

**Report on the Conduct of
the Charlestown State
By-election
25 October 2014**

The Hon. Mike Baird MP
Premier
Level 20
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

I am pleased to submit to you, for presentation to Parliament, my report on the conduct of the State By-election held on 25 October 2014 for the Legislative Assembly District of Charlestown.

Yours sincerely



Linda Franklin
Acting Electoral Commissioner
8 March 2016

The New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC)

Address: Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney NSW
2000 Australia
Postal: GPO Box 832, Sydney NSW 2001 Australia
Telephone: +61 2 9290 5999
Fax: +61 2 9290 5991
Website: www.elections.nsw.gov.au
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm

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Foreword

This report provides information on the conduct of the by-election held for the Charlestown Electoral District on 25 October 2014 following the resignation of Mr Andrew Cornwell MP on 12 August 2014.

The Writ for the Charlestown By-election was issued on Friday, 3 October 2014. This gave the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) three weeks to prepare the by-election.

The conduct of the election proceeded smoothly. The participation and informality rates for the Charlestown By-election were 85.31% and 7.41% respectively. The participation rate was higher than other recent State by-elections. As in other recent by-elections, iVote was provided as an early voting option and was used by 1.8% of electors who chose to vote before the election day.

The NSWEC provided the first preference count by 10.30pm on election night and declared the poll on Thursday, 30 October 2014, five days after the election. This was within the range for declaration of the poll for earlier State by-elections.

Delivering efficient, accurate and trusted elections according to electoral legislation relies heavily upon the capability of the NSWEC's staff. I thank my staff and the NSWEC's suppliers and contractors for their contribution and commitment to the successful conduct of the Charlestown By-election.



Linda Franklin
Acting Electoral Commissioner

Overview

By-election Outcome

The candidate elected at the Charlestown By-election on 25 October 2014 was Ms Jodie Harrison (Australian Labor Party) with 19,429 (45.6%) of first preference votes. The election was declared on 30 October, 2014.

Candidates Standing for Election

Candidate Name	Party Affiliation
Arms, Luke	Independent
Sky, Marc	Independent
Oakley, Jane	The Greens
Wrightson, Suellen	
Harrison, Jodie	Australian Labor Party
Cubis, Luke	Independent
Martin, Arjay	
Tucker, Brian	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
Hope, Veronica	Independent

Cost data

Cost of By-election	\$416,788
Cost per Elector	\$8.35

By-election Summary

Enrolment	
Total Electors	49,928
Electors enrolled or re-enrolled via SmartRoll	2,569
Polling Booths	
Pre-poll voting centres	2
Polling Places	24
Election Officials	132
Voter Participation	
Formal votes	39,434
Informal votes	3,158
Total votes	42,592
Voter participation	85.31%
Formality rate	92.5%
Non-voting penalty notices issued	5,385
Penalty notices issued as % of Roll	10.8%
Voting Options used by Electors	
Ordinary	33,170
iVote	763
Postal	1,615
Pre-poll/Declared Institution	6,332
Enrol on the day and vote	237
Provisional/Silent	74
Candidates	
Total candidates	9
Female candidates	4
Male candidates	5

By-election Key Dates

Date	Matter
3 October 2014	Issue of Writ
3 October 2014	Close of Authorised Roll (6pm)
3 October 2014	Candidate nominations open
23 September 2014	Candidate Information Seminar
8 October 2014	iVote Registration opens (10am)
22 October 2014	Close of iVote Registration (6pm)
8 October 2014	Close of Nominations for Registered Political parties lodging forms with NSWEC Head Office (noon)
9 October 2014	Close of Nominations for candidates lodging forms with Returning Officer (12.00 noon).
9 October 2014	Registration of Electoral Material (how-to-vote) opened (noon)
13 October 2014	Pre-poll and iVote voting opened (8am)
17 October 2014	Close of applications to register Electoral Material (how-to-vote) (5.00pm)
20 October 2014	Close of receipt Overseas Postal Vote applications (5.00pm)
22 October 2014	Close of receipt of within Australia Postal Vote applications (5.00pm)
24 October 2014	iVote and Pre-poll voting Close
25 October 2014	Election Day (8.00am-6.00pm)
29 October 2014	Close of receipt of Postal Vote declarations (6.00pm)
29 October 2014	Declaration of Poll
7 November 2014	Last day for Return of Writ

Features of the Charlestown By-election



1. Internet and Telephone Voting (iVote)

The amendments to the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* in December 2010 to provide iVote at State General elections enabled internet and telephone voting (iVote) to be used in Parliamentary by-elections. The Charlestown By-election was the sixth by-election where iVote was offered.

The iVote service was provided at the State General Election in March 2011, the 2011 Clarence By-election, the 2012 Heffron and Sydney By-elections, the May 2013 Northern Tablelands By-election and the October 2013 Miranda By-election.

Both online and telephone voting were provided, although online voting has been found to be the preferred form.

