



George Town Council

2009 election report

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Local Government Elections in Tasmania

Every two years elections are held in all 29 municipal areas for the positions of mayor and deputy mayor and half the councillor positions. Where required, by-elections are held concurrently for vacancies that have occurred since the last elections. In 2009, 27 elections were held in September/October, with the Break O'Day and Glamorgan-Spring Bay elections being postponed while an investigation into a proposed voluntary merger between them took place. These elections were then held in November/December.

The Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) supervises the conduct of elections in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. Elections by postal ballot have been held in 1994, 1996, 1999 (deferred from 1998), 2000, 2002, 2005 (deferred from 2004), 2007 and 2009 with the next elections due in October 2011.

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

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

2009 Election timetable

Notice of election published	Saturday 12 September
Electoral rolls closed	6 pm Thursday 17 September
Nomination period	14 September–12 noon on 28 September
Nominations closed	12 noon Monday 28 September
Nominations announced & draw for ballot paper positions	12 noon Tuesday 29 September
Ballot material delivered to electors	13–16 October
Polling period	13–27 October
Close of poll	10 am Tuesday 27 October

Casual vacancies

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

Elector polls

A council may hold an elector poll on any issue it determines. It may also be required to hold an elector poll following petitions from electors in accordance with Part 6 of the Act. A council is not bound by the result of an elector poll.

Electoral system

Voting in Tasmanian local government elections is not compulsory.

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

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

Report on the 2009 George Town Council Election

Elections were held for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2 year terms, and 4 Councillors for 4 year terms.

5138 George Town electors were enrolled for the 2009 elections, comprising 4689 (91.26%) from the State House of Assembly roll and 449 (8.74%) from the General Manager's roll.

62.46% of George Town electors returned their ballot papers in comparison with 55.54% statewide.

Candidates at the 2009 elections

Mayor		Councillors	
★ BURT, Doug*	George Town	★ ARCHER, Bridget	George Town
		★ BROOMHALL, Roger*	George Town
		CLAXTON, Robin	Hillwood
		★ CORY, Tim*	George Town
Deputy Mayor		ERNST, Andreas	Hillwood
★ BARWICK, Heather Jean*	Mount Direction	GEALE, Stephen Norman*	George Town
BROOMHALL, Roger	George Town	GIBBONS, Dean Robert	George Town
		GLISSON, John	Low Head
		★ O'SIGN, George Royden	Low Head
		WELSH, Jim	Windermere

★ denotes elected candidate

* denotes seeking re-election

George Town Councillors following the 2009 elections

Mayor	9 Councillors	
<i>term ends 2011</i>	<i>term ends 2013</i>	<i>term ends 2011</i>
BURT, Doug	BROOMHALL, Roger	BURT, Doug
Deputy Mayor	O'SIGN, George Royden	BARWICK, Heather Jean
<i>term ends 2011</i>	ARCHER, Bridget	WIDDOWSON, John
BARWICK, Heather Jean	CORY, Tim	NEILSEN, Graeme
		PARISH, Tim

