

S T A T E B Y - E L E C T I O N R E P O R T

Port Macquarie

2008

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Please address all enquiries to the New South Wales Electoral Commission, Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney 2000

The Hon Nathan Rees MP
Premier
Level 40
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

I am pleased to submit to you, for presentation to Parliament, my report on the results and administration of the by-election held on 18 October 2008 for the Legislative Assembly District of Port Macquarie.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Colin Barry'.

Colin Barry
Electoral Commissioner

25 May 2009

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Overview

This Report provides information on the conduct, administration and results of the by-election held in the Port Macquarie District on 18 October 2008 following the resignation of the Hon Rob Oakeshott MP on 13 August 2008.

Mr Oakeshott indicated his intention to contest the Federal by-election for the seat of Lyne in July 2008 and the Writ was issued on 4 August 2008. This gave the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) approximately three months to put in place arrangements for the Port Macquarie By-election.

Challenges

Election venues

Securing appropriate premises for the Returning Officer's office can be a difficult task given the short-term nature of the lease, the requirement for sufficient space to conduct pre-poll voting, store stationery, materials and cardboard furniture and for the office to be in a convenient location.

While Returning Officers attempt to secure the same venues as polling places that are used at Federal, State and Local Government elections this is not always possible. The NSWEC does not own any facilities and therefore relies on venues which meet its needs being available.

It would appear from comments made by some electors that this fact may not be understood. The view seems to be that because a venue has been a polling place at a previous election, it will always remain a polling place in a particular district. Although each elector was sent an elector brochure listing the polling places in the district, a number of electors referred to not being able to vote at their 'usual' polling place. Consideration may need to be given to this aspect in the advertising campaigns run by the NSWEC prior to elections.

Another difficulty in organising venues for the 18 October 2008 by-elections, was the fact that schools were on holiday at the end of September and beginning of October, which had an impact on finalising arrangements. Moreover, in many instances, voting occurs in school halls and the timing of these by-elections coincided with

Overview

the running of the HSC, which meant halls were already set up for exams to be held and some schools were not keen for this set-up to be disturbed.

The NSWEC is also mindful when selecting Returning Officers' offices and polling places of the need for these locations to be easily accessible for the elderly, those with disabilities or people with prams or strollers. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to find such premises available in the market within the timeframe that also meet the floor space requirements.

In relation to the Returning Officer's office in Port Macquarie there were some complaints made by candidates and electors about accessibility not just in relation to the entrance to the building but also in relation to parking (although there was parking in front and behind the office, those who parked across the road had difficulty crossing the road due to the traffic).

As a result, an additional pre-poll voting centre was opened at Shop 2/155 Horton Street Port Macquarie from Tuesday 7 October 2008 to Friday 17 October 2008 during business hours. This centre was fully wheelchair accessible. A number of electors attending this office expressed their appreciation that an alternative location had been provided.

Hospitals and declared institutions

Under section 87A of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* (the Act), hospitals or similar institutions can be appointed as polling places and operate on election day using mobile facilities.

Similarly the Electoral Commissioner has the power to appoint nursing homes, retirement villages and like facilities as declared institutions, which are visited by election officials on the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday in the week of the election.

While it is important to ensure people are given every opportunity to vote, the use of these facilities raises a number of challenges. In the case of hospitals there is the issue of infection control, particularly in relation to election officials taking votes, and the wellbeing of the patients. Consequently, in some institutions voting opportunities may be limited by hospital administrators.

Overview

In the case of declared institutions there is a difficulty in identifying all such facilities in a district, and then it is up to individual managers of these facilities to agree to visits by election officials. The imposition on residents who may be frail or unwell needs also to be considered. Duplication of votes can also be an issue. This occurs where a person casts a vote with the election officials visiting the facility but then completes a postal vote previously applied for or is taken by a relative to vote in person on election day.

Postal vote applications by parties

Another issue raised in relation to postal voting was the applications used by the registered political parties and/or candidates. Many electors thought that this material had come from the NSWEC. Moreover, where applications had a contact number for the party or candidate, some electors rang this number in the mistaken belief that they were ringing the NSWEC enquiry service. They were then directed to the NSWEC enquiry service where they often expressed surprise that they had received and/or completed an application for a postal vote that had been provided by the parties or candidates. It would be helpful if parties and candidates explained that the telephone number is the party/candidate contact and include the NSWEC number for election enquiries.

Finalising the count

Electors in the Port Macquarie District had voted at the Federal by-election for the seat of Lyne approximately one month before the State by-election was held. The Federal voting system is full preferential whereas the NSW voting system is option preferential. As electors most recent experience was based on this full preferential system, it may explain why there was a large proportion of votes at the Port Macquarie By-election where voters had preferenced all 11 candidates. This fact made the distribution of preferences a much longer process than may otherwise have been the case.

Electoral material

Although the NSWEC conducted information seminars for candidates and details are available on the website, there were a number of instances of electoral material being displayed or distributed on election day not complying with the legislative requirements. This included content in the electoral material contrary to the instructions on the ballot paper and lack of authorisation details on posters.

Overview

A number of complaints from party workers and electors were lodged with the Port Macquarie Returning Officer as well as individual Polling Place Managers in relation to the wording used by one party on its how-to-vote cards and posters displayed on election day. This electoral material suggested to electors that they 'Just Vote 1'. It did not contain the name of any of the candidates contesting the by-election nor did it contain any details which would allow electors to identify the party responsible for its registration and distribution.

Nonetheless, this electoral material did not breach the requirements of the Act as the appropriate authorisation and printer's details had been provided, and the direction to electors to vote for only one candidate does not contradict other voting instructions and will not lead to an informal vote.

The NSWEC suggests that thought be given to introducing a requirement along the lines of that in the *Victorian Electoral Act 2002* that requires a how-to-vote card to clearly identify the person, political party, organisation or group on whose behalf the card is being registered.

Another issue which arose in all four by-elections held on 18 October 2008 was the placement of posters and the canvassing of votes by candidates and/or party workers at pre-poll locations. The Act was amended in 2006 to impose limits at polling places on election day within which posters could not be placed and canvassing for votes could not occur. The rationale for this amendment was to enable electors to make their way easily into polling places. This restriction does not currently apply to pre-poll locations and a number of complaints from electors were made that either access was impeded by posters or behaviour by party workers was felt to be overly enthusiastic.

This was a particular problem at the Returning Officer's office in Port Macquarie, which had a typical street frontage, opening onto the footpath. As there were 11 candidates contesting the by-election, the footpath became very congested with party workers (some in chairs) and 'A' frame posters. Not only was it difficult for those wishing to vote to enter the office, but the local council was concerned about potential hazards being created and instructed their rangers to move the signs and workers so that they were not blocking the footpath. The same approach was taken at all pre-poll locations in Port Macquarie.

Regulation is also required to prevent electoral material being placed in close proximity to pre-poll locations to ensure that no perception of bias or advantage towards a particular party or candidate is given.

The NSWEC will recommend an amendment to the Act to regulate electoral material at pre-poll locations consistent with the requirements at polling places on election day.

Overview

Improvements

NSWEC website

Refinements were made to the computer software application, introduced at the 2007 State election, to automate many of the routine tasks otherwise performed by election officials. The most significant change was the online registration of prospective staff where previous experience could also be captured which assisted Returning Officers in making informed decisions when employing staff.

As there were no Local Government elections for Port Macquarie – Hastings in September 2008, election officials who had worked or registered to work for this district at either the March 2007 State election or the November 2007 Federal election were contacted by email or SMS and invited to access the Expression of Interest (Eoi) website to apply for a position to work as an election official or office assistant at the by-election. The Returning Officer was then able to access the details of prospective staff to make offers of employment by phone or email, and applicants were able to access their Eoi to check for offers of employment. If an offer had been made the person could see what position they had been offered and where it was located. They could also accept or decline the offer, and if they accepted, enter bank, tax and superannuation details for payment. The implementation of this system means that the entire employment process is now undertaken online.

Multiple pre-poll locations

The NSWEC decided to trial opening more than one pre-poll voting facility in the Port Macquarie District due to its geographic spread. As a general rule, all pre-poll voting occurs at the Returning Officer's office and the need to cater for this is taken into account when selecting appropriate premises.

As the Returning Officer's office was located in central Port Macquarie, two other pre-poll voting facilities were opened during business hours in the week of the election at Laurieton (approximately 40kms from the Returning Officer's office) and Harrington (approximately 90kms from the Returning Officer's office). It would appear from the number of votes taken that electors took full advantage of having these additional pre-poll facilities available.

