

Report on the conduct of the election

Cootamundra State by-election

14 October 2017

The New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC)

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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 Cootamundra.

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 Cootamundra Electoral District on 14th October 2017 following the resignation of Ms Katrina Hodgkinson.

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

The conduct of the election proceeded smoothly. The turnout and informality rates for the Cootamundra By-election were 87.18 per cent and 2.27 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 Cootamundra By-election.

Overview

By-election outcome

The candidate elected at the Cootamundra By-election on 14th October 2017 was Steph Cooke (The Nationals) with 21,093 votes, 46.25 per cent of first preference votes.

Candidates standing for election

Candidate Name	Party Affiliation
Philip LANGFIELD	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
Jeffrey PASSLOW	The Greens
Matthew STADTMILLER	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers
Jim SALEAM	
Charlie SHEAHAN	Country Labor
Steph COOKE	The Nationals

Cost data

Cost of By-election	\$666,842
Cost per Elector	\$12.46

By-election summary

Enrolment	
Total Electors	53,529
Voting venues	
Pre-poll venues	7
Polling Places (including Pre-poll and Declared Institutions)	47
Staff employed for election	166
Voter Turnout	
Formal votes	45,608
Informal votes	1,057
Total votes	46,665
Voter turnout rate	87.18%
Formality rate	97.73%
Non-voting penalty notices issued	5,409 ¹
Penalty notices issued as % of Roll	10.10%
Voting Options used by Electors	
Ordinary	24,992
iVote	2,723
Postal	1,852
Pre-poll	16,363
Declared Institution	361
Enrol and vote	200
Provisional/Silent	40
Absent	134
Candidates	
Total candidates	6

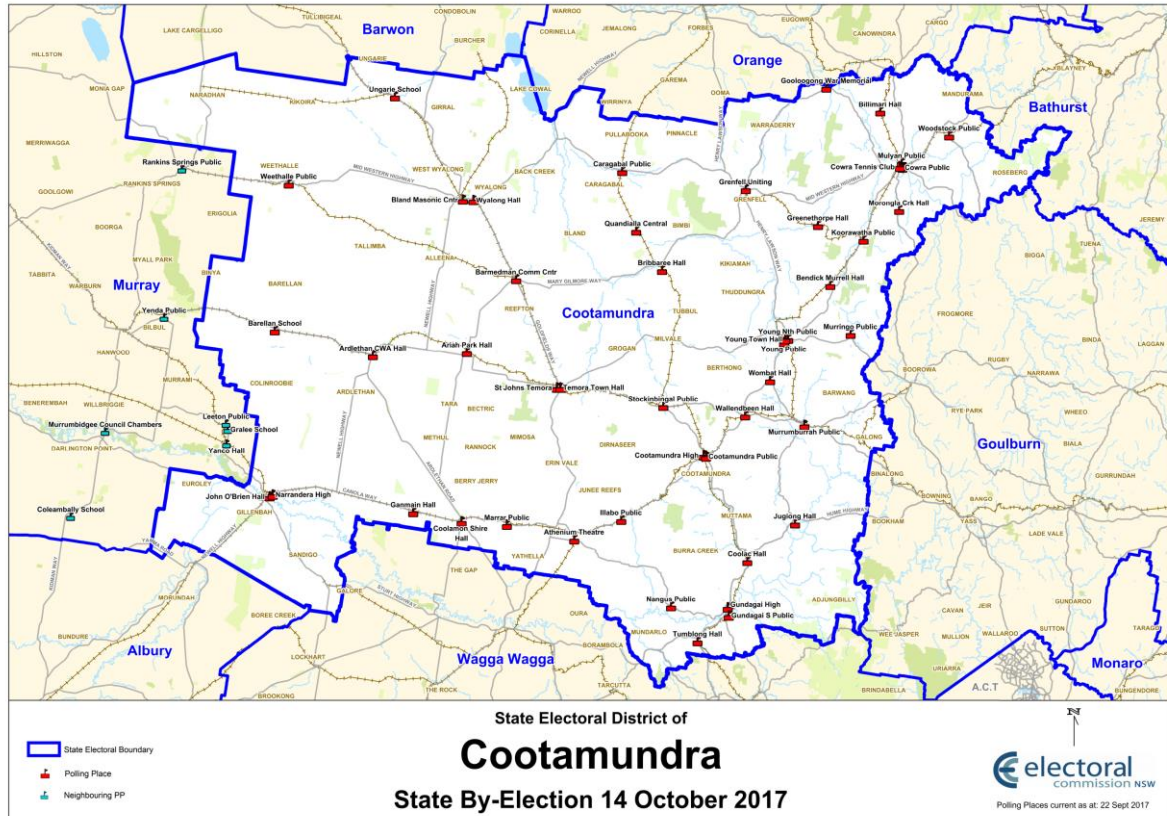
¹ A penalty notice is withdrawn if an elector provides a valid excuse for not voting. At the date of this report the enforcement process for failure-to-vote penalty notices for this by-election had not yet been completed.

