

Report on the conduct of the election

# Blacktown

## State by-election

14 October 2017

## 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](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au)  
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm

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The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP  
Premier  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

I am pleased to submit my report on the conduct of the State By-election held on Saturday, 14th October 2017 for the Legislative Assembly District of Blacktown.

Yours sincerely



John Schmidt  
Electoral Commissioner  
17 April 2018

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## Foreword

This report provides information on the conduct of the by-election held for the Blacktown Electoral District on 14th October 2017 following the resignation of Mr John Robertson.

The Writ for the Blacktown By-election was issued on 25 September 2017, giving the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) a little under three weeks to prepare the by-election.

The conduct of the election proceeded smoothly. The turnout and informality rates for the Blacktown By-election were 81.52 per cent and 4.89 per cent, respectively.

The NSWEC provided the first preference count on election night and the Writ was returned on 20 November 2017.

The delivery of efficient, accurate and trusted elections, in accordance with NSW electoral legislation, relies heavily upon the capability of NSWEC staff. I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to these staff and the NSWEC's suppliers and contractors for their contribution and commitment to the successful conduct of the Blacktown By-election.

# Overview

## By-election outcome

The candidate elected at the Blacktown By-election on 14th October 2017 was Stephen Bali (Labor) with 31,031 votes, 71.56 per cent of first preference votes.

## Candidates standing for election

Candidate Name	Party Affiliation
Josh GREEN	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
Stephen BALI	Labor
Chris WINSLOW	The Greens
Vivek SINGHA	

## Cost data

Cost of By-election	\$594,967
Cost per Elector	\$10.64

## By-election summary

<b>Enrolment</b>	
Total Electors	55,926
<b>Voting venues</b>	
Pre-poll venues	2
Polling Places (including Pre-poll and Declared Institutions)	25
Staff employed for election	148
<b>Voter Turnout</b>	
Formal votes	43,362
Informal votes	2,229
Total votes	45,591
Voter turnout rate	81.52%
Formality rate	95.11%
Non-voting penalty notices issued	8,737 <sup>1</sup>
Penalty notices issued as % of Roll	15.62%
<b>Voting Options used by Electors</b>	
Ordinary	30,141
iVote	2,182
Postal	1,722
Pre-poll	11,270
Declared Institution	35
Enrol and vote	185
Provisional/Silent	52
Absent	4
<b>Candidates</b>	
Total candidates	4