The criteria applied to electors seeking to use iVote were the same as in other elections, that is, electors were eligible to use iVote if they:

- had a visual impairment;
- had another disability or disabilities;
- were 20 kilometres or more from a polling place; or
- were outside NSW on election day.

iVote is used as a means of early voting, therefore, it was not available on election day.

Registration was open between 8 October and 22 October 2014. Voting using iVote began 13 October and closed 24 October 2014.

The iVote process was fully encrypted and safeguarded. At close of poll, iVotes were unlocked by officials who printed and counted these votes.

The number of votes taken was 763 (1.8% total votes). This usage rate is 0.7% more than the 2011 State General Election.



2. Automatic Enrolment and Re-enrolment

The NSWEC has led the way nationally in increasing elector enrolment through automatic enrolment, change of enrolment and re-enrolment using data held by other NSW public sector agencies such as licensing authorities and the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The use of automatic enrolment and re-enrolment processes was tested at the Penrith By-election in June 2010. SmartRoll was implemented for the March 2011 NSW State Election and is now a part of standard operations. At the time of the Charlestown By-election 49,928 electors were on the roll for this by-election.

Data from the NSW Roads and Maritime Services was supplemented with data from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and additional citizenship information. This work affected 2,569 newly enrolled or correctly re-enrolled electors for Charlestown, or 5.2% of total electors in the Charlestown district.

Charlestown Electoral District

Charlestown District Profile



The State Electoral District of Charlestown includes the geographical area from the Main Northern railway in the north to Tingira Drive in the south; and from Macquarie Drive in the west to the New South Wales coast in the east.

Area

57 square kilometres

Postcodes

2280, 2282, 2285, 2289, 2290, 2306

Local Government Areas covered

Lake Macquarie and Newcastle.

Localities

Adamstown, Adamstown Heights, Belmont North, Bennetts Green, Cardiff, Cardiff South, Charlestown, Dudley, Eleebana, Floraville, Garden Suburb, Gateshead, Highfields, Hillsborough, Jewells, Kahibah, Kotara, Kotara South, Mount Hutton, Redhead, Tingira Heights, Warners Bay, Whitebridge, Windale.

This list is indicative only.

Demographic Profile

The 2011 census revealed that Charlestown had 64,122 residents (excluding overseas visitors) of which 51.4% were female (32,977) and 48.6% were male (31,145). 2.7% (1,748) were Indigenous people.

The median age was 40 years, compared with 37 years in Australia overall. Close to one fifth of the population was aged 65 or over (17.9%) and 25.8% were aged under 19.

85.9% of people were born in Australia. The most frequent countries of birth after Australia were England (2.4%), New Zealand (0.8%), Scotland (0.6%), Germany (0.5%) and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (0.4%).

English was the only language spoken at home by the vast majority of people (91.7%), though two or more languages were spoken at home in 7.2% of households.

The most common languages spoken at home, other than English, were:

Macedonian	0.7%
Italian	0.5%
Greek	0.3%
German	0.3%
Cantonese	0.3%

Historical Electoral Representation

Previous recent State representation for the Charlestown District has been:

Tenure	Name	Party
2011 – 12 August 2014	Andrew Stuart CORNWELL	Liberal Party
2003-2011	Matthew Allan MORRIS	Australian Labor Party
1972 – 2003	(Richard) Jack Richard FACE	Australian Labor Party
1971 – 1972	John Julius Thomas STEWART	Australian Labor Party

Services to Electors

Maximising Participation in the Charlestown By-election

The NSWEC undertook an advertising and communication campaign to raise awareness of the Charlestown By-election and provide necessary information to electors and candidates. The major aspects of this strategy involved advertisements placed in State and local newspapers, some internet and regional press advertising of iVote and provision of information via the NSWEC website and the Returning Officer.

In addition to advertising, the NSWEC provided an elector brochure and email/ SMS notifications sent to registered electors.

Elector Brochure

An elector brochure was sent to enrolled electors in the Charlestown District on 14 October 2014. The brochure provided information on the date of the election, the opening hours, locations and the accessibility of polling places, the mandatory nature of participation in the by-election, voting options if unable to vote on election day, and how to get assistance for electors not confident in written English or unable to read the brochure for other reasons.

Almost 50,000 brochures were provided at a cost of \$41,680 including postage. A copy of the brochure is provided at Appendix A.

Advertising

The *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* prescribes that certain advertising must occur. The advertising strategy for the Charlestown By-election was comprised of the following phases:

- Enrol to vote/Candidate information seminar
- Issue of Writ/Nominations Seminar

- Notice of election 1/registration of electoral registration
- Notice of election 2
- Remember to vote
- iVote

The schedule of advertising is provided in Appendix B and copies of the advertisements at Appendix C.

NSWEC Website

The NSWEC's website provided information that all stakeholders, not just electors, needed in order to participate in the by-election. It provided information on the election timetable, employment opportunities, enrolment, polling places, candidate requirements, names of candidates and poll results.