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

Cootamundra Electoral District

Cootamundra District profile



The State Electoral District of Cootamundra covers all or part of the local government areas of Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Cowra, Hilltops, Junee, Narranderra, Temora and Weddin Councils.

Area

34,711 square kilometres

Postcodes

2582, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2590, 2594, 2650, 2652, 2663, 2665, 2666, 2668, 2669, 2671, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2705, 2721, 2722, 2725, 2726, 2727, 2729, 2792, 2793, 2794, 2797, 2799, 2803, 2804, 2805, 2807, 2808, 2809, 2810, 2871

Localities

Adjungbilly, Alleena, Ardlethan, Ariah Park, Aurville, Back Creek, Barellan, Barmedman, Barwang, Beckom, Bectric, Beggan Beggan, Bendick Murrell, Berremangra, Berry Jerry, Berthong, Bethungra, Billimari, Bimbi, Binalong, Binya, Bland, Bookham, Boree Creek, Bribbaree, Brobenah, Bulla Creek, Bumbaldry, Burra Creek, Burrangong, Canowindra, Caragabal, Colinroobie, Combaning, Coolac, Coolamon, Cooneys Creek, Cootamundra, Corbie Hill, Corobimilla, Cowabbie, Cowra, Crowther, Cunnigar, Darbalara, Darbys Falls, Demondrille, Dirnaseer, Erin Vale, Euroley, Eurongilly, Galong, Galore, Ganmain, Garland, Gidginbung, Gillenbah, Girral, Glenelg, Gobarralong, Gooloogong, Greenethorpe, Grenfell, Grogan, Grong Grong, Gundagai, Harden, Harefield, Illabo, Jones Creek, Jugiong, Junee, Junee Reefs, Kamarah, Kikiamah, Kikoira, Kingsvale, Koorawatha, Lake Cowal, Landervale, Lyndhurst, Maimuru, Mandurama, Marinna, Marrar, Matong, McMahons Reef, Memagong, Methul, Milvale, Mimosa, Mirrool, Monteagle, Moombooldool, Morangarell, Morundah, Mount Adrah, Mundarlo, Murringo, Murrulebale, Murrumburrah, Muttama, Nangus, Naradhan, Narraburra, Narrandera, Neville, North Yalgogrin, Nubba, Old Junee, Piney Range, Pinnacle, Pucawan, Pullabooka, Quandary, Quandialla, Rankins Springs, Rannock, Reefton, Roseberg, Sandigo, Sebastopol, South Gundagai, Springdale, Stockinbingal, Tallimba, Tara, Temora, Thuddungra, Trungley Hall, Tubbul, Tumblong, Ungarie, Wallendbeen, Walleroobie, Wantabadgery, Wantiool, Warraderry, Wattamondara, Weedallion, Weethalle, West Wyalong, Wirrimah, Wirrinya, Wombat, Woodstock, Wyalong, Wyangala, Yathella, Young.

Demographic profile

The 2016 census revealed that Cootamundra had 71,781 residents of whom 49.9 per cent were female (35,837) and 50.1 per cent were male (35,946). Indigenous Australians made up 5.5 per cent (3,947) of the population.

The median age was 45 years which is above the overall average for Australia of 38. Approximately 16,660 of the population was aged 65 or over (23.2 per cent) 24.7 per cent were aged under 20.

Almost 60,802 (84.7 per cent) residents were born in Australia. The most frequent countries of birth after Australia were England (1.5 per cent), New Zealand (0.7 per cent), Philippines (0.3 per cent), and India (0.2 per cent).