The NSWEC will examine the feasibility of offering multiple pre-poll facilities in the larger geographical districts, being mindful at the same time of any cost implications.

Overview

Reduction in queues and delays

Although there was not an election for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council at the September 2008 Local Government elections, having run elections in approximately 150 other councils the NSWEC was well placed to assess optimum staff levels for the by-election polling places.

Unlike the by-elections held in the other three districts where the recent experience of voting at the Local Government elections seemed to have given rise to some confusion amongst electors as to which district they were in, this did not appear to be an issue in the Port Macquarie District.

Queuing time may also have been improved because attendance was spread more evenly over the day as a result of advertising undertaken by the NSWEC. Figures from the State election in 2007 showed that the busiest hours of voting were in the morning before 11 am, with numbers then decreasing until 3 pm when there was a steady flow until the close of the polls at 6 pm.

To draw attention to this fact and assist electors in planning their visit to the polling place, the advertisement placed in the Port Macquarie Camden Haven Courier, Port Macquarie Express and the Port Macquarie News before the election specifically stated: 'Polling places are often busy in the morning. To minimise delay please consider voting after 2 pm'.

There were no complaints from electors, candidates or parties regarding the time it took electors to vote.

Rolls sorted by street and date of birth details

The NSWEC provided a hard copy of the electoral roll sorted by street and a hard copy sorted by date of birth to each polling place. Election officials reported that this was of assistance for common surnames to ensure the correct elector was marked off the roll.

Overview

Feedback from electors, election officials and candidates

For the first time feedback from electors was sought by the NSWEC through the provision of a link on the NSWEC website to an online survey, asking any electors who voted at the 18 October 2008 by-elections, to comment on the information and services provided by the NSWEC. This was available from election day until 7 November 2008 and covered areas such as the usefulness of the NSWEC advertising, the conduct of the election and the timeliness of results.

Although there was only a limited response (44 voters: 11 from Cabramatta, 4 from Lakemba, 14 from Port Macquarie and 15 from Ryde), those that did complete the survey indicated high levels of overall satisfaction with the services provided by the NSWEC.

Feedback was also sought from candidates and staff involved in the by-elections. This was done by means of email where this information was available to the NSWEC. As the pool of candidates was much smaller than that at a State election or Local Government elections it is perhaps not surprising that the survey participation rate was low (7 responses). Such a number does not allow any valid conclusions to be drawn.

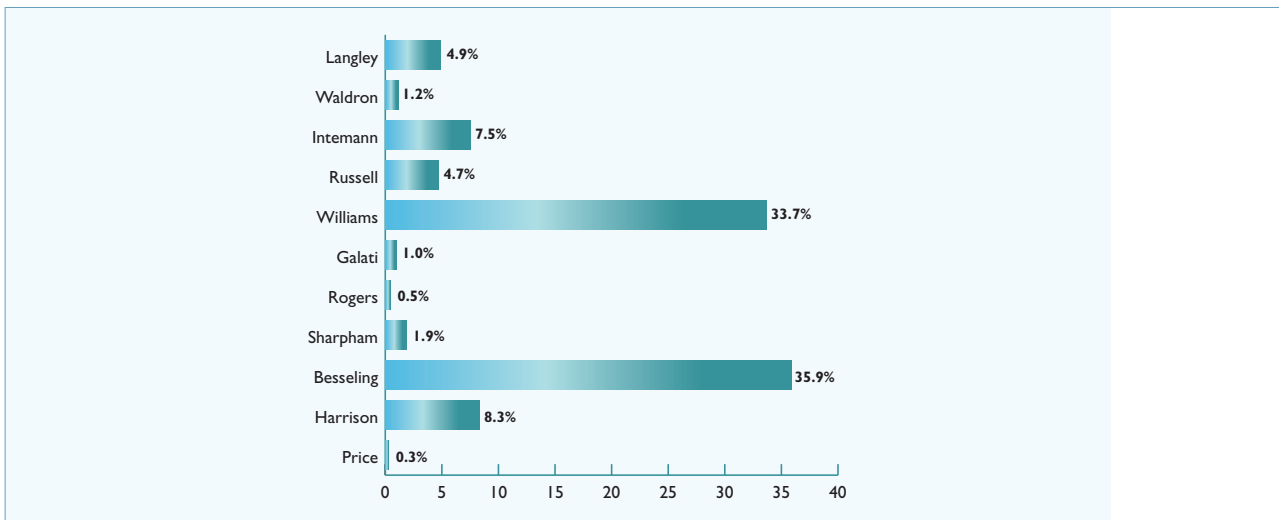
There were 324 responses to the survey sent to all election officials working on election day, which ranged from aspects relating to recruitment and training to processes in the polling places and the counting of votes. This feedback indicated a high level of satisfaction with the online application process, training and payment and also with the staffing levels in the polling places on election day. The NSWEC will examine all comments made in response to this survey to ensure the approach adopted by the NSWEC is 'best practice'.

Similarly thought will be given as to how feedback from electors can be increased.

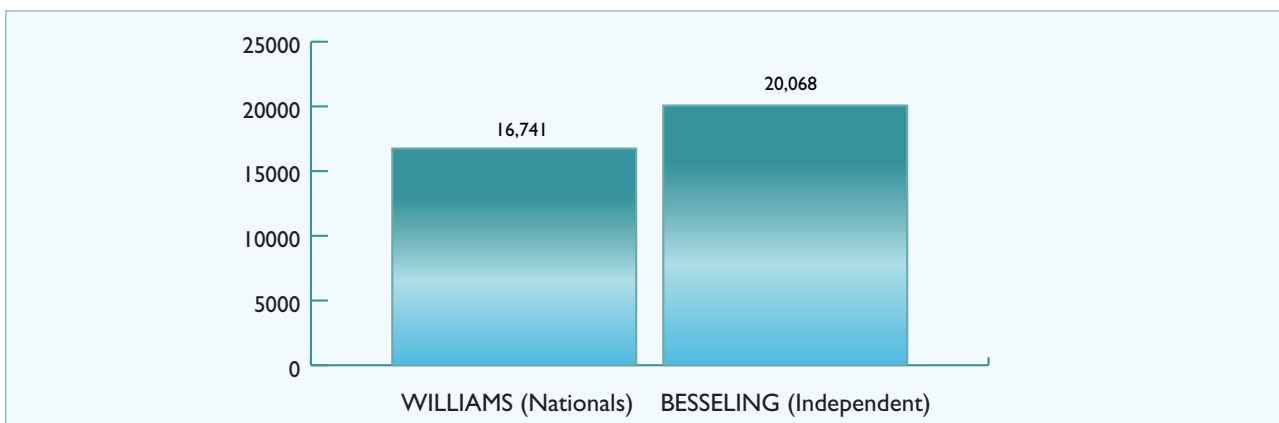
Results

Enrolment:	48,198
Formal Votes:	41,749
Informal Votes:	765 (1.8% of total votes)
Total Votes:	42,514 (88.2% of electors enrolled)