George Town Council - 2009 Councillor election

Polling closed at 10am 27 October 2009

Electors enrolled: 5138

Declarations rejected: 47

Ballot paper adjustment: 1

Formal Votes: 3096

Number to be elected: 4

Declarations returned: 3209

Declarations admitted: 3162

Total ballot papers: 3161

Informal ballot papers: 65

Returning Officer: Mr Davin Foulkes

Response: 62.46%

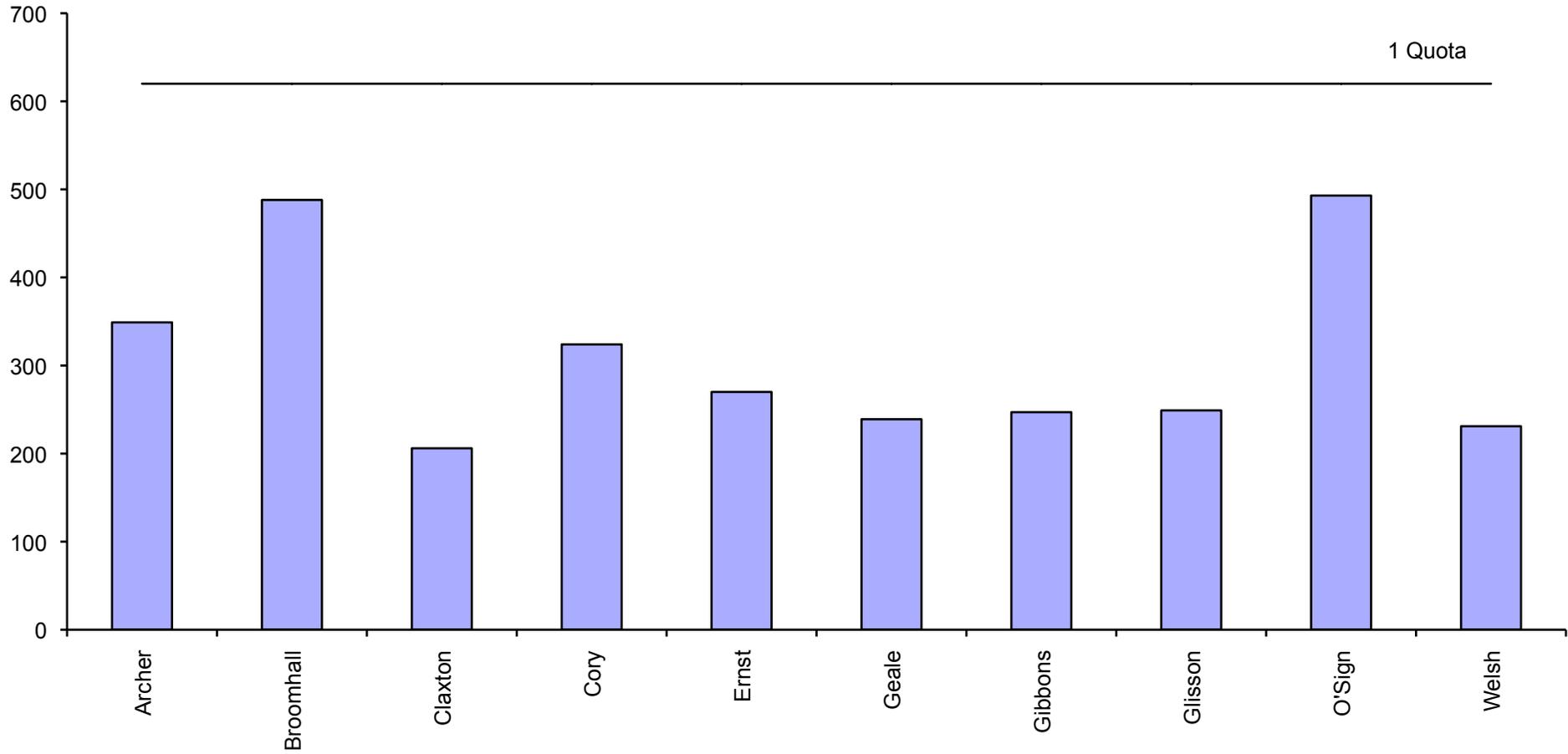
Rejection rate: 1.46%

Informality rate: 2.06%

Quota = 620

Count	Archer	Broomhall	Claxton	Cory	Ernst	Geale	Gibbons	Glisson	O'Sign	Welsh	Votes Exhausted	Loss (Gain) by Fraction	Total Votes	Remarks
1	349.00	488.00	206.00	324.00	270.00	239.00	247.00	249.00	493.00	231.00			3 096.00	First preferences
2	37.00	49.00	- 206.00	28.00	36.00	5.00	10.00	11.00	28.00	2.00				Claxton excluded
	386.00	537.00	0.00	352.00	306.00	244.00	257.00	260.00	521.00	233.00			3 096.00	
3	50.00	44.00		31.00	48.00	15.00	9.00	14.00	22.00	- 233.00				Welsh excluded
	436.00	581.00		383.00	354.00	259.00	266.00	274.00	543.00	0.00			3 096.00	
4	33.00	60.00		34.00	11.00	- 259.00	32.00	33.00	56.00					Geale excluded
	469.00	641.00		417.00	365.00	0.00	298.00	307.00	599.00				3 096.00	Broomhall elected 1
5	2.80	- 21.00		5.95	0.70		3.50	2.80	5.25					Broomhall's surplus distributed
	471.80	620.00		422.95	365.70		301.50	309.80	604.25				3 096.00	
6	60.00			59.00	27.00		- 298.00	63.00	86.00		3.00			Gibbons part excluded
	531.80	620.00		481.95	392.70		3.50	372.80	690.25		3.00		3 096.00	O'Sign elected 2
7	0.70			1.05	0.35		- 3.50	1.05			0.35			Gibbons excluded
	532.50	620.00		483.00	393.05		0.00	373.85	690.25		3.35		3 096.00	
8	22.05			20.42	13.06			8.98	- 70.25		5.71	0.03		O'Sign's surplus distributed
	554.55	620.00		503.42	406.11			382.83	620.00		9.06	0.03	3 096.00	
9	120.00			110.00	113.00			- 370.00			27.00	0.00		Glisson part excluded
	674.55	620.00		613.42	519.11			12.83	620.00		36.06	0.03	3 096.00	Archer elected 3
10 to 11				6.65	4.66			- 12.83			1.51	0.01		Glisson excluded
	674.55	620.00		620.07	523.77			0.00	620.00		37.57	0.04	3 096.00	Cory elected 4