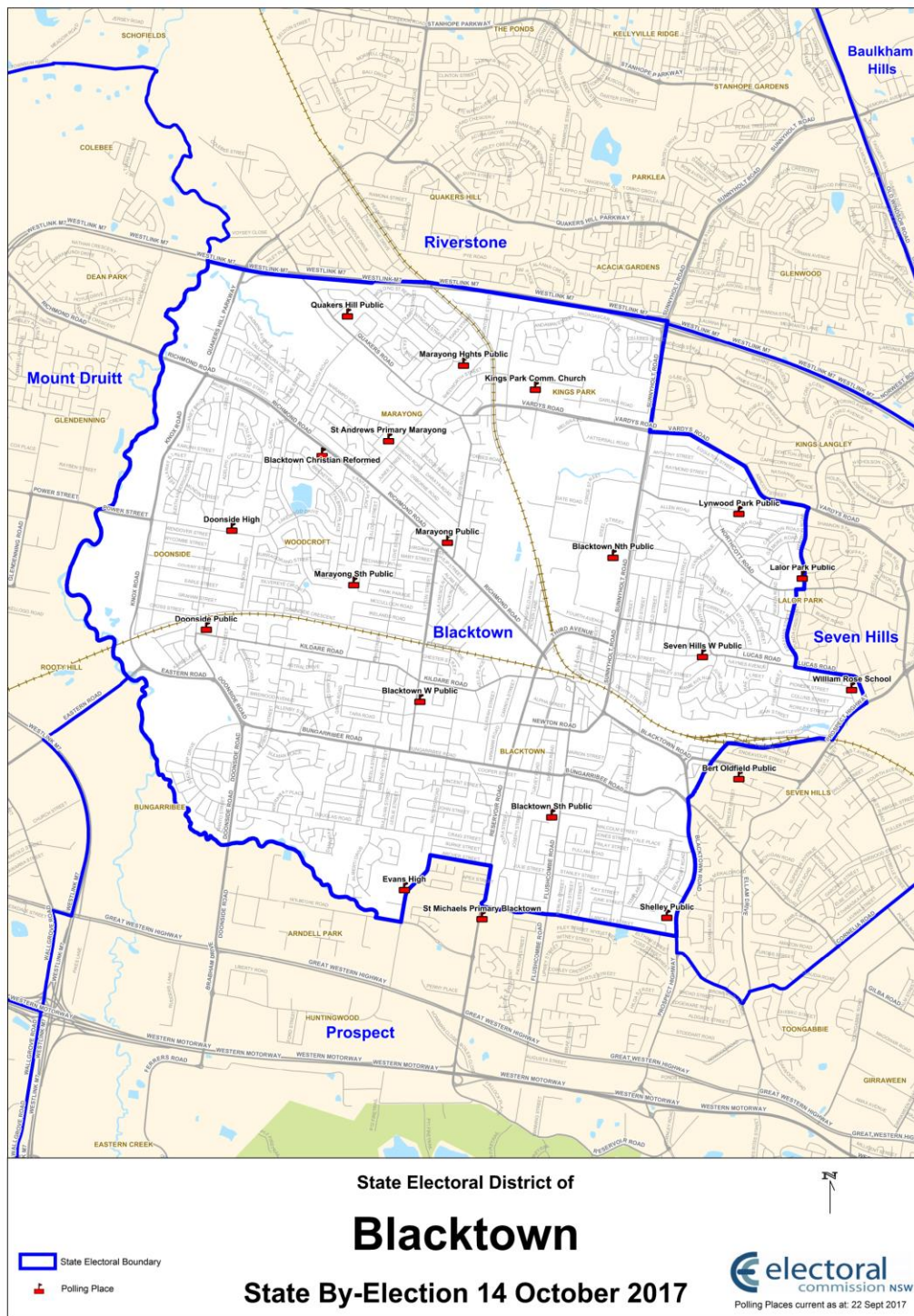
<sup>1</sup> A penalty notice is withdrawn if an elector provides a valid excuse for not voting. At the date of this report the enforcement process for failure-to-vote penalty notices for this by-election had not yet been completed.

## By-election key dates

Date	Matter
Monday 25 September 2017	Issue of Writ
Monday 25 September 2017	Commencement of capped expenditure period
Monday 25 September 2017	Candidate and third-party campaigner registration opened
Monday 25 September 2017	Close of Rolls (6pm)
Monday 25 September 2017	Candidate nominations opened
Wednesday 27 September 2017	Close of party nominations at NSWEC HO (12noon)
Thursday 28 September 2017	Close of nominations at RO office (12noon)
Thursday 28 September 2017	Candidate registrations closed (12noon)
Thursday 28 September 2017	Ballot paper draw (2pm)
Thursday 28 September 2017	Registration of Electoral Materials commenced
Monday 2 October 2017	Pre-poll voting opened (8am-6pm)
Monday 25 September 2017	iVote Registration opened (10am)
Friday 6 October 2017	Registration of Electoral Material closed (5pm)
Friday 6 October 2017	Registration of third-party campaigners closed (5pm)
Monday 9 October 2017	Declared Institution voting started
Monday 2 October 2017	iVote voting opened (8am)
Monday 9 October 2017	Postal vote application (outside Australia) closed (6pm)
Wednesday 11 October 2017	Postal vote application (within Australia) closed (6pm)
Friday 13 October 2017	Pre-poll voting closed (6pm)
Friday 13 October 2017	Declared Institution voting ended
Saturday 14th October 2017	Election Day (8am-6pm)
Saturday 14th October 2017	End of capped expenditure period
Saturday 14th October 2017	iVote registration closed (1pm)
Saturday 14th October 2017	iVote voting closed (6pm)
Wednesday 18 October 2017	Receipt of postal votes declarations closed (6pm)
Monday 20 November 2017	Writ returned
Tuesday 21 November 2017	Last day for return of Writ

# Blacktown Electoral District

## Blacktown District profile



The State Electoral District of Blacktown falls wholly within the boundaries of the local government area of Blacktown City Council.