Use of the NSWEC's website is typically greatest on election night when users seek information on results. On election night, the Charlestown By-election results page had 966 unique views.

Voter Reminder Service

This reminder service provided electors the opportunity to request to be kept informed of electoral activities and information by SMS messaging or email. This service commenced with the Penrith By-election in 2010 and has been maintained since then. This service was also in place for the NSW State Election in 2011.

In the Charlestown By-election, 110 electors were notified of the event, with 97 by email and 87 by SMS (some electors receiving both). These electors had subscribed to the notification service and provided preferred contact details.

Service Standards

The NSWEC seeks to meet the expectations of electors about its electoral services and to this end has developed a Service Charter to outline the NSWEC's election service standards. The 2011 NSW State Election Service Commitments Charter was maintained as the overall service standard for this by-election.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Electors

The Charlestown electoral district is not considered to be a high culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) district, so materials were not produced in languages other than English.

Electors with Disabilities and Access to Polling Places

The NSWEC sought to provide the most accessible and appropriately sited polling places possible for the Charlestown By-election. Detailed information was provided, allowing electors with mobility issues or other disabilities to locate the most suitable polling place. This access information was provided on the NSWEC's website, in the elector brochure and by the NSWEC's staff.

The NSWEC again used the Assisted Access rating system. This system rates the accessibility of each of the polling places in the Charlestown District, and allows people to make more informed choices about which polling place to use. Appendix D provides the list of all polling places and the access rating.

Arrangements for Voting before Election Day

Electors unable to vote on election day had the opportunity to vote early using iVote, postal or pre-poll voting. Early voting included voting in Declared Institutions.

A total of 8,710 electors voted early, representing nearly a fifth of total votes. This high volume is in line with a general trend of early voting across NSW and other jurisdictions.

Postal Voting

Electors unable to attend a polling place on election day were able to apply for a postal vote. Postal vote application forms were available from the Returning Officer and the NSWEC's website. All postal votes were scrutinised by the Returning Officer prior to the return date.

Electors registered as 'General Postal Voters' received vote material sent by post to their address.

No political parties applied to send out postal vote applications.

A total of 1,615 postal votes (3.8% total votes) were received.

Pre-poll Voting

Pre-poll voting occurred from Monday, 13 October 2014, until Friday, 24 October 2014, at two locations; the Charlestown Returning Officer's office and the Newcastle Returning Office's office in Cooks Hill.

Pre-polling was not provided overseas or at interstate Electoral Commissions as electors could vote using iVote.

The pre-poll locations were listed in the elector brochure and on the NSWEC website.

Pre-polling times

- Monday, 13 October to Friday, 17 October – 8am to 6pm excluding Thursday 16 October which was from 8am to 8pm
- Saturday 18th October 9am to 5pm
- Monday, 20 October to Friday 24 October – 8am to 6pm excluding Thursday 23 October which was from 8am to 8pm.

Pre-poll Returning Officer's Office

Shop 5, 158 Pacific Highway, Charlestown
Access: Fully accessible.

Polling Places

Securing appropriate premises for polling places and the Returning Officer's office can be difficult. The NSWEC does not own facilities within electoral districts. The pool of available rental premises is limited by the short-term nature of the lease and the NSWEC's space, accessibility and location criteria applied to meet requirements such as workplace health and safety.

There were 24 polling places for the Charlestown By-election.

Hospitals and Declared Institutions

The *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* allows hospitals or similar institutions to be appointed by the Electoral Commissioner as polling places for election day. Similarly the Electoral Commissioner has the power to appoint nursing homes, retirement villages and like facilities as Declared Institutions from which votes can be taken by election officials on the Monday to Friday in the week preceding the election.

In the conduct of the Charlestown By-election, two Declared Institutions were visited on Tuesday, 21 October 2014.

Services to Candidates and Registered Political Parties

Candidate Information Seminar

A Candidate Information Seminar was held on 23 September 2014 at the Newcastle Returning Officer's office and all intending candidates were invited. The four attendees were given information covering the election timetable, nomination, election advertising and 'how-to-vote' material, voting and formality, scrutineering, vote counting, registration and appointment of candidates and official agents, campaign accounts, political donations, campaign expenditure and disclosure obligations.

Nominations

Nomination forms were available from the NSWEC website and could be lodged after the issue of the Writ (Friday, 3 October 2014). The Writ set 8 October 2014 as the date for close of nominations for political parties lodging forms with the NSWEC's head office and 9 October 2014 for candidates lodging forms with the Returning Officer.

Registered Officers (or Deputy Registered Officers) of registered political parties could nominate candidates at the NSWEC's office in the city or at the Returning Officer's office in Charlestown. Independent candidates could only nominate at the Returning Officer's office.

There were nine nominated candidates. Following the close of nominations the Returning Officer conducted a draw to determine the order of candidates on the ballot paper.