2009 George Town Councillor election - first preferences



George Town Council

Polling closed at 10am 27 October 2009

Returning Officer: Mr Davin Foulkes

Mayor — Doug Burt (elected unopposed)

Deputy Mayor

Declarations admitted: 3162

Formal Votes: 3053

Ballot paper adjustment: 1

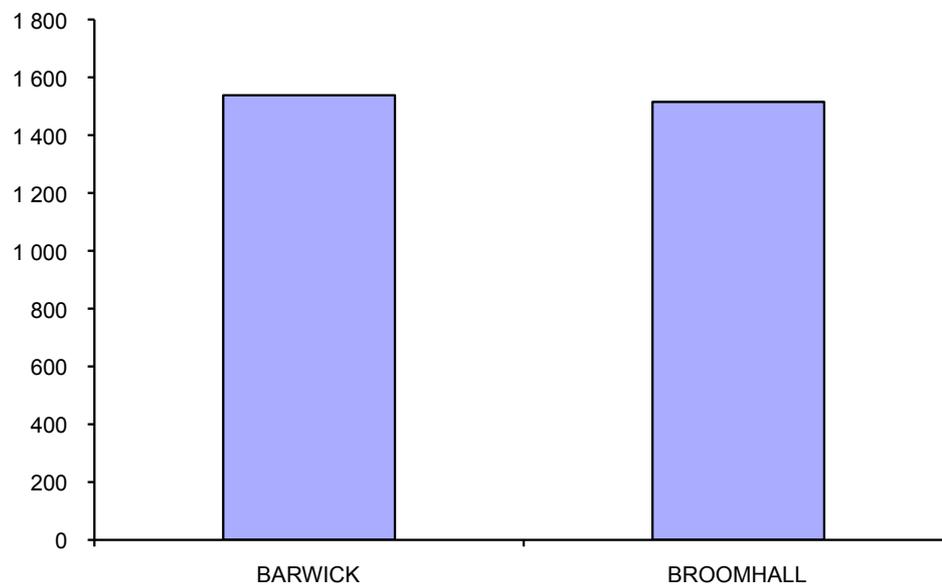
Informal ballot papers: 108

Total ballot papers: 3161

Informality rate: 3.42%

		Candidates		Total Votes	Absolute Majority	Remarks
		BARWICK	BROOMHALL			
Count 1	First Preferences	1 538	1 515	3 053	1 527	BARWICK elected

2009 George Town Deputy Mayor election - first preferences



George Town Council

Elector Poll

In early 2008, the Tasmanian Electoral Commission conducted a poll of George Town Council electors to gauge their opinion on issues associated with the proposed pulp mill.

The poll was conducted following lodgement of a petition from 383 electors. Electors were asked to answer "yes" or "no" to four questions formulated by the petitioners.

Ballot material was delivered to George Town electors from Tuesday 22 to Friday 25 January 2008. The poll closed at 10am on Tuesday 5 February 2008.

Full details are provided below.

Polling closed at 10am 5 February 2008

Electors enrolled: 5204

Declarations Rejected: 16

Returning Officer: Rod Huskins

Declarations Returned: 3329

Declarations Admitted: 3313

Response rate: 63.97%

Rejection rate: 0.48%

Total Ballot Papers: 3309

Question 1

Do you agree with:

a) the process used to assess the proposed pulp mill in the Tamar Valley?

Yes	1 762	53.43%
No	1 536	46.57%
Informal Ballot Papers	<u>11</u>	
Total	3 309	

b) the type of pulp manufacture proposed?

Yes	1 827	55.50%
No	1 465	44.50%
Informal Ballot Papers	<u>17</u>	
Total	3 309	

c) the location of a pulp mill of the proposed type in the Tamar Valley?

Yes	1 794	54.41%
No	1 503	45.59%
Informal Ballot Papers	<u>12</u>	
Total	3 309	

Question 2

Do you believe that the pulp mill will have a net adverse impact on the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Tamar Valley and its residents?

Yes	1 566	47.70%
No	1 717	52.30%
Informal Ballot Papers	<u>26</u>	
Total	3 309	