Throughout the electorate 88.2 per cent of people speak only English at home. Other languages spoken at home included:

- Arabic (0.3 per cent)
- Mandarin (0.3 per cent)
- Tagalog (0.1 per cent)
- Italian (0.1 per cent)
- Cantonese (0.1 per cent)

Historical electoral representation

Previous recent State representation for the Cootamundra District has been:

Date	Name	Party
1999-2017	Katrina Ann HODGKINSON	National Party
1988-1998	(Alby) Albert John SCHULTZ	Liberal Party
1973-1988	(Terry) Terence William SHEAHAN	Australian Labor Party

Services to Electors

The NSWEC undertook an advertising and communication campaign to raise awareness of the Cootamundra 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 Cootamundra 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.

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 Cootamundra By-election results page had 5,433 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 sent one or more reminders to vote.

For the Cootamundra by-election, the total number of email reminders sent was 1,226. There were 1,102 SMS reminders. In all, 743 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 Cootamundra Electoral District is not considered to be a high culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) district. Nevertheless, all 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 Cootamundra 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 21,299 electors voted early, representing almost one half 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 2,673 Postal Votes Issued, 1,853 were accepted, 325 rejected and 495 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 2,723 iVotes cast (5.84 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

Cootamundra RO Office, 137 Kendal Street, Cowra NSW 2794

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 Cootamundra By-election, 25 venues were designated as Declared Institutions and, of these, five 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 Cowra. Independent candidates could only nominate at the Returning Officer's office.

There were six 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.

Six candidates were registered for the by-election. Five third-party campaigners 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 Cootamundra By-Election

Returning Officer arrangements

The Returning Officer's office was situated at 137 Kendal Street, Cowra NSW 2794.

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 \$666,842 (GST exclusive).

This was made up of election staffing \$221,784; venues \$25,799; logistics \$30,949; ballot papers and electoral rolls \$9,219; electronic voting \$169,428 and other miscellaneous items \$209,663. The cost per elector was \$12.46.

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 166 people employed to work at the Election. The election staff was made up of:

- 47 polling place managers,
- 4 deputy polling place managers,
- 24 Declaration Vote issuing officers,
- 90 Election Officials
- 1 Returning Officer.

Of the staff employed, four staff members identified as being Aboriginal (2.41%), three election staff members had a disability (1.81%) and 4 (2.41%) 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 78,900 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 Cootamundra 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 Cootamundra 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 Cootamundra By-election held 14th October 2017

Candidates	Votes	
Philip LANGFIELD	1,273	
Jeffrey PASSLOW	1,238	
Matthew STADTMILLER	10,621	
Jim SALEAM	453	
Charlie SHEAHAN	10,930	
Steph COOKE	21,093	ELECTED
Total Formal Votes	45,608	
Total Informal Votes	1,057	
Total Votes	46,665	
Absolute Majority	22,805	

More detailed information on the counts is available on the NSWEC's website 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 Cootamundra State by-election.

The number of electors who were issued with penalty notices was 5,409 (10.10 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.

The By-Election Compliance Operation provides an opportunity for the NSWEC to further its objective of establishing a stronger regulatory function by:

- proactively engaging with stakeholders
- ensuring compliance with legislations
- promoting enforcement capabilities

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

Execution

The Compliance Operation took place from the opening of pre-poll on 2 October 2017 until election day. Two investigators from FDC participated in the operation covering all three by-elections held in October 2017. In addition to their functions as inspectors under the EFED Act, they were also appointed to the role of Election Assistant under the PEE Act so that they could exercise functions under that Act throughout the operation.

Investigators attended pre polling venues for the opening and closing of pre-poll. On election day, investigators were in the field inspecting polling places and speaking with various stakeholders, including the Returning Officer, polling place managers, candidates and their campaigners or volunteers. The presence of the investigators served the dual purpose of educating stakeholders in their obligations under the PEE Act and the EFED Act and acting as a deterrent to non-compliant behaviour.

In total nine polling places in the Cootamundra District were visited on election day. No significant breaches were detected.

There was one complaint received regarding an alleged breach of legislation for the Cootamundra 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 Cootamundra District. The number of electors enrolled was 52,781, the voter turnout figure was 91.83 per cent and the informality rate was 2.69 per cent.