## Area

33.03 square kilometres

## Postcodes

2147, 2148, 2763, 2767

## Localities

Blacktown, Bungarribee, Doonside, Kings Park, Lalor Park, Marayong, Quakers Hill, Seven Hills, Woodcroft.

## Demographic profile

The 2016 census revealed that Blacktown had 87,705 residents of whom 49.9 per cent were female (43,779) and 50.1 per cent were male (43,928). Indigenous Australians made up 2.4 per cent (2,097) of the population.

The median age was 34 years which is below the overall average for Australia of 38. Approximately 10,370 of the population was aged 65 or over (11.8 per cent) 26.9 per cent were aged under 20.

Almost 43,911 (50.1 per cent) residents were born in Australia. The most frequent countries of birth after Australia were India (10.5 per cent), Philippines (7.1 per cent), New Zealand (2.2 per cent), and Fiji (2.1 per cent).

Throughout the electorate 49.3 per cent of people speak only English at home. Other languages spoken at home included:

- Punjabi (5.2 per cent)
- Hindi (4.4 per cent)
- Tagalog (4.3 per cent)
- Arabic (3.5 per cent)
- Filipino (2.2 per cent)

## Historical electoral representation

Previous recent State representation for the Blacktown District has been:

Date	Name	Party
2011-2017	John ROBERTSON	Australian Labor Party
1988-2003	Paul Bernard GIBSON	Australian Labor Party
1988-1991	(Pam) Pamela Diane ALLAN	Australian Labor Party
1981-1991	John Joseph AQUILINA	Australian Labor Party

## Services to Electors

The NSWEC undertook an advertising and communication campaign to raise awareness of the Blacktown By-election and provide necessary information to electors and candidates.

The major aspects of this strategy involved:

- paid advertisements
- an elector brochure sent to each enrolled elector;
- active social media posting and moderation (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram); and
- media liaison

All communications activity directed people to the NSWEC website which provided further detailed information about the election.

## Advertising

The *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* (PEE Act) prescribes that certain advertising must occur. The advertising strategy for the Blacktown By-election involved placing newspaper advertisements in state-wide and local newspapers supporting the following phases of the election:

- Issue of Writ / Nominations information
- Early voting options – including pre-poll, postal, iVote and register electoral material
- Remember to vote – including a list of candidates

Paid advertisements comprised print, boosted Facebook posts and digital display. Digital display advertisements were placed to target eligible iVote users who were interstate or overseas.

## Elector brochure

All enrolled electors were sent a personalised elector brochure to their nominated mailing address. The brochure contained information about the by-election including early voting options and a list of polling places. See Appendix A for brochure artwork.

## Media liaison

Targeted media releases supported the various phases of the election. The media officer provided live and pre-recorded radio interviews as required and answered media enquiries to assist the media cover the elections.

## NSWEC website

The NSWEC's website provided a range of information concerning participation in the by-election, including 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 Blacktown By-election results page had 3,017 unique views.

## Election reminder service

This reminder service enables electors to register with the NSWEC to be kept notified, by SMS message, email, or both, of impending elections and be sent one or more reminders to vote.

For the Blacktown by-election, the total number of email reminders sent was 4,856. There were 4,592 SMS reminders. In all, 2,782 electors availed themselves of the service.

## Service standards

The NSWEC seeks to meet the expectations of electors about its electoral services and to this end has developed a Service Charter which outlines the NSWEC's election service standards. The Election Service Charter 2017 – 2020 was the overall service standard for this by-election. In short, the NSWEC undertakes to:

- Foster participation in the democratic process
- Provide seamless service delivery
- Be customer focussed and commercially minded
- Be innovative and fast adaptors

The Service Charter can be found at Appendix D.