First preference votes by candidate

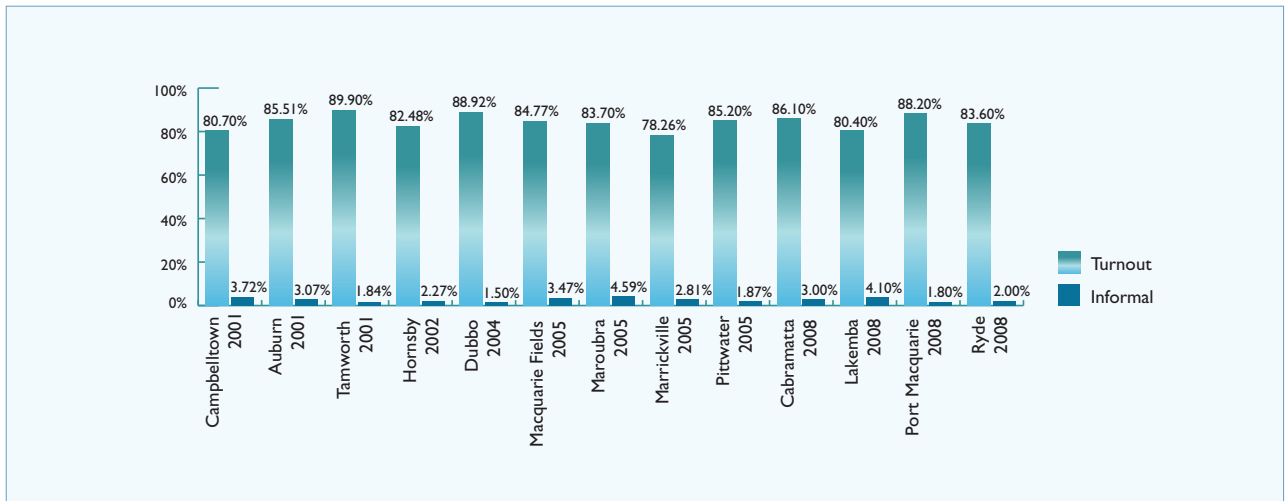


Two candidate and two party preferred results

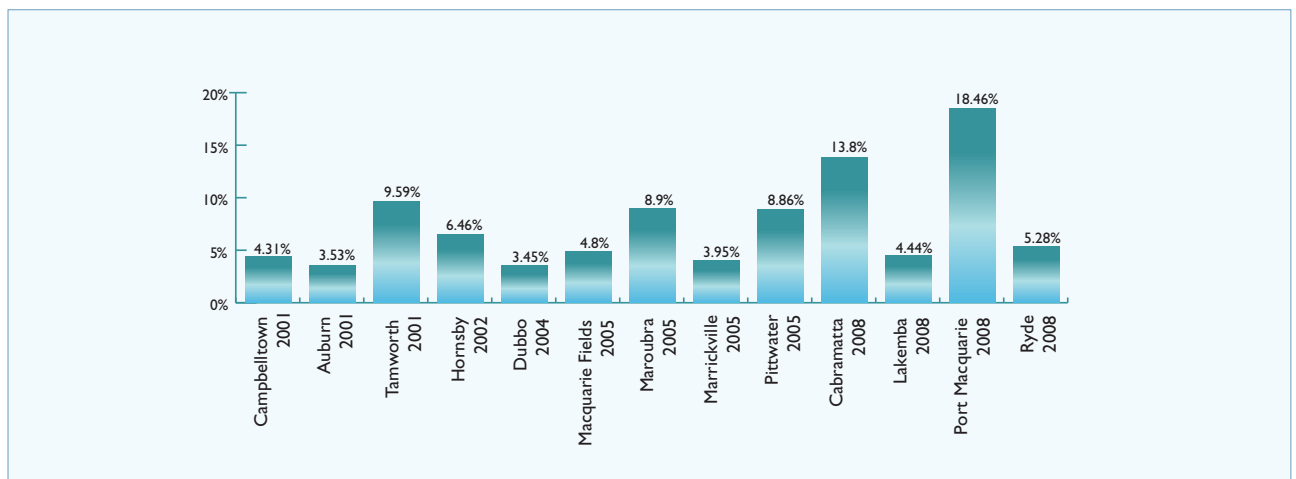


Results

Voter turnout and informal votes at New South Wales by-elections - 2001 to 2008

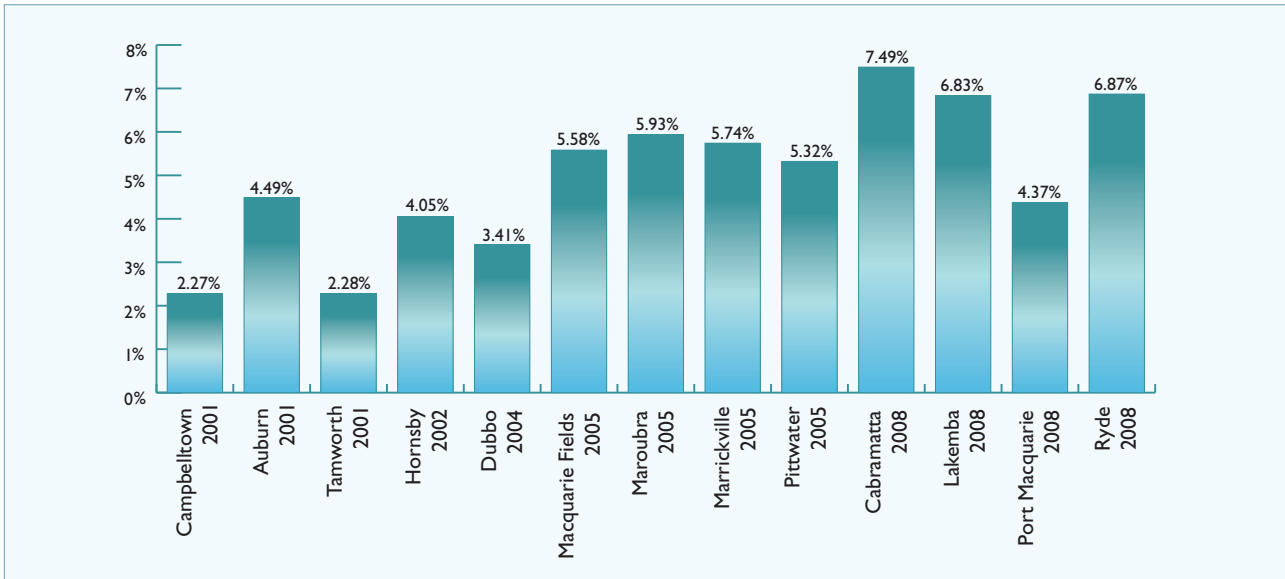


Formal pre-poll votes as a percentage of total formal votes at New South Wales by-elections - 2001 to 2008

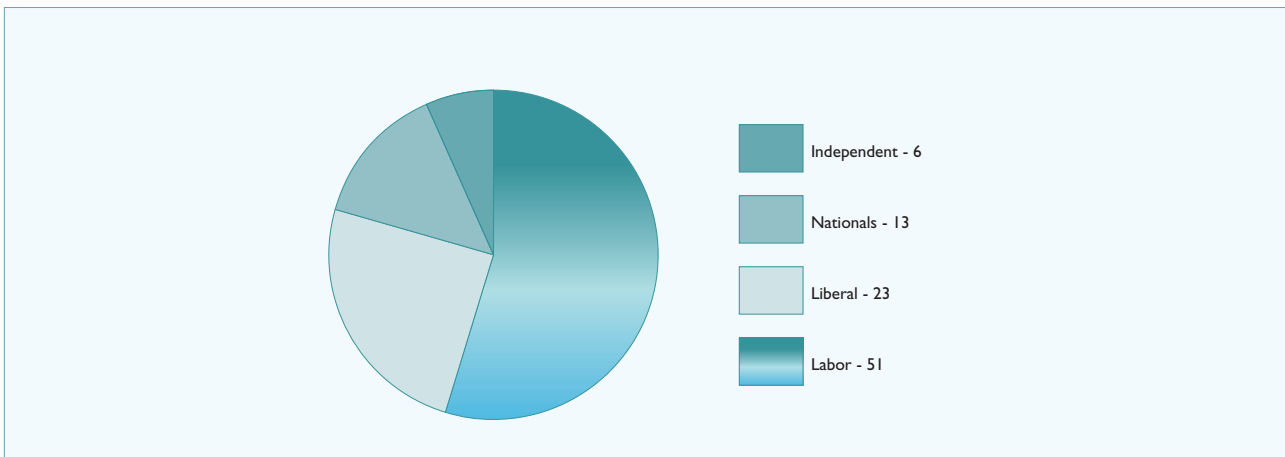


Results

Formal postal votes as a percentage of total formal votes at New South Wales by-elections - 2001 to 2008