At the October 2017 by-election, there were six candidates and the enrolment figure had increased to 53,529. The turnout and informality rates were 87.18 per cent and 2.27 per cent, respectively. Traditionally, turnout rates tend to be lower in by-elections than general elections and informality rates higher.

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

Non-voters and penalty notices²

There were 5,409 penalty notices (PNs) issued for the Cootamundra by-election (10.10 per cent of those on the electoral roll). This is lower than the Blacktown and Murray by-elections, both of which took place on the same date.

² 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.

Table 4: Penalty Notices, Cootamundra 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

Appendices

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

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

Legislative Assembly By-election
Saturday, 14 October 2017


Here's where to vote on election day*
For accessibility information visit www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736

Venue	Address
Andethan CWA Hall	35 Warr Street Andethan
Ariah Park Memorial Hall	Pitt Street Ariah Park
Athenium Theatre	89 Broadway Junee
Barellan Central School	Boree Street Barellan
Barrindian Community Centre	Queen Street Barrindian
Bendick Murrell Hall	Bendick Murrell Road Bendick Murrell
Billmar Public Hall	Logan Street Billmar
Bland Masonic Centre	Court Street West Wyalong
Bribbaree Hall	Weedallion Street Bribbaree
Cangabai Public School	Mid Western Highway Cangabai
Coolac Memorial Hall	Coolac Road Coolac
Cootamundra State Hall	35 Cowalville Street Cootamundra
Cootamundra High School	Poole Street Cootamundra
Cootamundra Public School	Thompson Street Cootamundra
Cowra Public School	Vaux Street Cowra
Cowra Tennis Club	Mid Western Highway Cowra
Garman Hall	92 Ford Street Garman
Goologong War Memorial Hall	Main Street Goologong
Greenethorpe Soldiers Memorial Hall	Louth Street Greenethorpe
Genflet Uniting Church Hall	Camp Street Genflet
Gundagai High School	Hanley Street Gundagai
Gundagai South Public School	43 Luke Street South Gundagai
Ilabo Public School	Layton Street Ilabo
John O'Brien Hall	Larmer Street Narrandera
Jugiong Memorial Hall	Riverside Drive Jugiong
Koorawatha Public School	Crowther Street Koorawatha
Mansie Public School	Centenary Drive Mansie
Morongia Creek Public Hall	Lachlan Valley Way Morongia Creek
Mulyan Public School	Lachlan Street Cowra
Murrumbidgee Public School	91 Murrumbidgee Gap Road Murrumbidgee
Murrumbidgee Public School	Ward Street Murrumbidgee
Nangus Public School	Hulung Street Nangus
Narrandera High School	Elizabeth Street Narrandera
Quandialla Central School	Third Street Quandialla
St Johns Lutheran Church Hall Temora	Vesper Street Temora
Stockinbingal Public School	Britannia Street Stockinbingal
Temora Town Hall	De Boos Street Temora
Turnbong War Memorial Hall	Adelung Road Turnbong
Ungarie Central School	Condoboln Road Ungarie
Wallendbeen Memorial Hall	King Street Wallendbeen
Wentworth Public School	Wentworth Street Wentworth
Wombat Soldiers Memorial Hall	Rose Street Wombat
Woodstock Public School	Parikes Street Woodstock
Wyalong Arts Hall	Newell Highway Wyalong
Young North Public School	50 William Street Young
Young Public School	Bruce Street Young
Young Town Hall	Boorowa Street Young

*Information correct as at 27 September 2017.

Your guide to voting in
Cootamundra

YOUR STATE. YOUR LIFE. YOUR VOTE.



Cootamundra 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 Cootamundra; 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 Cootamundra. Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors.

Who am I voting for?

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

Where can I vote?