'How-to-Vote' Material

Registration of 'How-to-Vote' material was handled centrally. Registration of this material opened on 9 October 2014.

Eight applications were received and eight were registered with none rejected. All were assessed and decided within 24 hours.

Close of applications to register 'How-to-Vote' materials was 5.00pm, Friday 17 October 2014.

Postal Vote Applications

Registered Political Parties planning to send Postal Vote Applications to electors were requested to submit these forms to the NSWEC prior to distribution.

Electoral Material

In the Charlestown By-election, there were no reported incidents of electoral material displayed or distributed on election day not complying with the legislative requirements.

Conducting the Charlestown By-election

Returning Officer Arrangements

Ms Catherine Starling was the Returning Officer for the Charlestown By-election. The Returning Officer's office was situated at 158 Pacific Highway, Charlestown

Returning Officer's duties include:

- set up and decommissioning of the (temporary) office;
- training of office staff and polling place managers;
- arranging voting at polling places and Declared Institutions;
- issuing and processing postal and pre-poll votes;
- dealing with enquiries from candidates and electors and other feedback;
- processing candidate nominations and how-to-vote material; and
- counting votes and declaring the results of the election.

A Returning Officer Support Officer was appointed in the NSWEC's head office to provide support on electoral matters and procedures. This officer was experienced in the Returning Officer role and had worked also in the head office of the NSWEC over many elections.

Election Costs

The expenditure on the Charlestown By-election was \$416,788. The cost per elector was \$8.35. (The expenditure figures are inclusive of iVote expenditure.)

Logistical and Other Support

Staffing

The majority of staff were employed to work on election day in polling places as Polling Place Managers or Election Officials. In addition casual staff were employed in the Returning Officer's office to pack materials for each polling place, operate pre-poll voting, visit Declared Institutions, count votes and pack materials after the election.

Recruitment of election staff began on 7 October 2014 using the NSWEC online registration system. 132 Election Officials and 28 Office Staff were employed. The Polling Place Managers received face to face training and their Deputies and Declaration Vote Issuing Officers all received online training. All Election Officials were issued a manual to study and use on election day.

The entire employment process is undertaken online including the provision of bank, tax and superannuation details.

Supplies

The ballot papers were printed by the NSWEC's preferred security printer. A copy of the ballot paper is at Appendix E.

Waste Management

The NSWEC is bound by the NSW Government's waste management policy. In providing electoral services the NSWEC seeks to use, wherever possible, paper and cardboard comprising recycled content and to ensure that the paper and cardboard materials are recycled.

All ballot papers are printed in the most efficient way to minimise cost and paper wastage.

In the Charlestown By-election, standard cardboard materials were used in polling places. These included voting screens, wheelchair screens, ballot boxes, caution signs and recycle bins.

After the election, the materials were taken to the nearest council recycling facility. Unused items were returned to the NSWEC warehouse for possible future use.

IT Support

For the Charlestown By-election the Election Management Application was used. An internet based application for the use of Returning Officers, office assistants and head office staff, it consists of a suite of software modules to assist with managing election

processes such as enquiries, election day staffing, candidate nominations, the distribution and return of declaration votes, results and non-voter administration.

In addition, IT equipment is provided to the Returning Officer's office and polling places.

Results

On election night, the NSWEC provides the result of counts conducted at each polling place for the first preference vote for each candidate, and the result of the notional count for the two candidates considered most likely to receive the greatest number of votes. The results are shown on election night from 6.30pm and progressively updated.

On the day after polling day, all the ballot papers from every polling place are recounted to ensure the election night count is accurate (the check count).

Declaration votes are added progressively with postal votes accepted up to Wednesday afternoon after election day. At this point, the final distribution of preferences is conducted.

Candidates' scrutineers are welcome to attend all counts.

More detailed information on the counts is available on the NSWEC's website at <http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au>

Declaration of the Poll

On Wednesday, 29 October 2014, the Returning Officer declared Ms Jodie Harrison elected.

This was an elapsed time of five days from polling day. The equivalent lapses for by-elections in previous years were:

2013	three days
2012	two to four days
2011	three days
2010	four days.

Table 1: Final Results Charlestown By-election held 25 October 2014

Candidates	Votes	
Harrison, Jodie	19,429	ELECTED
Oakley, Jane	5,613	
Arms, Luke	4,807	
Wrightson, Suellen	2,592	
Hope, Veronica	2,144	
Tucker, Brian	1,804	
Cubis, Luke	1,366	
Sky, Marc	1,068	
Martin, Arjay	611	
Total Formal Votes	39,434	
Total Informal Votes	3,158	
Total Votes	42,592	
Absolute Majority	No	