## Culturally and linguistically diverse electors

The Blacktown Electoral District is a high culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) district. Electors had access to interpreters via the Translating and Interpreting Service. This service was promoted in the on-line training for polling place Managers and Election Officials.

## **Electors with disabilities and access to polling places**

Securing appropriate premises for polling places 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, location and workplace health and safety requirements.

As far as practically possible, the NSWEC aimed to provide accessible and appropriately sited polling places for the Blacktown By-election. Detailed information was provided to assist 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 NSWEC staff.

## **Arrangements for voting before election day**

Electors who were unable to vote on election day had the opportunity to vote early using iVote, postal or pre-poll voting (including voting in Declared Institutions).

A total of 15,209 electors voted early, representing approximately one third of total votes cast. This volume is in line with a general trend of early voting across NSW and other Australian jurisdictions.

## **Postal voting**

Electors who were 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.

Of 2,227 Postal Votes Issued, 1,724 were accepted, 155 rejected and 348 not scrutinised, because they were either returned too late or not returned at all.

## **Technology assisted voting**

The PEE Act provides for technology assisted voting to be used in Parliamentary by-elections.

Both online and telephone voting (iVote) were provided for the Blacktown by-election, with online voting being the preferred option for electors who use iVote. Electors were eligible to use iVote if they:

- had a visual impairment
- had a disability
- had their place of living 20 kilometres or more from a polling place or
- were outside NSW on election day.

There were 2,182 iVotes cast (4.79 per cent of total votes).

## Pre-poll voting

Pre-poll voting was open to electors at the Returning Officer's office and the NSWEC's office in the Sydney CBD. The pre-poll locations were listed in the elector brochure and on the NSWEC website.

Pre-polling for electors who were overseas or interstate was provided via postal voting and iVote.

### Pre-poll Returning Officer's office

Blacktown RO Office, L1, Suite 2, 22 Main Street, Blacktown NSW 2148

Monday 2 October – Friday 13 October 2017

Monday – Friday 8.00am – 6.00pm

Thursday 12 October 8.00am – 8.00pm

Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm

Closed on Sunday

### Pre-poll NSWEC head office

Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney

Monday 2 October – Friday 13 October 2017

Monday - Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Closed Saturday and Sunday.

## **Polling places**

As noted earlier, securing appropriate premises for polling places and the Returning Officer's office can be difficult. The pool of available rental premises is limited by the short-term nature of the lease and the NSWEC's space, accessibility, location and workplace health and safety requirements.

## **Declared Institutions**

The PEE Act allows the Electoral Commissioner to appoint hospitals, convalescent homes or similar institutions as places at which residents or inpatients of those institutions can cast their votes before election day.

In the conduct of the Blacktown By-election, five venues were designated as Declared Institutions and, of these, two requested postal votes. Election staff visited the other Declared Institutions between 9 October 2017 and 13 October 2017.

# **Services to candidates and registered political parties**

## **Nominations**

Nomination forms were available from the NSWEC website and could be lodged after the issue of the Writ (25 September 2017). The Writ set 27 September 2017 as the date for close of nominations for political parties lodging forms with the NSWEC's head office and 28 September 2017 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 Blacktown. Independent candidates could only nominate at the Returning Officer's office.

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

## **Registrations**

Candidates and third-party campaigners were required to be registered for the by-election.

Candidates who intended receiving political donations or incurring electoral communication expenditure before nominating were required to register and appoint an official agent. Candidates who did not previously register were deemed to be registered from nomination day.

Third-party campaigners were required to register before incurring \$2,000 in electoral communication expenditure during the capped State expenditure period.

Registration forms could be lodged with the NSWEC from the issue of the Writ (25 September 2017). Candidates had until 28 September 2017 to lodge a registration form, while registrations for third-party campaigners closed on 6 October 2017.

Four candidates were registered for the by-election. One third-party campaigner applied to be registered for the by-election.

## **Electoral material**

Registration of electoral material was handled centrally. Registration of this material opened on 28 September 2017.

Close of applications to register electoral material was 5pm, 6 October 2017.