Composition of the Legislative Assembly following the 2008 by-elections



Results

First preference votes polled for each candidate by polling place

Polling Place	LANGLEY Independent	WALDRON CDP	INTEMANIN Independent	RUSSELL The Greens	WILLIAMS Nationals	GALATI Independent	ROGERS	SHARPHAM Independent	BESSELING Independent	HARRISON Independent	PRICE Independent	Formal Votes	Informal Votes	Total Votes
Cooperbrook	21	16	9	7	121	15	3	0	113	13	0	318	9	327
Dunbogan	63	4	51	25	147	10	3	1	239	34	3	580	4	584
Emerald Downs	90	29	135	104	895	10	3	35	1,018	166	2	2,487	50	2,537
Hannam Vale	7	7	8	13	67	16	0	0	54	1	1	174	8	182
Harrington	111	17	24	37	321	22	4	13	461	66	3	1,079	23	1,102
Hérons Creek	12	1	16	9	45	1	0	0	59	6	0	149	2	151
Hibbard	48	16	104	44	387	10	4	32	415	155	5	1,220	26	1,246
Johns River	3	10	9	6	72	34	2	0	61	9	0	206	1	207
Kendall	80	11	63	61	238	15	4	8	267	50	0	797	19	816
Kew	16	7	24	17	108	7	3	6	149	12	1	350	8	358
King Creek	18	12	128	30	324	1	5	20	236	33	2	809	14	823
Lake Cathie	45	14	86	73	700	8	10	19	523	81	6	1,565	24	1,589
Lansdowne	38	5	10	15	141	14	0	3	203	19	2	450	15	465
Laurieton	122	11	64	56	464	15	12	8	564	65	2	1,383	26	1,409
Lord Howe	12	2	9	29	85	4	1	0	44	19	3	208	5	213
Lorne	4	1	13	9	52	4	1	0	39	7	1	131	0	131
Major Innes	34	20	75	29	444	2	4	39	380	117	3	1,147	32	1,179
Moorland	14	10	5	13	102	27	2	3	102	4	1	283	8	291
North Haven	58	7	40	33	256	12	10	9	382	47	2	856	13	869
Port Macquarie	56	14	117	46	418	8	8	28	426	131	5	1,257	31	1,288
Port Macquarie (North Shore)	5	3	44	23	87	5	0	4	95	32	0	298	4	302
Port Macquarie Base	5	5	22	14	102	4	3	6	82	19	1	263	6	269
Port Macquarie Central	50	25	100	93	413	6	4	28	500	141	1	1,361	39	1,400
Port Macquarie East	134	25	243	158	938	19	13	64	1,206	333	10	3,143	71	3,214
Port Macquarie South	73	23	188	144	720	7	11	58	827	183	2	2,236	43	2,279
Port Macquarie West	175	38	203	127	973	21	15	50	1,042	497	16	3,157	93	3,250
Settlement Shores	57	10	135	59	439	9	6	30	561	143	4	1,453	29	1,482
Tacking Point	80	34	141	108	652	5	5	42	814	114	2	1,997	24	2,021
Westhaven	71	17	72	54	503	12	7	8	560	63	5	1,372	29	1,401
Total Ordinary Votes	1,568	405	2,222	1,504	10,584	333	163	528	11,930	2,614	84	31,935	672	32,607
Absent	2	1	1	1	11	0	1	1	5	0	0	23	0	23
Declared Institutions	14	7	24	10	103	2	3	7	27	9	0	206	9	215
Postal	96	29	212	105	790	22	10	53	412	109	11	1,849	8	1,857
Pre-poll	365	71	674	350	2,561	60	19	206	2,621	747	34	7,708	75	7,783
Section/Silent	0	1	1	1	12	0	0	0	8	5	0	28	1	29
Grand Totals	2,045	514	3,134	1,971	14,061	417	196	795	15,003	3,484	129	41,749	765	42,514

Results

Distribution of preferences results

	Count No. 1	Count No. 2		Count No. 3		Count No. 4		Count No. 5		Count No. 6		Count No. 7		Count No. 8		Count No. 9		Count No. 10	
	First Preference Votes	Excluded Candidate Name:		Excluded Candidate Name:		Excluded Candidate Name:		Excluded Candidate Name:		Excluded Candidate Name:		Excluded Candidate Name:		Excluded Candidate Name:		Excluded Candidate Name:		Excluded Candidate Name:	
		PRICE Cameron		ROGERS Grant		GALATI Tony		WALDRON Bob		SHARPHAM Bob		RUSSELL Susie		LANGLEY James		HARRISON Jamie		INTEMANN Lisa	
Candidates in ballot paper order		129		199		435		529		878		2,065		2,460		3,932		5,718	
LANGLEY James	2,045	10	2,055	15	2,070	38	2,108	38	2,146	57	2,203	257	2,460						
WALDRON Bob	514	2	516	1	517	12	529												
INTEMANN Lisa	3,134	2	3,136	8	3,144	13	3,157	23	3,180	36	3,216	555	3,771	620	4,391	1,327	5,718		
RUSSELL Susie	1,971	3	1,974	19	1,993	15	2,008	20	2,028	37	2,065								
WILLIAMS Leslie	14,061	7	14,068	19	14,087	53	14,140	181	14,321	242	14,563	155	14,718	240	14,958	478	15,436	1,310	16,746
GALATI Tony	417	3	420	15	435														
ROGERS Grant	196	3	199																
SHARPHAM Bob	795	2	797	11	808	18	826	52	878										
BESSELING Peter	15,003	13	15,016	20	15,036	47	15,083	36	15,119	139	15,258	324	15,582	540	16,122	869	16,991	3,086	20,077
HARRISON Jamie	3,484	19	3,503	7	3,510	17	3,527	11	3,538	43	3,581	88	3,669						
PRICE Cameron	129																		
Total Formal Votes	41,749	64	41,684	115	41,600	213	41,378	361	41,210	554	40,886	1,379	40,200	1,663	39,403	2,674	38,145	4,396	36,823
Exhausted Votes		=5	=65	+84	=149	+222	=371	+168	=539	+324	=863	+686	=1,549	+797	=2,346	+1,258	=3,604	+1,322	=4,926
Total Informal Votes	765		765		765		765		765		765		765		765		765		765
Total Votes	42,514	129	42,514	199	42,514	435	42,514	529	42,514	878	42,514	2,065	42,514	2,460	42,514	3,932	42,514	5,718	22,437
Absolute Majority	20,875		20,843		20,801		20,690		20,606		20,444		20,101		19,702		19,073		18,412

BESSELING elected at count 10

The district at a glance

The Port Macquarie electorate

Area:

1,345 square kilometres.

Location:

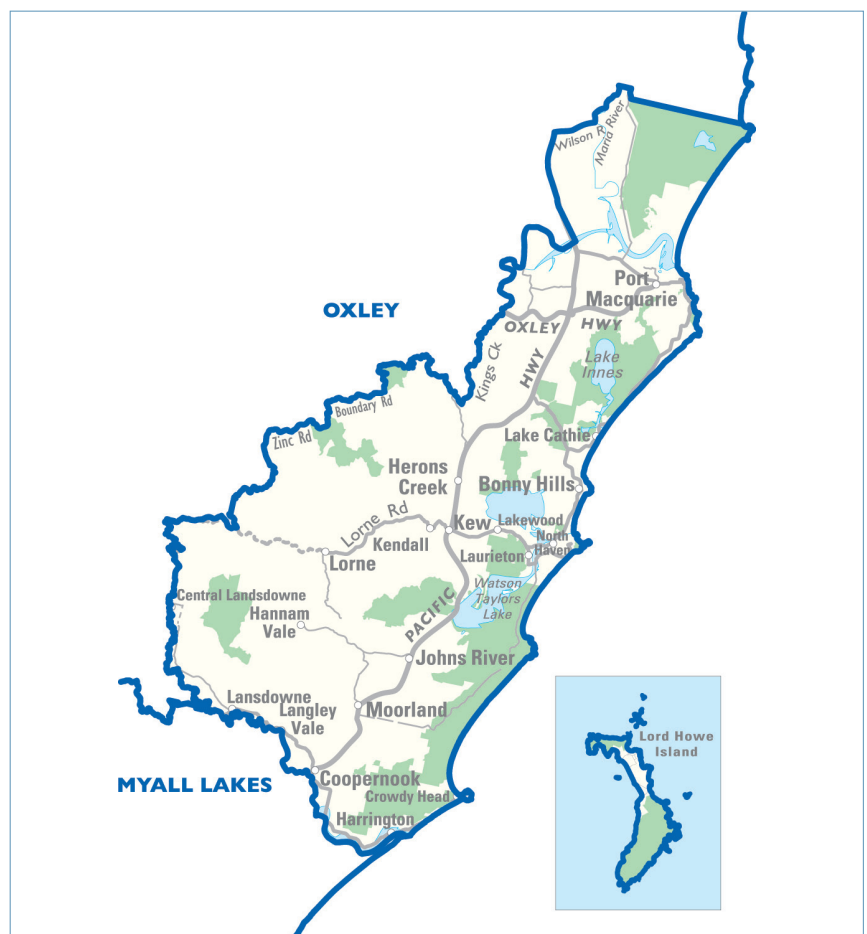
From Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve in the north to the Landsdowne River in the south and from the New South Wales coast in the east (inclusive of Lord Howe Island and all islands lying off the coast of the District) to Koppin Yarratt Creek in the west.

Suburbs:

Batar, Blackmans Point, Bonny Hills, Central Lansdowne, Coopernook, Coral Ville, Crowdy Head, Dunbogan, Hannam Vale, Harrington, Herons Creek, Hibbard, Johns River, Kendall, Kew, Lake Cathie, Lakewood, Laurieton, Langley Vale, Limeburners Flat, Logans Crossing, Long Point, Lord Howe Island, Lorne, Moorland, North Haven, North Shore, Port Macquarie, Rawson, Roberts Plain, Rossglen, Sancrox, Stewarts River, Swans Creek, The Hatch, Thrumster, Waitui.