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

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/Cootamundra/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
Cootamundra Library - Steven Ward Rooms	Wallendoon Street, Cootamundra NSW 2590	7 - 13 Oct 2017 Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 5:00pm Sat: 9:00am - 5:00pm Closed on Sun
Cootamundra Returning Officer's Office	137 Kendal Street, Cowra NSW 2794	2 - 13 Oct 2017 Mon - Fri: 8:00am - 6:00pm Thu (12 Oct): 8:00am - 8:00pm Sat: 9:00am - 5:00pm Closed on Sun
Junee Library	92 Lorne Street, Junee NSW 2663	9 - 13 Oct 2017 Mon - Fri: 9:30am - 5:30pm
Narrandera Emergency Operations Centre	19 Twynnam Street, Narrandera NSW 2700	9 - 13 Oct 2017 Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 5:00pm
Sydney Pre-poll	Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000	3 - 13 Oct 2017 Mon - Fri: 9:00am - 5:00pm Closed on Sat, Sun
West Wyalong Community Centre	89-91 Main Street, West Wyalong NSW 2671	11 - 13 Oct 2017 Wed - Fri: 8:30am - 5:00pm
Young Town Hall	205 Boorowa Street, Young NSW 2594	2 - 13 Oct 2017 Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 5:00pm Sat: 9:00am - 5:00pm Closed on 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 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.

Vote by post

Postal voting is also available for eligible voters. You can apply online at 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
العربية	日本語	Tiếng Việt	한국어
Tagalog	Русский	Türkçe	हिंदी
中文	Português	Македонски	Hrvatski
हिन्दी	فارسی	Español	
Ελληνικά	Српски	മലയാളം	bil-Malti

For more information:
www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736.
For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77.

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

Pre-poll voting venues

Venue	Address	Suburb	Accessibility
Cootamundra Pre-Poll	Wallendoon St	Cootamundra NSW 2590	Fully Accessible
Junee Pre-Poll	92 Lorne Street	Junee NSW 2663	Assisted Access
Narrandera Pre-poll	19 Twynam Street	Narrandera NSW 2700	Assisted Access
Sydney Pre-poll	Level 25, 201 Kent Street	Sydney NSW 2000	Assisted Access
West Wyalong Pre-Poll	89-91 Main Street	West Wyalong NSW 2671	Assisted Access
Young Pre-Poll	205 Boorowa Street	Young NSW 2594	Fully Accessible
Cootamundra RO Office	137 Kendal Street	Cowra NSW 2794	Assisted Access

Declared Institutions

Venue	Address	Suburb	Accessibility
Cooinda Court (Junee Hostel)	24-28 Commins Street	Junee NSW 2663	N/A
Cootamundra Hospital	Mackay Street	Cootamundra NSW 2590	N/A
Cootamundra Nursing Home	121 Mackay Street	Cootamundra NSW 2590	N/A
Cowra Hospital	44 Liverpool Street	Cowra NSW 2794	N/A
Cowra Retirement Village	Holman Place	COWRA NSW 2794	N/A
Greenstone Lodge	119 Gloucester St	Temora NSW 2666	N/A
Grenfell MPS	Corner Camp and Sullivan Streets	Grenfell NSW 2810	N/A
Gundagai Hospital	O'Hagen Street	Gundagai NSW 2722	N/A
Junee District Hospital	68 Broadway Avenue	Junee NSW 2663	N/A
Murrumburrah-Harden District Hospital	Swift Street	Harden NSW 2587	N/A
Narraburra Lodge	180 Kitchener Road	Temora NSW 2666	N/A
Narrandera Hospital	Douglas Street	Narrandera NSW 2700	N/A
Southern Cross Cootamundra Retirement Village	Scott Avenue	Cootamundra NSW 2590	N/A
Southern Cross Young Retirement Village	1 Demondrille Street	Young NSW 2594	N/A
Teloca House	120 Audley Street	Narrandera NSW 2700	N/A

Venue	Address	Suburb	Accessibility
Temora Hospital	Loftus Street	Temora NSW 2666	N/A
Uralba Hostel	Tor Street	Gundagai NSW 2722	N/A
Weeroona Nursing Centre	10 Comerford Street	Cowra NSW 2794	N/A
West Wyalong District Hospital	70 Ungarie Road	West Wyalong NSW 2671	N/A
Young Mercy Care Centre	69 Demondrille Street	Young NSW 2594	N/A