# **Conducting the Blacktown By-Election**

## **Returning Officer arrangements**

The Returning Officer's office was situated at L1, Suite 2, 22 Main Street, Blacktown NSW 2148.

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 electoral 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.

## **Election costs**

Key cost drivers for the election included:

- election officials wages;
- office accommodation for the Returning Officer;
- information and technology support;
- polling places;
- number of electors in the electorate;
- newspaper advertising; and
- printing/materials for polling places.

The final cost of NSWEC conducting the election was \$594,967 (GST exclusive).

This was made up of election staffing \$151,292; venues \$42,316; logistics \$26,821; ballot papers and electoral rolls \$9,170; electronic voting \$169,426 and other miscellaneous items \$195,942. The cost per elector was \$10.64.

## Logistical and other support

### Staffing

The majority of casual election 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 recruit staff, pack and prepare materials for each polling place, operate pre-poll voting, visit Declared Institutions, count votes and pack materials after the election.

Recruitment of election staff took place via the NSWEC on-line registration system. There was 148 people employed to work at the Election. The election staff was made up of:

- 20 polling place managers,
- 9 deputy polling place managers,
- 31 Declaration Vote issuing officers,
- 87 Election Officials
- 1 Returning Officer.

Of the staff employed, two staff members identified as being Aboriginal (1.39%), two election staff members had a disability (1.35%) and 52 (35.13%) staff members spoke another language other than English.

All polling place staff must complete an online training program that is mapped to their job role. Polling place staff are also issued with an Instruction Manual to prepare them for election day.

### Supplies

A total of 80,700 ballot papers with security backgrounds were printed by a security printer. A copy of the ballot paper is at Appendix C.

### Waste management

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

In the Blacktown 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.



## **IT support**

For the Blacktown By-election the Election Management Application was used. This is 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 two candidate preferred vote). 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 6pm on the Wednesday after election day. At this point, the final distribution of preferences is conducted.

Candidates' scrutineers are welcome to attend all counts.

**Table 1 Final Results Blacktown By-election held 14th October 2017**

Candidates	Votes	
Josh GREEN	6,540	
Stephen BALI	31,031	ELECTED
Chris WINSLOW	3,825	
Vivek SINGHA	1,966	
<b>Total Formal Votes</b>	43,362	
<b>Total Informal Votes</b>	2,229	
<b>Total Votes</b>	45,591	
<b>Absolute Majority</b>	21,682	

More detailed information on the counts is available on the NSWEC's website [www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au)

# Enforcement of compulsory voting

## Failure to vote

Under electoral legislation, the Electoral Commissioner 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 \$55.00. The funds generated from penalty notices are not retained by the NSWEC but are paid into NSW Government consolidated revenue.

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 the Blacktown State by-election.

The number of electors who were issued with penalty notices was 8,737 (15.62 per cent of electors enrolled). The remainder of electors who did not vote had provided a valid excuse for not voting either prior to or immediately after election day.

Initial Apparent Failure to Vote notices for the by-election were issued on 10 January 2018. Responses can be submitted either by mail, email, or through the NSWEC online portal. The notice provides options to satisfy the matter by either

- Paying the penalty of \$55.00;
- Notifying us of the polling place in which they attended;
- Submitting a reason for failure to vote for review; and/or
- Electing for the matter to be dealt with by a court

If a person does not respond to the initial Apparent Failure to Vote notice by the due date (28 days from the issue of the notice), a reminder notice is issued, giving a further 28 days to deal with the matter.

If the elector's reason for failing to vote is not accepted, a Final Notice will be issued giving two options: paying the penalty of \$55.00 or electing for the matter to be dealt with by a court. Final notices will be issued by the end of April 2018.

If no response to the final notice is received by the due date, the matter is referred to Revenue NSW for enforcement action.

To help electors avoid this penalty in future elections, the penalty notice advises non-voters of the availability of the NSWEC's 'Election Reminder Service'.

## Compliance Operation – State by-elections October 2017

### Overview and Objectives

The NSWEC is responsible for ensuring compliance with and enforcement of the PEE Act and the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* (EFED Act). The Funding, Disclosure and Compliance (FDC) Division administers the enforcement functions.