Demographic rating:

Rural



Background information

The Port Macquarie electorate was established in 1988, and held for the first time by Mr Bruce Jeffery. The seat has been held as follows:

Date Elected	Member	Party Affiliation
1988	Bruce JEFFERY	National Party
1991	Wendy MACHIN	National Party
1996	Robert OAKESHOTT	Independent
2008	Peter BESSELING	Independent

By-elections

There has been only one previous by-election in Port Macquarie, which was held on 30 November 1996, and won by Mr Oakeshott.

The 2008 by-election was held due to the resignation of Mr Oakeshott on 13 August 2008, after having served 11 years, 8 months and 15 days.

Mr Oakeshott was a member of the National Party when he was elected but resigned to become an Independent on 9 March 2002. Until this time he served as the Shadow Minister for Fisheries and Ports and the Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation from 1999.

Background information

State election results

2007

Electors enrolled	46,028	n/a
Total Votes	43,027	93.48%
Formal votes	42,485	98.74%
Informal votes	542	1.26%
Non-voters	3,001	6.52%

Percentages for the 'Total Votes' and 'Non-voters' taken as a percentage of electors enrolled.

Percentages for 'Total formal votes' and 'Informal votes' are taken as percentages of the 'Total Votes'.

First preference results

Hayes (Labor)	3,886	9.15%
Williams (Nationals)	8,258	19.44%
Reid (Australians Against Further Immigration)	648	1.53%
Russell (The Greens)	1,170	2.75%
Oakeshott (Independent)	28,523	67.14%

Two candidate preferred result

Williams (Nationals)	8,661	21.78%
Oakeshott (Independent)	31,107	78.22%

Background information

2003

Electors enrolled	47,326	n/a
Total Votes	44,511	94.05%
Formal votes	43,955	98.75%
Informal votes	556	1.25%
Non-voters	2,815	5.95%

First preference results

Russell (The Greens)	1,599	3.64%
Hough (Country Labor)	3,697	8.41%
McLeod (Australians Against Further Immigration)	321	0.73%
Muldoon (Independent)	141	0.32%
Fenton (Nationals)	6,416	14.60%
Oakeshott (Independent)	30,659	69.75%
Medway (Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group))	1,122	2.55%

Two candidate preferred result

Fenton (Nationals)	7,079	17.17%
Oakeshott (Independent)	34,146	82.83%

Background information

2008 by-election timetable

Issue of Writ	Friday 29 August 2008
Close of roll	6 pm Friday 29 August 2008
Close of nominations	Noon Thursday 18 September 2008 (for registration at the NSWEC) or Noon Friday 19 September 2008 (for registration with the Returning Officer)
Draw of candidates	2 pm Friday 19 September 2008
Start pre-poll voting	Monday 22 September 2008
Close of applications to register how-to-vote material	Friday 10 October 2008
Close of receipt of postal vote applications outside Australia	6 pm Monday 13 October 2008
Close of receipt of postal vote applications within Australia	6 pm Wednesday 15 October 2008
Close of pre-poll voting	6 pm Friday 17 October 2008
Election day	Saturday 18 October 2008
Close of receipt of completed postal vote ballot papers	6 pm Wednesday 22 October 2008
Date for return of the Writ	1 November 2008

Services to electors

Newspaper advertisements

The NSWEC placed a series of advertisements in major newspapers as well as local newspapers to inform electors of the various stages of the by-election process.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2006 data, the majority of people in the Port Macquarie District are English speakers (94.3%), with the top two community languages being German (0.3%) and Italian (0.2%). Consequently no advertisements were placed in the ethnic press.

(See **Appendix I** for advertisements.)

Advice of by-election

Following the resignation of Mr Oakeshott, advertisements were placed in the newspapers listed below, advising electors that a by-election was to be held. Electors were also advised to enrol to vote before the close of rolls and to update enrolment details if they had changed address or name. Information was provided on where enrolment forms could be obtained along with the address of the appropriate Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) office and website.

Newspaper	Date of Publication
<i>Port Macquarie Camden Haven Courier</i>	27 August 2008
<i>Port Macquarie Express</i>	27 August 2008
<i>Port Macquarie News</i>	27 August 2008
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	28 August 2008
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	28 August 2008

Advice of candidate information seminar

Advice was also provided about the candidate information seminar in the three local papers published on 27 August 2008, and on local radio stations 2MC FM and 1402.3 Star FM from 29 August 2008 until 2 September 2008.

Services to electors

Issue of Writ

A Writ is a document issued by the Governor (or the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in the case of a by-election) directing the Electoral Commissioner to conduct the election. The roll for an election must close at 6 pm on the day of the issue of the Writ.

The Writ for the Port Macquarie By-election was issued on Friday 29 August 2008.

The Writ itself contains all the information necessary for the Returning Officer to arrange the conduct of the poll. It states:

- the last day for nomination by candidates;
- the date of the election ; and
- the date the Writ is to be returned.

Advertisements containing details of the Writ were placed in:

Newspaper	Date of Publication
<i>Port Macquarie Camden Haven Courier</i>	3 September 2008.
<i>Port Macquarie Express</i>	3 September 2008.
<i>Port Macquarie News</i>	3 September 2008.

Services to electors

Advice on nominations

Advertisements containing details on how to nominate as a candidate were placed in:

Newspaper	Date of Publication
<i>Port Macquarie News</i>	3 September 2008
<i>Port Macquarie Camden Haven Courier</i>	3 September 2008
<i>Port Macquarie Express</i>	3 September 2008
<i>Port Macquarie News</i>	10 September 2008
<i>Port Macquarie Camden Haven Courier</i>	10 September 2008
<i>Port Macquarie Express</i>	10 September 2008

Advice on pre-poll and postal voting

Advertisements were then placed advising electors that as voting is compulsory if they could not vote on election day they may be eligible to vote early. Details on how to obtain a postal vote application as well as the times and locations for voting at a pre-poll location were placed in:

Newspaper	Date of Publication
<i>Port Macquarie News</i>	22 September 2008
<i>Port Macquarie Camden Haven Courier</i>	24 September 2008
<i>Port Macquarie Express</i>	24 September 2008

The opening of an additional pre-poll voting centre, which was fully wheelchair accessible, was announced in the *Port Macquarie Express* on 3 October 2008.

Services to electors

Advice on registration of electoral material

Advertisements about the need to register electoral material, including how-to-vote cards, to be distributed on election day were placed in:

Newspaper	Date of Publication
<i>Port Macquarie Express</i>	1 October 2008

Advice on candidates and polling places

Advertisements containing the names and party affiliations of the candidates contesting the by-election and the addresses of all the polling places in the district, and whether they were wheelchair accessible were placed in:

Newspaper	Date of Publication
<i>Port Macquarie News</i>	10 October 2008
<i>Port Macquarie Camden Haven Courier</i>	15 October 2008
<i>Port Macquarie Express</i>	15 October 2008

Results

A final advertisement advising that Mr Peter Besseling had been elected as the Member for Port Macquarie was placed in:

Newspaper	Date of Publication
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	27 October 2008

Services to electors

Elector brochure

An elector brochure was also produced by the NSWEC and mailed to the electors in the Port Macquarie District in the weeks prior to election day. It contained the following information:

- the fact that voting is compulsory;
- date of the by-election;
- location and voting times at pre-poll centres;
- voting hours on election day;
- location of polling places and those with disability access; and
- how to vote correctly.

(See **Appendix 2** for the elector brochure distributed in Port Macquarie.)

NSWEC enquiry service and website

The NSWEC established an enquiry service on 1300 135 736, which was available from Monday 29 September 2008 until Monday 24 October 2008. There were seven staff members available to answer queries from the community regarding any of the four by-elections, or to take the details of people wishing to work and to process postal vote applications sent in by the registered political parties.

The service took over 2,600 calls. The majority of calls fell into five categories: people wishing to be excused from voting on election day (781), inquiring as to which district they were in (582), requesting postal vote applications (420), seeking details of how to vote early (315) and wishing to clarify whether voting was compulsory (119).

Details of the Returning Officer, the by-election timetable, the electorate profile and district map showing the location of polling places, candidates, and how and where to vote before election day were all available on the NSWEC website. Following the close of polls progressive results could also be found on the website.