Enforcement of Compulsory Voting

Failure to Vote

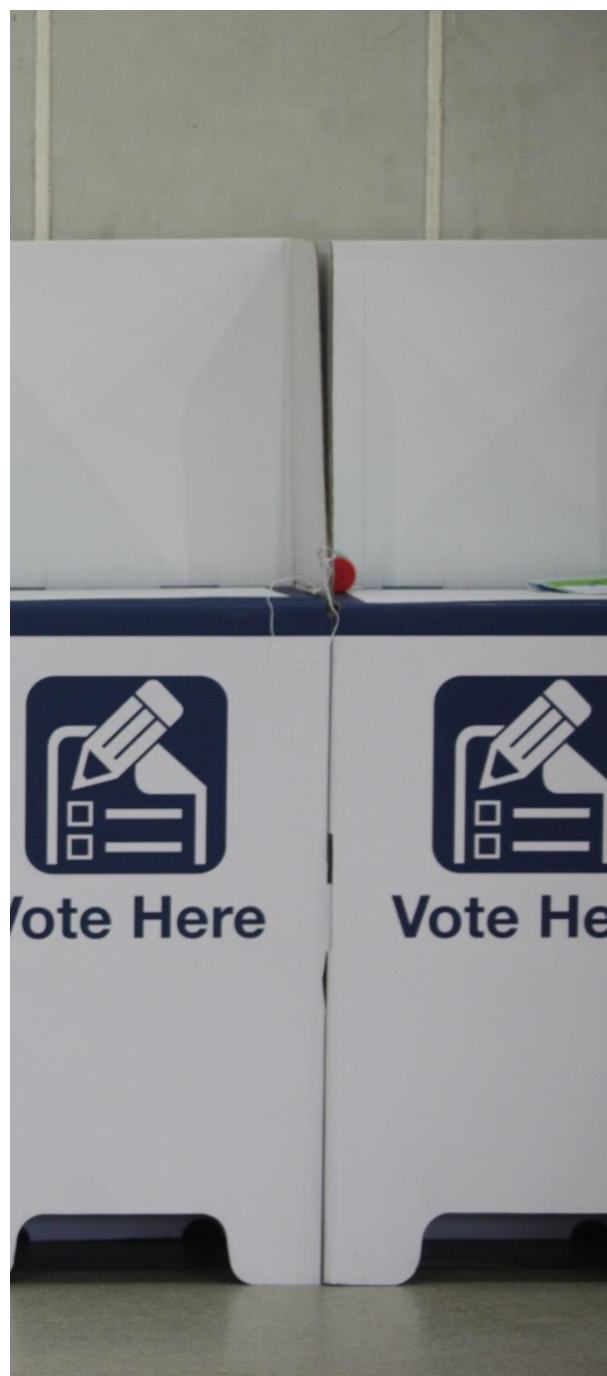
Under electoral legislation, the NSWEC is required to issue 'Failure to Vote' notices to those electors whose names were not marked off the electoral roll as having voted or recorded as providing a valid excuse. The penalty for not voting in a State by-election is \$55. The funds generated from penalty notices are not collected or retained by the NSWEC but directed to the consolidated fund held by NSW Treasury.

All electoral rolls marked at polling places or in the Returning Officer's office were scanned after election day to create a list of non-voters for Charlestown.

The number of electors who were issued with penalty notices was 5,385 (10.8% of electors on roll). As at Thursday, March 5 2015, 1,837 had been excused from voting and 571 had paid the fine.

Higher rates of non-voting tend to be a feature of by-elections as compared to State General elections.

To assist electors avoid this penalty in future elections, the penalty notice advises non-voters of the availability of the 'Voter Reminder Service'.



Comparison to 2011 State General Election and other by-elections

Participation and Informality Rates

In the 2011 NSW State Election there were ten candidates for the Charlestown District. The number of electors enrolled was 47,804, the voter turnout figure was 94.4% and the informality rate was 3.5%.

At the October 2014 by-election, there were nine candidates and the enrolment figure had increased to 49,928. The participation and informality rates were 85.31% and 7.4%. Traditionally, participation rates tend to be lower in by-elections than general elections and informality rates higher.

The range of participation rates for the five State by-elections held in 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 was 62.6% to 88.2%. The range of informality rates for these same by-elections was 1.8% to 5.2%.

Non-voters and Penalty Notices

The penalty notices (PNs) issued for the Charlestown By-election was 5,385 or 10.8% of those on the electoral roll. This is slightly lower than the previous two by-elections.

Table 3: Penalty Notices, Charlestown By-election October 2014 frequency and percentages

By-election	No. Roll	PNs Issued	No. PN as % Roll
Charlestown	49,928	5,385	10.8
Miranda	48,625	5,451	11.2
Northern Tablelands	51,802	6,308	12.2
Sydney	61,428	20,468	33.3
Heffron	55,712	16,176	29.0
Clarence	52,171	6,577	12.6
Penrith	46,304	4,295	9.3
Cabramatta	50,383	4,422	8.8
Port Macquarie	48,198	3,250	6.7
Ryde	48,002	4,726	9.9
Lakemba	51,288	6,700	13.1

Appendices





Appendix A: Charlestown By-election October 2014 Elector Brochure

Bring this brochure with you on election day. It will make voting easier.