**Table 2: Potential offences under the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981**

Section	Offence	Penalty
s96AA s96l(1)	Third-party Campaigner – Failure to register and appoint an agent`	\$44,000 or 2 years imprisonment or both

**Table 3: Potential Offences under the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912**

Section	Offence	Penalty
s90(4)	Offences by scrutineers	\$1100
s93(2)	Offences at polling place	\$550
s112(1)(d)	Multiple Voting	\$11,000 or 3 years imprisonment
s113	Obstructing elector	\$55
s114(4)	Contravene direction of Returning Officer or polling place manager	\$550
s114U	Scrutineer Offences	\$1100 or 6 months imprisonment
s150	Treating	\$11,000 or 3 years imprisonment
s151	Intimidation	\$11,000 or 3 years imprisonment
s151A	Printing false information	Corporation: \$5500 Individual: \$1100 or 6 months imprisonment
s151B	Poster offences	\$330
s151E	Distribution of election material – Name, address, author and printer details	\$1100 or 6 months imprisonment
s151F	Distribution of electoral material on polling day	\$1100 or 6 months imprisonment
s151H	Canvassing at polling place	\$550

There were no complaints received regarding alleged breaches of legislation for the Blacktown By-election.

## Comparison to 2015 State General Election and other by-elections

### Turnout and informality rates

In the 2015 NSW State Election there were five candidates for the Blacktown District. The number of electors enrolled was 54,495, the voter turnout figure was 89.05 per cent and the informality rate was 4.66 per cent.

At the October 2017 by-election, there were four candidates and the enrolment figure had increased to 55,926. The turnout and informality rates were 81.52 per cent and 4.89 per cent, respectively. Traditionally, turnout rates tend to be lower in by-elections than general elections and informality rates higher.

The turnout for the Blacktown by-election was higher than the average for State by-elections over the past five years, (78.93 per cent), and the informality rate higher than the average across the same period of 3.63 per cent.

## Non-voters and penalty notices<sup>2</sup>

There were 8,737 penalty notices (PNs) issued for the Blacktown by-election (15.62 per cent of those on the electoral roll). This is higher than the Cootamundra by-election and slightly lower than the Murray by-election, both of which took place on the same date.

**Table 4: Penalty Notices, Blacktown by-election 14th October 2017 frequency and percentages**

By-election	No. on Roll	PNs issued	No. PN as % Roll
Blacktown	55,926	8,737	15.62
Cootamundra	53,529	5,409	10.10
Murray	55,985	6,750	12.06

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<sup>2</sup> As noted earlier, a penalty notice is withdrawn if an elector provides a valid excuse for not voting. At the date of this report the enforcement process for failure-to-vote penalty notices for these by-elections had not yet been completed.

# Appendices

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# Appendix A: Blacktown By-election 14th October 2017 elector brochure

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

Here's where to vote on election day\*

Venue	Address
Bert Oldfield Public School	Oldfield Road Seven Hills
Blacktown Christian Reformed Church	240 Richmond Road Woodcroft
Blacktown North Public School	1 Bessemer Street Blacktown
Blacktown South Public School	183 Flushcombe Road Blacktown
Blacktown West Public School	Lancaster Street Blacktown
Doonside High School	Power Street Doonside
Doonside Public School	School Parade Doonside
Evans High School	166 Walters Road Blacktown
Kings Park Community Church	1/13 Turbo Rd Kings Park
Lalor Park Public School	Heffron Road Lalor Park
Lynwood Park Public School	87 Turner Street Blacktown
Marayong Heights Public School	Guerie Street Marayong
Marayong Public School	Davis Road Marayong
Marayong South Public School	64 McClean Street Blacktown
Quakers Hill Public School	Medlow Drive Quakers Hill
Seven Hills West Public School	Lucas Road Seven Hills
Shelley Public School	Hadrian Avenue Blacktown
St Andrews Primary School Marayong	36 Breakfast Road Marayong
St Michael's Primary School	Orwell Street Blacktown
William Rose School	Hope Street Seven Hills

For accessibility information visit [www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 135 736

\*Information correct as at 27 September 2017.