Services to electors

Postal voting

Postal voting for the Port Macquarie By-election was available to electors meeting at least one of the criteria set out in section 114A(1) of the Act. These include: not being within the State on election day, being seriously ill or infirm or because religious beliefs preclude attendance on the day. Applications were available from the Returning Officer's office, the NSWEC and the NSWEC website. Interstate electoral offices were also equipped to issue in person postal votes. This service is provided at all State elections and by-elections.

Out of the 42,514 total votes counted, 1,857 were postal votes. Of these, 1,849 formal and 8 informal votes were cast.

Registered general postal voters

Electors may apply to become a registered general postal voter providing they meet the relevant criteria as prescribed in section 114AA(1) of the Act, for example, an elector does not live within 20kms of a polling place. Following amendments to the Act in 2006, silent voters and those caring for a person who has an illness are also able to apply to be registered general postal voters. These electors do not have to apply for a postal vote at each election. Details are kept by the AEC which provides the Returning Officer with a list of such electors and they are automatically issued with ballot papers.

(See **Appendix 3** for sample ballot paper.)

Postal votes were issued to 941 registered general postal voters in the Port Macquarie electorate, with 868 of the postal vote certificates returned.

Services to electors

Pre-poll voting

Electors wishing to vote pre-poll must meet one of the criteria under section 114P(1) of the Act, which include that the elector will be travelling under conditions which preclude him or her from voting at any polling place on election day, or who is a carer of a person who is seriously ill or infirm.

Pre-poll voting was available at the Returning Officer's office in Port Macquarie between 9 am to 6 pm from Monday 22 September 2008 until Friday 17 October 2008, with the office also being open for pre-poll voting on Saturday 11 October 2008 from 9 am to 1 pm. As well electors could vote pre-poll during regular office hours for the same period at the NSWEC.

A second, fully wheelchair accessible, pre-poll location was opened in the Port Macquarie District from Tuesday 7 October 2008 to Friday 17 October 2008, during business hours.

To assist electors in the district, who may not have been able to pre-poll at the Returning Officer's office, two other locations were opened in the week of the election (13 October 2008 to 17 October 2008) during business hours at Laurieton and Harrington.

A total of 7,783 pre-poll votes were cast, 75 of which were informal.

Declared institutions

The Electoral Commissioner has the power to appoint hospitals, nursing homes, retirement villages and like facilities as declared institutions. These facilities are visited by election officials on the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday in the week of the election for the purpose of taking votes from residents who are unable to attend a polling place on election day.

It should be noted, however; that it is up to the manager of each facility to agree to these visits. In many cases managers advise the NSWEC that this service will not be required as their residents are too sick or frail to vote.

Services to electors

The NSWEC wrote to all establishments known from the past State and Federal elections. Unfortunately there is no one State agency which can provide details of all establishments that come within the declared institutions classification. As a result, it is difficult to identify all possible declared institutions to make early arrangements.

There were 11 declared institutions appointed in the Port Macquarie electorate. These were:

- Bethany Aged Care Facility;
- Emmaus Nursing Home;
- Garden Lodge Nursing Home, Westerweller and Winter Garden Hostels;
- Lakeside Hostel and Lakeside Nursing Home;
- Lourdes House Hostel;
- Mary Knoll Hostel;
- Mount Carmel House;
- Port Macquarie Gardens Nursing Centre;
- Port Macquarie Private Hospital;
- St Agnes Hostel; and
- The Whiddon Group – Laurieton.

There were 215 votes admitted to the count with 9 informal votes cast.

Services to electors

Mobile polling

Under section 87A of the Act, hospitals or similar institutions can be appointed as polling places and operate on election day using mobile facilities. This mobile polling is available to electors who are resident in a hospital or similar institution in which the booth is situated, and who are unable to attend the polling place by reason of illness, infirmity or approaching maternity.

A mobile polling booth is taken to the elector during polling hours on election day so that they may cast their vote in all respects as if the vote were recorded in a polling booth under usual conditions.

Antarctic electors

Under section 154A of the Act electors, who in the course of their employment, expect to be in Antarctica on polling day, can make a request to be treated as an Antarctic elector. There were two such electors enrolled for the Port Macquarie District.

Polling places available on election day

There were 30 polling places available on election day in the Port Macquarie District, with seven being fully wheelchair accessible.

Polling places are established mainly in schools and church and community halls and, where possible, buildings with full wheelchair access are selected. To be classified as fully wheelchair accessible, a building needs to comply with certain criteria such as having a disabled car parking space and level access to its entrance.

The fact that the NSWEC does not own the buildings used as polling places, and only leases them for the day, restricts the level of modification possible.

Services to electors

Facilities available at polling places

Wheelchair accessible polling places had voting screens suitable for electors in a wheelchair or for electors who require a chair when voting. These screens are lower and wider than a standard voting screen. Table top voting screens were also available at pre-poll voting centres and polling places.

Certain cardboard furniture used at the election had luminous contrast markings to assist electors with depth perception.

All polling places and pre-poll voting centres had hand-held magnifiers and user-friendly pencils available to all electors. Electors could ask an election official if they required either of these items.

Electors with a disability, who required assistance to vote, could nominate a person or ask an election official at the polling place. This assistance may have been reading out how-to-vote materials or the instructions or candidates' names on the ballot paper or, under the elector's instruction, marking the elector's ballot paper or placing the ballot paper in the ballot box. Any person assisting someone to cast their vote is required to mark the ballot paper in accordance with the elector's wishes.

Provision of election results

Results were available to electors from approximately 6.30 pm on Saturday 18 October 2008 on the NSWEC website 'virtual tally room' (VTR) at www.elections.nsw.gov.au and subsequently as the progressive results of two candidate preferred voting became available.

Services to registered political parties and candidates

The Returning Officer

Ms Linda Scorah was appointed Returning Officer for the Port Macquarie By-election and she leased premises at Suite 4, 133-137 Gordon Street, Port Macquarie from which to conduct the election.

Ms Scorah is a permanent NSWEC staff member. The NSWEC provides development opportunities for permanent staff to increase their knowledge and expertise at by-elections.

The Returning Officer's duties included:

- locating office premises;
- arranging office fit out and set-up;
- staffing the office;
- receiving nominations from candidates;
- conducting the draw for ballot paper positions;
- dealing with enquiries from the general public, candidates, parties and media;
- managing the issue of postal votes;
- securing venues for polling places;
- employing Polling Place Managers and other election day staff;
- managing the issue of pre-poll votes;
- conducting training sessions for candidates and parties;
- conducting training sessions for Polling Place Managers;
- training teams visiting declared institutions;
- supervising polling, receiving and recording of results;
- declaring the poll; and
- ensuring materials required by the NSWEC are returned.

Services to registered political parties and candidates

Party and candidate support and training

A “Candidates Handbook for State By-Elections” and a “Guide for Scrutineers” were produced and could be obtained from the Returning Officer and NSWEC upon request or downloaded from the NSWEC website. Candidates could also download the necessary forms from the website.

All candidates, who nominated for the election, were sent copies of the map of the electoral district, and could request a copy of the roll for their district on CD Rom.

On Wednesday 3 September 2008 the Returning Officer conducted an information session for the candidates and parties. This covered such topics as the elector brochure, postal, pre-poll and interstate voting, declared institutions, polling places, method of voting, formality, registration of electoral material, conduct of scrutineers and party workers, arrangements for election day, Sunday check count, explanation on the distribution of preferences, when the result could be expected, Court of Disputed Returns and responsibilities under the *Election Funding Act 1981*.

Election funding kits, including the Election Funding Authority Handbook, receipt book and acknowledgement book, were sent directly to candidates from the Returning Officer.

A Circular to registered political parties was sent by the Electoral Commissioner to bring key information to the attention of candidates and parties.

Services to registered political parties and candidates

Registration of how-to-vote cards

The Act prohibits any person from distributing any “**electoral material**” in a public place on election day unless the material has been registered with the NSWEC.

What constitutes electoral material for registration purposes is governed by the legislation. Section 151F specifically defines “**electoral material**” as meaning any how-to-vote card, handbill, pamphlet or card containing any representation of a ballot paper or part thereof or having on it any directions or suggestions in relation to the casting of votes.

An advertisement was placed in the Port Macquarie Express on 1 October 2008 advising candidates that material to be distributed on election day must be registered with the NSWEC. It also contained information on what is considered to be electoral material, where an application could be obtained and where material was to be lodged for registration.

Electoral material to be distributed on election day was registered for 10 of the 11 candidates contesting the Port Macquarie By-election.