Here's where to vote on election day*

Legislative Assembly By-election
Saturday, 25 October 2014

Election Day Polling Places

Locality	Venue and Address	Access
Adamstown	Adamstown Combined Pensioners Association – 153A Brunker Road	1,4
Adamstown	St Columba's Parish Hall Adamstown – Lockyer Street	1,4,5
Adamstown Heights	Kotara High School – 65 Lexington Parade	+
Cardiff	Cardiff Public School – Macquarie Road	4
Cardiff South	Cardiff South Public School – Lake Avenue	1
Charlestown	Charlestown East Public School – 90 James Street	
Charlestown	Charlestown Public School – 15 Frederick Street	1
Charlestown	Charlestown South Public School – 9 Patricia Avenue	1,3,4,5
Charlestown	Hillsborough Public School – 83 Waratah Avenue	1,2,3,5
Dudley	Dudley Pensioners Hall – 96 Ocean Street	4
Eleebana	Eleebana Public School – Ian Street	1,2,5
Roraville	Roraville Public School – 78 Roraville Road	
Garden Suburb	Garden Suburb Public School – Progress Place	
Gateshead	Wirpaang Public School – 2A Pacific Highway	1,3,4
Gateshead West	Lakeide School – 40 - 44 Coral Crescent	+
Kahibah	Kahibah Public School – Frith Street	+
Kotara	Kotara South Public School – Rae Crescent	1,4
Merewether	Hamilton South Public School – Kenrick Street	1,4,5
Mount Hutton	Mount Hutton Public School – 12 Dunkley Parade	
New Lambton	New Lambton South Public School – 45 St James Road	4
Warners Bay	Warners Bay High School – 1 Myles Avenue	1,3,4,5
Warners Bay	Warners Bay Public School – Jones Avenue	1,3,4
Whitebridge	Whitebridge High School – 1 Lonus Avenue	1,4,5
Windale	Windale Community Centre – 12 Lake Street	1,4

Legend	Assisted Access
+	Does not meet accessibility requirements
1	Path of travel from car park may be difficult
2	Access ramp does not meet standards
3	Building has lips and/or steps
4	No designated disabled parking spot
5	No disabled toilet
6	May have limited circulation space in voting area
7	Door width is between 760 – 800mm
	Full Wheelchair Access

*Information correct as at 8 October 2014.

Your guide to voting in
Charlestown

Your vote is your voice.
Be heard.

 electoral
commission NSW

This brochure contains important information about the election.

It's particularly important to remember:

- Polling places will be open from 8am to 6pm on Saturday, 25 October 2014;
- Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors in the electoral district of Charlestown; and
- The penalty for not voting at the by-election is \$55.

Do I need to vote?

You have received this brochure because you are enrolled in the Legislative Assembly District of Charlestown. Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors.

Who do I vote for?

You will vote to elect a candidate to represent the electorate of Charlestown in the NSW Legislative Assembly. The full list of candidates is available at www.elections.nsw.gov.au or by calling us.

Where can I vote?

On election day you can vote at the polling places listed in this brochure. Visit the NSWEC website for more details.

What if I can't get to a polling place on election day?

Vote via internet or telephone

People who are blind, vision impaired or who have another disability, or who will be outside NSW on election day, can apply to use the iVote system to cast their vote over the internet.

To apply visit iVote.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 2 iVote (1300 24 86 83) or from outside Australia call +612 9290 5287. Applications close 6:00pm EDST on Wednesday, 22 October 2014.

Vote early in person

You may be eligible to cast a pre-poll vote. Pre-poll voting is available at the following locations:

Newcastle Returning Office:
158 Darby Street, Cooks Hill NSW 2300

Charlestown Returning Office:
Shop 5, 158 Pacific Highway,
Charlestown NSW 2290

Pre-poll voting is available at the following times

Monday, 13 October - Friday, 17 October	8.00am – 6.00pm
Saturday, 18 October	9.00am – 5.00pm
Monday, 20 October - Wednesday, 22 October	8.00am – 6.00pm
Thursday, 23 October	8.00am – 8.00pm
Friday, 24 October	8.00am – 6.00pm

Vote by post

Postal voting is also available for eligible voters. Application forms are available from www.elections.nsw.gov.au or by contacting the returning officer.

Applications must be received by the returning officer by 6.00pm Wednesday, 22 October 2014 if sent within Australia, or 6.00pm Monday, 20 October 2014 if sent from overseas.

Electors who are general postal voters will automatically be sent their ballot papers without further application.

Can I get assistance in any other language?

For assistance in a language other than English please call 13 14 50.