Legislative Assembly By-election  
Saturday, 14 October 2017



Your guide to voting in  
**Blacktown**

**YOUR STATE. YOUR LIFE. YOUR VOTE.**

electoral commission nsw

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25/09/2017 5:02:16 PM

## Blacktown State By-election Saturday, 14 October 2017

### 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, 14 October 2017;
- Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors in the electoral district of Blacktown; 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 Blacktown. Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors.

#### Who am I voting for?

You will vote to elect a candidate to represent the electorate of Blacktown in the NSW Legislative Assembly. The full list of candidates is available at [www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://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.

#### Making political donations to a candidate or political party

Did you know that if you make a political donation to a candidate or political party of \$1,000 or more you must report it to the NSW Electoral Commission at the end of the financial year? For more information visit [www.elections.nsw.gov.au/Blacktown/donors](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/Blacktown/donors)

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

If you can't vote on election day you can vote early.

#### Pre-poll voting

Pre-poll voting is available at the following locations:

Venue	Address	Opening times
Blacktown Returning Officer's Office	L1, Suite 2, 22 Main Street Blacktown	2 - 13 October 2017
		Mon - Fri: 8am to 6pm
		Sat: 9am - 5pm
		Thu (12 Oct): 8am - 9pm
		Closed on Sun
Sydney Pre-poll	Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney	3 - 13 October 2017
		Mon - Fri: 9:00am - 5:00pm
		Closed Sat, Sun

#### Vote via internet or telephone

People who are blind, vision impaired or who have another disability, live more than 20kms from the nearest polling place, or who will be outside NSW on election day, can apply to use the iVote® system to vote via the internet or the telephone.

To register visit [iVote.nsw.gov.au](http://iVote.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 2 iVote (1300 24 86 83) or from outside Australia call +612 9290 5287. Registrations close at 1pm EST on Saturday, 14 October 2017.

#### Vote by post

Postal voting is also available for eligible voters. You can apply online at [www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au). You can obtain an application form online, from the Returning Officer or by calling us.

Applications must be received by the returning officer by 6.00pm Wednesday, 11 October 2017 if sent within Australia, or 6.00pm Monday, 9 October 2017 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
العبرית	日本語	Tiếng Việt	한국어
Tagalog	Русский	Türkçe	இந்திய
中文	Português	Македонски	Hrvatski
हिन्दी	فارسی	Ελληνικά	Српски
Ελληνικά	Српски	മലയാളം	bi-Malti

For more information:  
[www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://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.

electoral commission nsw

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## Appendix B: Blacktown By-election 14th October 2017 polling places

### Pre-poll voting venues

Venue	Address	Suburb	Accessibility
Sydney Pre-poll	Level 25, 201 Kent Street	Sydney NSW 2000	Assisted Access
Blacktown Returning Officer's Office	L1, Suite 2, 22 Main Street	Blacktown NSW 2148	Assisted Access

### Declared Institutions

Venue	Address	Suburb	Accessibility
Blacktown Hospital	Marcel Crescent	Blacktown NSW 2148	N/A
Holy Family Aged Care Services	116-132 Quakers Road	Marayong NSW 2148	N/A
Doonside Residential Aged Care Facility	84 Earle Street	Doonside NSW 2767	N/A