Posters

There are certain requirements under sections 151B and 151E of the Act to which any person displaying a poster on election day must adhere.

Posters which exceed 8,000 square centimetres, the prescribed size, must not be displayed within five metres of a building used as a polling place or on the fence of grounds enclosing a polling place.

Posters must also contain the name and address of the person on whose instructions the matter was printed, and the name of the printer and address at which it was printed.

Services to media

Provision of election results

All candidates and major registered political parties were contacted and advised that progressive results would be available on the NSWEC VTR on the evening of the by-election from approximately 6.30 pm.

The Polling Place Managers telephoned through the first preference and notional distribution results to the Returning Officer for their polling place. The results were then emailed by the Returning Officer to the NSWEC. The first results were posted on the website at approximately 6.45 pm, with updates being made as further results became available during the course of the evening.

All votes were recounted on Sunday 19 October 2008, and the results published on the VTR. Results continued to be updated on the VTR from Monday 20 October 2008 to Wednesday 22 October 2008 as pre-poll, section and postal votes were received and entered into the count.

The results of the official distribution of preferences were published upon completion on Thursday 23 October 2008.

Services to media

NSWEC media protocol

The NSWEC has established a protocol to manage the flow of information to the media to ensure issues of public interest are dealt with in a professional, accurate, consistent and timely manner.

The NSWEC Media Liaison Officer established contacts with political reporters in both local and state-wide media to facilitate getting relevant information out to the public.

Enquiries received from the media related to:

- key dates and arrangements for the by-election;
- names and contact details of candidates;
- requests for descriptive information and maps of the electorate;
- previous election results for the electorate; and
- arrangements for receiving election results on election night.

Representatives from the local media and a number of the candidates were present at the Returning Officer's office to witness the draw for the position of candidates' names on the ballot paper after the close of nominations, and for the declaration of the poll following the election.

Internet resources

The NSWEC provided the media with comprehensive information about the by-election through the Media Centre page on the NSWEC website. A complete electorate profile was provided, which included geographic and demographic information (based on statistical information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census data) as well as the results of the State elections in 2003 and 2007.

The role of the New South Wales Electoral Commission

Media releases

The NSWEC issued a number of media releases to inform candidates and electors of key stages in the electoral process. These were:

- *Port Macquarie by-election roll closing* – issued on 25 August 2008;
- *Nominations close for the Port Macquarie by-election* – issued on 18 September 2008;
- *Early voting opens in Port Macquarie* – issued on 24 September 2008;
- *New pre-poll centre for by-election* – issued on 30 September 2008;
- *Postal voting closes soon for Port Macquarie* – issued on 7 October 2008;
- *Deadline for electoral material for Port Macquarie by-election* – issued on 7 October 2008;
- *Vote early at Port Macquarie by-election* – issued on 13 October 2008; and
- *State by-election results* – issued on 16 October 2008.

Provision of results

The NSWEC advised the media that the election night results would be published on the VTR from approximately 6.30 pm on Saturday 18 October 2008, with results being progressively updated in the following week as pre-poll, section and postal votes were received and entered into the count. The results of the official distribution of preferences were published upon completion on Thursday 23 October 2008.

The Media Liaison Officer was available to answer all queries regarding results during this period.

The role of the New South Wales Electoral Commission

NSWEC support

The role of the NSWEC at the by-election was to support the Returning Officer by providing:

- advice on election management;
- the voter information campaign for the by-election;
- assistance with enquiries from the general public as well as the media;
- electoral materials, including manuals and forms to be used in the Returning Officer's Office and the polling places;
- ballot boxes, voting screens and polling place furniture; and
- support and assistance for the NSWEC's election management system and other IT matters.

Staff

The Returning Officer employed 23 casual staff in her office at various times over the election period, and 128 people worked as election officials on election day in the 30 polling places open in Port Macquarie. The majority of these polling places had between one and three vote issuing tables, two had five and one had nine.

Training was conducted for the 35 Polling Place Managers and Deputy Polling Place Managers by the Returning Officer in the days prior to the by-election.

The training enabled the Returning Officer to:

- emphasise procedures and draw the Polling Place Managers' attention to by-election requirements;
- explain polling place staffing and equipment arrangements;
- explain arrangements for the preliminary counting of votes and for the two candidate preferred distribution of votes; and
- discuss any issues raised by the Polling Place Managers.

Mr Brian Nugent was appointed as the Returning Officer Support Officer (ROSO) for the four Returning Officers responsible for the 18 October 2008 by-elections. The ROSO acted as the point of contact between the Returning Officer and NSWEC staff, and ensured consistent advice concerning the administration of the by-elections was given.

Counting the votes and declaration of the poll

Votes were counted in the polling places and results were progressively relayed to the Returning Officer after 6 pm on election night. The first preference votes and the two candidate preferred results were then forwarded to the NSWEC so that they could be placed on the VTR.

On the Sunday after election day, a check count of first preference figures was conducted at the Returning Officer's office and those results were published on the VTR.

Counting of postal, pre-poll, declared institution votes and section votes began on the Monday after election day. The count could not be finalised until after 6 pm on the Wednesday following election day as postal votes are still able to be received up till this time, provided the postal vote certificate has been completed on or before election day.

The procedure for counting the Legislative Assembly votes is specified in the Seventh Schedule to the *New South Wales Constitution Act 1902*. To be elected, a candidate must receive more than half the number of the formal first preference votes taken in the electoral district, that is, 50% + 1 of the total formal first preference votes.

If no candidate receives more than half of the first preference votes, a distribution of preferences takes place. In this process the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and his/her ballot papers are distributed to the remaining candidates according to the next available preference shown.

Those ballot papers on which only a first preference is shown cannot be distributed and are set aside. They are said to be 'exhausted' and no longer remain in the count. This reduces the number of votes remaining in the count and therefore the number of votes required to be elected.

The distribution process is repeated with one candidate being eliminated at a time, until there is a candidate with more than half the number of the votes remaining in the count.

Such a distribution of preferences for the Port Macquarie By-election was conducted on the Wednesday following election day, with Mr Peter Besseling elected at count 10.

The result was declared by the Returning Officer on Friday 24 October 2008 and the Writ returned to the Hon Richard Torbay MP, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, on the same day.

Appendix I

Advertisements placed as part of the advertising campaign

- 1 Advice of by-election
- 2 Issue of Writ
- 3 Advice on pre-poll and postal voting

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTION
Saturday 18 October 2008

DISTRICT OF PORT MACQUARIE

Enrol to vote

The Port Macquarie By-election will be held on
Saturday 18 October 2008.

The electoral roll will close at 6pm Friday 29 August 2008.

To be eligible to vote, you must be correctly enrolled. If you've changed address you'll need to update your enrolment or if you've turned 18 or become an Australian citizen, you'll need to enrol to vote for the first time.


To check your enrolment or for an enrolment form visit www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736. Enrolment forms are also available from any Medicare, Centrelink or Australia Post office.

You can enrol in person at the Australian Electoral Commission office:
Taree Shop 4, Manning Arcade, 20 Manning St, Taree NSW 2430
West Kempsey, Suite 2, 72-74 Elbow St, West Kempsey NSW 2440
Completed enrolment forms can be also be faxed to:
New South Wales Electoral Commission - Fax: (02) 9290 5991
Australian Electoral Commission - Fax: (02) 6562 4269 or (02) 6551 0158

Remember, voting is compulsory and all enrolment forms must be received by 6pm Friday 29 August 2008.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service on 13 14 50.
For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call our telephone typewriter (TTY) (02) 9247 3568.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.



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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTION
Saturday 18 October 2008

DISTRICT OF PORT MACQUARIE

On 29 August 2008 I received from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Richard Torbay, MP, a writ for the election of one Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Port Macquarie. The writ is to be returned by 1 November 2008.
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 Friday, 19 September 2008 with the Returning Officer.

Nomination forms and the *Handbook for Candidates and Parties-State By-elections* are available from the Returning Officer or from the NSW Electoral Commission website, www.elections.nsw.gov.au.


Nomination enquiries: Ph 0420 958 290

Returning Officer details:
Linda Scorrin
Suite 4, 133-137 Gordon Street
Port Macquarie NSW
General enquiries: Ph 0439 455 148 (Office will be attended from 8 September)

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

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service on 13 14 50.
For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call our telephone typewriter (TTY) (02) 9247 3568.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.



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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTION
Saturday 18 October 2008

DISTRICT OF PORT MACQUARIE

EARLY VOTING OPTIONS

The Port Macquarie by-election is on Saturday, 18 October. If you can't get to a polling place, or you're out of the State on election day you may be eligible to vote early.