العربية	Italiano	Bahasa Indonesia	Polski
العربية	日本語	Tiếng Việt	한국어
Tagalog	Русский	Türkçe	ইংগ্ৰী
中文	Português	Македонски	Hrvatski
हिंदी	Հայերեն	فارسی	Español
Ελληνικά	Српски	ދިވެހި	bi-Mali

For more information:
www.elections.nsw.gov.au or
call 1300 135 736.

For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77.



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Appendix B: Charlestown By-election October 2014 Schedule of Advertising

Message/Publication	Advertisement Date
Enrol/Candidate seminar/EOI	
Newcastle Herald	Tuesday, 16 September 2014
Newcastle Post	Wednesday, 17 September 2014
Newcastle Star	Wednesday, 17 September 2014
Issue of Writ/ Nominations	
Sydney Morning Herald	Friday, 3 October 2014
Newcastle Herald	Friday, 3 October 2014
Early voting options - Prepoll, Postal , iVote, Register electoral material	
Newcastle Herald	Wednesday, 8 October 2014
Newcastle Post	Wednesday, 8 October 2014
Newcastle Star	Wednesday, 8 October 2014
Early voting options - Prepoll, Postal , iVote	
Newcastle Herald	Tuesday, 14 October 2014
Newcastle Post	Wednesday, 15 October 2014
Newcastle Star	Wednesday, 15 October 2014
Remember to vote - Listing of polling places	
Newcastle Herald	Tuesday, 21 October 2014
Newcastle Post	Wednesday, 22 October 2014
Newcastle Star	Wednesday, 22 October 2014
iVote	
Newcastle Herald online	Tuesday, 21 October 2014
Newcastle Herald	Tuesday, 21 October 2014
Newcastle Post	Wednesday, 22 October 2014
Newcastle Star	Wednesday, 22 October 2014

Appendix C: Charlestown By-election October 2014 Copies of Advertisements

Enrol to Vote

Legislative Assembly By-elections

District of Charlestown

District of Newcastle

Saturday, 25 October 2014

Enrol to vote

To be eligible to vote at the upcoming Charlestown and Newcastle State By-elections, you must be correctly enrolled.

If you think your enrolment details may be out of date and you wish to update them, or if you have turned 18, become an Australian citizen recently or you wish to enrol for the first time visit: www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Candidate information seminar

A Candidate Information Seminar will take place at Newcastle Returning Officer's Office 158 Darby Street Cooks Hill NSW from 4pm to 6pm on Tuesday, 23 September 2014.

The seminar will cover a wide range of topics including the election timetable, nominations, election advertising and how-to-vote material, voting and formality, scrutineering, vote counting and election funding and disclosure obligations.

For further information visit the website or call us.

Work at the election

If you are interested in working at the election and you are on the electoral roll, please register your interest online at www.elections.nsw.gov.au

For information: www.elections.nsw.gov.au
or call 1300 135 736.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard. 

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service 13 14 50
For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77
Authorised by Colin Barry, Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Candidate

Legislative Assembly By-elections District of Charlestown District of Newcastle Saturday, 25 October 2014

On Friday, 3 October 2014, I received from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, The Honourable Shelley Hancock MP, a Writ for the election of one Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Charlestown and a Writ for the election of one Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Newcastle. The Writs set the following dates:

Close of Nominations: 12 noon, Thursday, 9 October 2014

Election Day: Saturday, 25 October 2014

Colin Barry, Electoral Commissioner

How to Nominate as a Candidate

To nominate you must lodge a nomination form, child-related conduct declaration and a \$250 nomination deposit by 12 noon, Thursday, 9 October 2014 with the relevant Returning Officer.

Registered Political Parties lodging nominations with NSW Electoral Commission head office must do so by 12 noon Wednesday, 8 October 2014.

Nomination forms and the Handbook for Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers – State By-elections are available from the Returning Officer or from the NSW Electoral Commission website. For nomination enquiries call Greg Copson (02) 9290 5904.

Returning Officer details:

Charlestown Returning Officer: Catherine Starling

Returning Officer address: Shop 5, 158 Pacific Highway, Charlestown NSW 2290

Postal address: PO Box 561, Charlestown NSW 2290

Newcastle Returning Officer: Judith McGowan

Returning Officer address: 158 Darby Street Cooks Hill NSW 2300

Postal address: PO Box 2118, Dangar NSW 2309

For further information: www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.



For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service 13 14 50.
For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77

Authorised by Colin Barry, Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

EL_00-0081-SEP14

Remember to Vote

Legislative Assembly By-elections
District of Charlestown
District of Newcastle
Saturday, 25 October 2014

REMEMBER TO VOTE THIS SATURDAY

**Saturday, 25 October is election day.
Polling places are open from 8am to 6pm.**

All electors on the roll for Charlestown and Newcastle have been sent an elector brochure to their nominated postal address.

A full list of polling places is available by visiting our website or calling us.

Pre-poll voting is available until 6pm on Friday, 24 October 2014. Pre-poll voting locations and times are available on our website or by calling us.