Voting venues

Venue	Address	Suburb	Accessibility
Ardlethan CWA Hall	35 Warri Street	Ardlethan NSW 2665	Assisted access
Ariah Park Hall	Pitt Street	Ariah Park NSW 2665	Assisted access
Athenium Theatre	89 Broadway	Junee NSW 2663	Assisted access
Barellan School	Boree Street	Barellan NSW 2665	Assisted access
Barmedman Comm Cntr	Queen Street	Barmedman NSW 2668	Assisted access
Bendick Murrell Hall	Bendick Murrell Road	Bendick Murrell NSW 2803	No wheelchair access
Billimari Hall	Logan Street	Billimari NSW 2794	Assisted access
Bland Masonic Cntr	Court Street	West Wyalong NSW 2671	Assisted access
Bribbaree Hall	Weedallion Street	Bribbaree NSW 2594	Assisted access
Caragabal Public	Mid Western Highway	Caragabal NSW 2810	Assisted access
Coolac Hall	Coolac Road	Coolac NSW 2727	No wheelchair access
Coolamon Shire Hall	55 Cowabbie Street	Coolamon NSW 2701	Assisted access
Cootamundra High	Poole Street	Cootamundra NSW 2590	Assisted access
Cootamundra Public	Thompson Street	Cootamundra NSW 2590	Assisted access
Cowra Public	Vaux Street	Cowra NSW 2794	Assisted access
Cowra Tennis Club	Mid Western Highway	Cowra NSW 2794	Assisted access
Ganmain Hall	92 Ford Street	Ganmain NSW 2702	Assisted access
Gooloogong War Memorial	Main Street	Gooloogong NSW 2805	Assisted access
Greenethorpe Hall	Louth Street	Greenethorpe NSW 2809	Assisted access

Venue	Address	Suburb	Accessibility
Grenfell Uniting	Camp Street	Grenfell NSW 2810	Assisted access
Gundagai High	Hanley Street	Gundagai NSW 2722	Assisted access
Gundagai S Public	43 Luke Street	South Gundagai NSW 2722	Assisted access
Illabo Public	Layton Street	Illabo NSW 2590	Assisted access
John O'Brien Hall	Larmer Street	Narrandera NSW 2700	Assisted access
Jugiong Hall	Riverside Drive	Jugiong NSW 2726	Assisted access
Koorawatha Public	Crowther Street	Koorawatha NSW 2807	Assisted access
Marrar Public	Centenary Drive	Marrar NSW 2652	Assisted access
Morongla Crk Hall	Lachlan Valley Way	Morongla Creek NSW 2794	Assisted access
Mulyan Public	Lachlan Street	Cowra NSW 2794	Assisted access
Murringo Public	91 Murringo Gap Road	Murringo NSW 2586	Assisted access
Murrumburrah Public	Ward Street	Harden NSW 2587	Fully accessible
Nangus Public	Hulong Street	Nangus NSW 2722	Assisted access
Narrandera High	Elizabeth Street	Narrandera NSW 2700	Assisted access
Quandialla Central	Third Street	Quandialla NSW 2721	Assisted access
St Johns Temora	Vesper Street	Temora NSW 2666	Assisted access
Stockinbingal Public	Britannia Street	Stockinbingal NSW 2725	Assisted access
Temora Town Hall	De Boos Street	Temora NSW 2666	Assisted access
Tumblong Hall	Adelong Road	Tumblong NSW 2729	Assisted access
Ungarie School	Condobolin Road	Ungarie NSW 2669	Assisted access
Wallendbeen Hall	King Street	Wallendbeen NSW 2588	Assisted access
Weethalle Public	Wattle Street	Weethalle NSW 2669	No wheelchair access
Wombat Hall	Rose Street	Wombat NSW 2587	Assisted access
Woodstock Public	Parkes Street	Woodstock NSW 2793	Assisted access
Wyalong Hall	Newell Highway	Wyalong NSW 2671	Assisted access
Young Nth Public	50 William Street	Young NSW 2594	Assisted access
Young Public	Bruce Street	Young NSW 2594	Assisted access

Venue	Address	Suburb	Accessibility
Young Town Hall	Boorowa Street	Young NSW 2594	Assisted access

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

Ballot Paper
Legislative Assembly Election – Electoral District of
Cootamundra
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

<input type="checkbox"/>	LANGFIELD Philip CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)
<input type="checkbox"/>	PASSLOW Jeffrey THE GREENS
<input type="checkbox"/>	STADTMILLER Matthew SHOOTERS, FISHERS AND FARMERS
<input type="checkbox"/>	SALEAM Jim
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHEAHAN Charlie COUNTRY LABOR
<input type="checkbox"/>	COOKE Steph THE NATIONALS

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

electoral
commission NSW

Appendix D: Election Service Charter 2017 - 2020



Election Service Charter 2017 - 2020

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

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