Remember, voting is compulsory.

Vote early in person

You can vote before election day by visiting a pre-poll voting centre at the following locations:

Returning Office, Port Macquarie
Suite 4, 133-137 Gordon Street
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Monday 22 September – Friday 17 October 9am to 6pm
Saturday 11 October 2008, 9am to 1pm

Laurieton Pre-poll
Shop 1, 4 Kew Road
Laurieton NSW 2443
Monday 13 October – Friday 17 October 9am to 5pm

Harrington Pre-poll
Harrington Post Office Gift Shop
4 Pilot Street
Harrington NSW 2427
Monday 13 October – Friday 17 October 9am to 5pm

Vote early by post


You can vote by post by returning a postal vote application by Monday, 13 October 2008 if you're overseas or Wednesday, 15 October 2008 if you're in Australia.

For more information on postal and pre-poll voting, and to obtain a postal vote application form visit our website or call us. Postal vote application forms are also available from any Australia Post office.

Information: www.elections.nsw.gov.au or 1300 135 736

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service on 13 14 50.
For hearing and speech impaired enquiries call our telephone typewriter (TTY) (02) 9247 3568.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.



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

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Appendix I

- 4 Advice on registration of electoral material
- 5 Advice on candidates and polling places
- 6 Results

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTION
Saturday 18 October 2008

STATE DISTRICT OF PORT MACQUARIE

REGISTER YOUR ELECTORAL MATERIAL

Electoral material, including how to vote cards, to be distributed on election day by candidates, registered political parties or any person or organisation, must be registered.

Information about electoral material is available in the Handbook for Parties and Candidates – State by-elections available from the NSWEC or www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Applications to register electoral material should be forwarded to the NSW Electoral Commission:
 Fax - (02) 9290 5830
 Mail - GPO BOX 832 Sydney NSW 2001
 Deliver in person - Level 25, 201 Kent St Sydney 2000


Applications must be received by 5 pm Friday, 10 October 2008. Material received after the deadline will not be considered.

Inquiries: (02) 9290 5899

Electoral material distributed before election day is not required to be registered but must comply with electoral legislation.

Information: www.elections.nsw.gov.au or 1300 135 736

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service on 13 14 50
 For hearing and speech impaired enquiries call our telephone operator: (TTY) (02) 9247 2668

Your vote is your voice. Be heard. 

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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTION
Saturday 18 October 2008

DISTRICT OF RYDE


Candidates
 The following candidates have nominated for election:
TAFFA Victor INDEPENDENT
PETERS Lindsay THE GREENS
DOMINELLO Victor LIBERAL
CAMPBELL Nicole LABOR
GOLDFINCH Peter AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS (NEW DIVISION)

Polling Places
 Voting will take place at the following places between 8am and 6pm, Saturday 18 October 2008.
 Polling places are often busy in the morning. To minimise delay please consider voting after 2pm.

Eastwood	Brush Farm Corrective Services Academy	66 Terry Road*
Eastwood	Denistone East Public School	Brabys Street*
Eastwood	Eastwood Baptist Church Hall	2 First Avenue
Eastwood	Eastwood Heights Public School	Lincoln Street*
Eastwood	Eastwood Public School	Rowe Street*
Eastwood	Ryde Hospital	Denistone Road
Macquarie Park	Moring College	120 Moring Road
Manlyfild	Kent Road Public School	Kent Road
Manlyfild	St Anthonys Parish Hall	64 Agincourt Road
Meadowbank	Meadowbank College of TAFE	Sea Street
North Ryde	North Ryde Public School	Coxe Road
North Ryde	Truscott Street Public School	Truscott Street*
Ryde	Australian Air League Hall	Stene Ross Park, 64 Bridge Road
Ryde	Meadowbank Public School	Thudra Street
Ryde	Ryde Baptist Church Hall	Dobson Crescent
Ryde	Ryde Historic Hall	142 Eastwood Road
Ryde	Ryde Public School	Tucker Street
Ryde	The Living Way Church Hall	85 North Road
West Ryde	Marsden High School	Willbourne Street
West Ryde	Ryde College of TAFE Banksia Building	Parke Street
West Ryde	West Ryde Public School	6 Eidsenour Street

(*)Wheelchair Accessible

Returning Officer
Information: elections.nsw.gov.au or 1300 135 736

Your vote is your voice. Be heard. 

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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTIONS
Held Saturday, 18 October 2008


Result of By-elections

On Friday, 24 October 2008 I returned to the speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Richard Torbay, MP, the writs for the election of one member for each of the Legislative Assembly Districts of Cabramatta, Lakemba, Port Macquarie and Ryde.

The following candidates were elected:

Cabramatta	Nick Lalich
Lakemba	Robert Furolo
Port Macquarie	Peter Besseling
Ryde	Victor Dominello

Colin Barry,
Electoral Commissioner

Your vote is your voice. Be heard. 

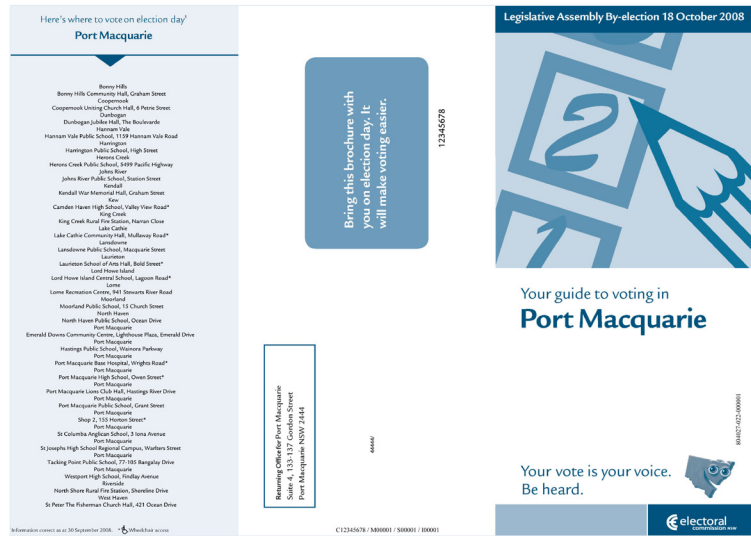
Authorised by Colin Barry, Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

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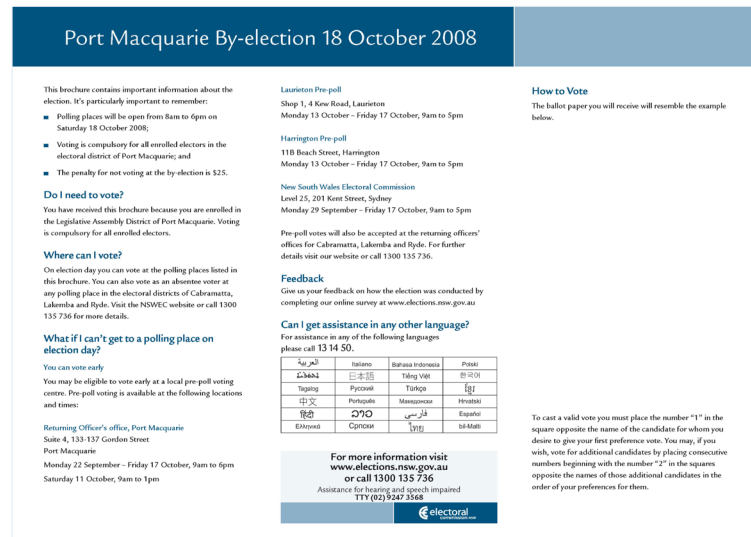
Appendix 2

Elector brochure

- 1 Front
- 2 Back



1




2

Appendix 3

Ballot paper

BALLOT PAPER
Legislative Assembly Election
Electoral District of
Port Macquarie



Place the number "1" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you desire to give your first preference vote.
You may, if you wish, vote for additional candidates by placing consecutive numbers beginning with the number "2" in the squares opposite the names of those additional candidates in the order of your preferences for them.
Fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and put it in the ballot box or in the envelope provided as appropriate.

CANDIDATES

<input type="checkbox"/>	LANGLEY James INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	WALDRON Bob CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)
<input type="checkbox"/>	INTEMANN Lisa INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	RUSSELL Susie THE GREENS
<input type="checkbox"/>	WILLIAMS Leslie NATIONALS
<input type="checkbox"/>	GALATI Tony INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHARPHAM Bob INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	BESSELING Peter INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	HARRISON Jamie INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRICE Cameron INDEPENDENT