CANDIDATES CHARLESTOWN

Name	Affiliation
ARMS Luke	Independent
SKY Marc	Independent
OAKLEY Jane	The Greens
WRIGHTSON Suellen	
HARRISON Jodie	Labor
CUBIS Luke	Independent
MARTIN Arjay	
TUCKER Brian	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
HOPE Veronica	Independent

NEWCASTLE

Name	Affiliation
O'BRIEN Steve	Socialist Alliance
CRAKANTHORP Tim	Labor
OSBORNE Michael	The Greens
HAINES Jacqueline	Independent
STEFANAC Jennifer	
HOWARD Karen	Independent
CAINE Milton	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
BUCKLEY CLARE Brian	Independent

**REMEMBER VOTING IS COMPULSORY.
THE FINE FOR NOT VOTING IS \$55.**

For information: www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service 13 14 50.
For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.



Authorised by Colin Barry, Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney, NSW 2000

EL-00-1008-1-NC-DCT14

Appendix D: Charlestown By-election October 2014 Polling Places, Disability Access

Premises	Address	Accessibility
Adamstown Combined Pensioners Association	153A Bruncker Road, Adamstown NSW 2289	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Cardiff Public School	Macquarie Road, Cardiff NSW 2285	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot
Cardiff South Public School	Lake Avenue, Cardiff South NSW 2285	Assisted Access Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Charlestown East Public School	90 James Street, Charlestown NSW 2290	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Charlestown Public School	15 Frederick Street, Charlestown NSW 2290	Assisted Access Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Charlestown South Public School	9 Patricia Avenue, Charlestown NSW 2290	Assisted Access Building has lips and/or steps No designated disabled parking spot No disabled toilet Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Dudley Pensioners Hall	96 Ocean Street, Dudley NSW 2290	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot
Eleebana Public School	Ian Street, Eleebana NSW 2282	Assisted Access No disabled toilet Access ramp does not meet standards Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Floraville Public School	78 Floraville Road, Floraville NSW 2280	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Garden Suburb Public School	Progress Place, Garden Suburb NSW 2289	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Hamilton South Public School	Kenrick Street, Merewether NSW 2291	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult No disabled toilet
Hillsborough Public School	83 Waratah Avenue, Charlestown NSW 2290	Assisted Access Access ramp does not meet standards Building has lips and/or steps No disabled toilet Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Kahibah Public School	Frith Street, Kahibah NSW 2290	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities

Premises	Address	Accessibility
Kotara High School	65 Lexington Parade, Adamstown Heights NSW 2289	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Kotara South Public School	Rae Crescent, Kotara NSW 2289	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Lakeside School	40 - 44 Coral Crescent, Gateshead West NSW 2290	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Mount Hutton Public School	12 Dunkley Parade, Mount Hutton NSW 2290	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
New Lambton South Public School	45 St James Road, New Lambton NSW 2305	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot
St Columba's Parish Hall Adamstown	Lockyer Street, Adamstown NSW 2289	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult No disabled toilet
Warners Bay High School	1 Myles Avenue, Warners Bay NSW 2282	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot Building has lips and/or steps No disabled toilet Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Warners Bay Public School	Jones Avenue, Warners Bay NSW 2282	Assisted Access Building has lips and/or steps No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Whitebridge High School	1 Lonus Avenue, Whitebridge NSW 2290	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot No disabled toilet Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Windale Community Centre	12 Lake Street, Windale NSW 2306	Assisted Access No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult
Wiripaang Public School	2A Pacific Highway, Gateshead NSW 2290	Assisted Access Building has lips and/or steps No designated disabled parking spot Path of travel from car park may be difficult

Appendix E: Charlestown By-election October 2014 Ballot Paper

Ballot Paper
Legislative Assembly Election – Electoral District of
Charlestown
Held on 25 October 2014

DIRECTIONS FOR VOTING
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- Write the number **1** in the square next to the candidate of your choice.
- You can show more choices, if you want to, by writing numbers in the other squares, starting with the number **2**.
- Fold this ballot paper so your vote cannot be seen and place it in the ballot box (or in the envelope provided).

CANDIDATES

- ARMS Luke**
INDEPENDENT
- SKY Marc**
INDEPENDENT
- OAKLEY Jane**
THE GREENS
- WRIGHTSON Suellen**
- HARRISON Jodie**
LABOR
- CUBIS Luke**
INDEPENDENT
- MARTIN Arjay**
- TUCKER Brian**
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)
- HOPE Veronica**
INDEPENDENT

You must not take a ballot paper out of the polling place

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics *2011 Census QuickStats*; Charlestown.

Allen Consulting Group, *Evaluation of technology assisted voting provided at the NSW State General Election March 2011: report to the New South Wales Electoral Commission*, Sydney, July, 2011.

New South Wales Electoral Commission, *Report on the Conduct of the NSW State Election 2011*, Report to the NSW Parliament Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, November, 2011.