result in a high number of exhausted votes.
27. Currently, candidates can only stand for Mayor or Deputy Mayor. This could be perceived to be unfair on some candidates and may result in election outcomes that do not accurately reflect voter intent.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Election materials and campaigns

1. The TEC should be more proactive with regard to enforcing issues of non-compliance with Section 196 of the *Electoral Act 2004* between issue of writs and close of polls.
2. The Government implement a statewide approach to achieve consistency for electoral signage across all spheres of government.

Instructions on ballot papers, House of Assembly

3. That ballot papers be redrafted by merging the instructions and placing them at the top of the ballot paper to avoid confusion and make it clear that voters have options in casting a formal vote.

Informal voting, Local Government

4. The Government investigate adopting a provision to ensure that a ballot paper that is not fully compliant with voting instructions, but where the voter intention is clear, be counted as a formal vote.

Robocalls

5. The relevant Minister raise the use of robocalls with the Australian Government in an Australia-wide inter-ministerial forum in an effort to ensure consistency between relevant Acts.

Social media

6. The Government further consider the matter of social media to ensure compliance with relevant Acts.

TEC staffing

7. The Government work with the TEC to ensure that the TEC is adequately staffed and resourced to perform its functions.

Lost or damaged ballot papers

8. The *Electoral Act 2004* be amended to make provision for the TEC to be able to issue a writ certifying the progressive election of members required to be elected for a Division.

Limits on campaign spending

9. Current limits on election spending remain in place for the Legislative Council and Local Government.

Campaign donations

10. The Government legislate for the compulsory disclosure of campaign donations from all sources.
11. Greater clarity be provided as to the status of in-kind donations and whether they should be disclosed.

Electronic voting

12. The Government consider increasing resources to the TEC to allow it to investigate electronic voting.

Compulsory voting

13. The current system of voting remain unchanged.

Public funding for parties and candidates

14. The Government investigate the issue of state-based political funding of political parties and candidates.

General Manager's Rolls

15. A review of the criteria, processes and oversight of General Manager's Rolls be conducted.

Election of Mayors and Deputy Mayors

16. Voters should be encouraged to vote preferentially in elections for Mayors and Deputy Mayors.
17. The Government pursue with the TEC, in consultation with Local Government, whether candidates should be given the opportunity to stand for both Mayor and Deputy Mayor.



Tasmanian Electoral Commission
Level 3, 169 Main Road
Moonah Tasmania 7009

03 6208 8700
1800 801 709
Fax 03 6208 8791

ballot.box@tec.tas.gov.au
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