### Voting venues

Venue	Address	Suburb	Accessibility
Bert Oldfield Public School	Oldfield Road	Seven Hills NSW 2147	Assisted Access
Blacktown Christian Reformed Church	240 Richmond Road	Woodcroft NSW 2767	Fully accessible
Blacktown North Public School	1 Bessemer Street	Blacktown NSW 2148	No wheelchair access
Blacktown South Public School	183 Flushcombe Road	Blacktown NSW 2148	Assisted Access
Blacktown West Public School	Lancaster Street	Blacktown NSW 2148	Assisted Access
Doonside High School	Power Street	Doonside NSW 2767	Assisted Access
Doonside Public School	School Parade	Doonside NSW 2767	Fully accessible
Evans High School	166 Walters Road	Blacktown NSW 2148	Assisted Access
Kings Park Community Church	1/13 Turbo Rd	Kings Park NSW 2148	Fully accessible
Lalor Park Public School	Heffron Road	Lalor Park NSW 2147	Fully accessible
Lynwood Park Public School	87 Turner Street	Blacktown NSW 2148	Fully accessible
Marayong Heights Public School	Guerie Street	Marayong NSW 2148	Assisted Access
Marayong Public School	Davis Road	Marayong NSW 2148	Fully accessible
Marayong South Public School	64 McClean Street	Blacktown NSW 2148	Fully accessible
Quakers Hill Public School	Medlow Drive	Quakers Hill NSW 2763	Assisted Access



Venue	Address	Suburb	Accessibility
Seven Hills West Public School	Lucas Road	Seven Hills NSW 2147	Fully accessible
Shelley Public School	Hadrian Avenue	Blacktown NSW 2148	No wheelchair access
St Andrews Primary School Marayong	36 Breakfast Road	Marayong NSW 2148	Assisted Access
St Michael's Primary School	Orwell Street	Blacktown NSW 2148	No wheelchair access
William Rose School	Hope Street	Seven Hills NSW 2147	Assisted Access

## Appendix C: Blacktown By-election 14th October 2017 ballot paper

**Ballot Paper**  
Legislative Assembly Election – Electoral District of  
**Blacktown**  
Held on 14 October 2017

**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**


**GREEN Josh**  
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
(FRED NILE GROUP)

**BALI Stephen**  
LABOR

**WINSLOW Chris**  
THE GREENS

**SINGHA Vivek**

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

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commission NSW

## Appendix D: Election Service Charter 2017 - 2020



### Election Service Charter 2017 - 2020

GOALS	TO BE ACHIEVED BY:	SUCCESS MEASURED BY:
<b>Foster participation in the democratic process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting impartial and fair elections in accordance with the law</li> <li>• Providing services and information to enable all election participants to participate fully including communities with historically lower participation rates</li> <li>• Communicating election information in ways that encourage awareness and engagement</li> <li>• Supporting events and activities that encourage participation in democracy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election participants report conduct of election as impartial and fair and without barriers to participation</li> <li>• Election participation equals or exceeds prior election levels</li> <li>• Formality rates equal or exceed prior election levels</li> <li>• There are no Court challenges to declared results</li> </ul>
<b>Provide seamless service delivery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing comprehensive services including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– information services</li> <li>– enrolment services</li> <li>– voting options including pre-poll and technology enabled voting</li> <li>– location and accessibility of polling places</li> <li>– services to assist those with particular needs</li> <li>– responsibilities and entitlements of candidates, groups and political parties including funding and disclosure requirements</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Providing efficient services to meet needs of participants according to legislative mandate</li> <li>• Providing election services in timely, efficient and professional manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders feel well informed about election events</li> <li>• Election participants report satisfaction with the NSWEC's electoral services</li> </ul>
<b>Be customer focussed and commercially minded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the needs of our stakeholders and users of our election services through liaison, consultation and structured feedback</li> <li>• Delivering well organised, reliable and quality elections</li> <li>• Ensuring elections are provided on a competitive basis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants report satisfaction with NSWEC's services and election staff</li> <li>• Those entities using the NSWEC to conduct elections report satisfaction with services provided and see these are representing value</li> <li>• Costs of providing elections are recovered</li> <li>• The NSWEC actively seeks feedback on its services</li> </ul>
<b>Be innovative and fast adaptors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilising new technologies to increase convenience for those participating in elections within the legislative mandate while maintaining integrity of the election and security of information</li> <li>• Review developments in election services and funding and disclosure across Australia and internationally for possible application to NSW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NSWEC is seen as seeking to adapt its services, within legislative requirements, to meet participants' needs</li> <li>• The NSWEC advises Government of innovations that will strengthen the democratic system and improve administration of elections</li> </ul>

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