



Report on the Conduct of the 2015 State General Election



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

Fast Facts

4,561,234
Total
Voters

2,806
Polling
Places

22,270
Staff
Members

283,699
Users of
iVote

540
Candidates
nominated
for the
Legislative
Assembly

394
Candidates
nominated for
the Legislative
Council

Note: Throughout this report, the terms iVote and SmartRoll are used to refer to the iVote system and the SmartRoll system respectively. Both iVote and SmartRoll are Registered trademarks of the New South Wales Electoral Commission.

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- 1 Who We Are**
The New South Wales Electoral Commission is an independent statutory authority established under the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912*.
- 2 Our Mission**
To deliver high quality electoral services which are impartial, effective, efficient and in accordance with the law.
- 3 Our Vision**
To foster a culture of integrity, respect and trust in the electoral administration that underpins the democratic process.
- 4 Our Values**
 - ▶ Integrity
 - ▶ Professionalism
 - ▶ Impartiality
 - ▶ Openness to learning
 - ▶ Uphold democracy
- 5 Our Legislation**
Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912.
Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act, 1981
- 6 Our History**
The New South Wales Electoral Commission occupies a special place within the structure of government in NSW. It has its roots in the development of representative government dating back to 1843 when the first election of 24 representatives to the NSW Council was conducted by the Elections Branch of the Chief Secretary's Department. The Office of the Electoral Commissioner was established under the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912*.

Foreword

Based on feedback formal and informal from key stakeholders, I can say confidently the 2015 State General Election was an outstanding success.

The election was not without its challenges. Admittedly, each major election presents challenges and the 2015 State General Election was no different. The redistribution of electoral boundaries, expanded electronic voting and implementing enhanced security of ballot papers were particular challenges. The Australian Electoral Commission's experience with the Senate election in Western Australia in 2013 and the Special Senate Election in mid 2014 placed additional pressure on the Commission to ensure that such an outcome would not occur in NSW.

The significance of these issues was reflected in the Parliament establishing the Inquiry 'Preparations for the 2015 State General Election' in 2014. This was the first time such an Inquiry had been established prior to a general election. The findings of the Inquiry were that the preparations were well in hand and that no specific or significant concerns were identified.

I'm pleased to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters that all evaluative measures show the 2015 State General Election was a resounding success.

The evaluation of the views of election participants was strikingly positive returning very high measures of satisfaction as shown. Electors' ratings were consistently close to 100%.

Candidates and political parties also were pleased with the conduct of the election and confident that the election was conducted impartially (88.4%

Electors' Satisfaction with the 2015 State General Election

89% satisfied the election was conducted fairly and impartially

88% satisfied with overall voting experience

92% satisfied with time it took to vote

96% satisfied with the polling places, and 95% of electors with a disability

95% had no difficulties in voting due to electoral boundary changes

96% satisfied with the iVote system

95% satisfied with postal voting

88% sufficiently informed on how to fill out the ballot paper

79% satisfied with the enquiries line

83% were satisfied with the website

91% obtained information required from the website

91% confident that the election results were accurate

96% satisfied with the speed at which election results were available on election night

candidates and 76.9% parties).

Satisfaction with the overall conduct of the election was similarly high (85.1% candidates and 84.6% parties).

We've moved significantly from 'vision' to 'realisation' in the past ten years in NSW. These years have seen major achievements in the administration of elections and electoral processes and the modernisation of the Electoral Commission.

The strategic use of technology has meant more citizens are participating in democracy through automatic enrolment and computer enabled

voting. Greater convenience for electors has been delivered and this is strengthening democracy through making it easier to engage with the NSW electoral system.

SmartRoll introduced in 2010, has brought more eligible citizens onto the roll and iVote has enabled those who experienced difficulty in voting, the ability to vote at a time and place convenient to them on a device of their choice. In both of these initiatives, NSW has led Australia.

The expansion of iVote has been a positive step for facilitating engagement with the democratic system. There was a massive increase in the use of electronic voting – a 505% increase. Electors who registered for iVote were more likely to have voted than those who registered for postal vote. In a world where people seek greater flexibility and the convenience of online operations, iVote contributes to increasing or at least maintaining voting participation.

SmartRoll and iVote are major innovations but other changes have also enabled us to introduce better quality services and efficiencies into our conduct of elections. Another example, introduced for this election, is the 'self service' reform of management of the non-voters process that follows each election. This function is a major undertaking, involving over half a million electors and which can generate considerable stress for electors and Commission staff alike.

We instigated efficiencies and additional security by centralising certain activities. The activities chosen for centralisation were those previously undertaken by each Returning Officer such as the packaging and distribution of ballot papers to polling place destinations and

the central counting of postal, absent and declaration votes.

A flexible approach to the circumstances of each election is required. In this election, there was a need to address likely confusion amongst some electors following the 2013 redistribution of electoral boundaries. These changes needed specific and targeted communications and seamless service for electors in the electoral districts affected. One of our new services was, for example, to introduce multi district polling places within one venue.

In any election the same issues tend to arise in the media such as multiple voting, the need for proof of identity before voting and the role of the Commission in adjudicating conflicting campaign claims.

I can say that most electors, parties and candidates on the majority of occasions will comply with the rules. The overall election system operates on the basis of trust and, in what is perhaps a more cynical age, this can be concerning to some. Research (for example that by Dr Rodney Smith of Sydney University) has demonstrated that in the case of alleged vulnerability to multiple voting, there is no large scale impersonation of other electors nor evidence of systemic multiple voting threatening an election result.

One of the defences against successful undertakings of this sort is the Australian requirement for mandatory enrolment and voting. This means that almost all or the vast majority of electors vote. Also, electors become aware if their name has been marked off the roll more than once because the Commission follows up occurrences of multiple mark-offs when it scans the rolls to identify non-voters.

The Commission hears very quickly and directly from electors about issues troubling them and there has not been the quantum of complaints or a pattern of complaints suggesting such fraudulent practices are occurring.

Proof of Identity

This issue crops up periodically and typically in response to an airing in a forum not given to closer examination of the underlying issues and impacts, such as talk back radio. Academic research and practical experience indicate caution is required to avoid unintended consequences through introduction of mandatory production of proof of identity prior to voting.

This issue has been raised specifically in relation to pre-poll and electronic voting. Both pre-poll and iVote are based on self-affirmed eligibility as is postal voting. The Commission does not check compliance but relies on a declaration (oral or written) made by the elector.

Queensland introduced for their recent election in early 2015, a requirement that electors provide identification prior to being marked off the electoral roll. The Queensland experience was to ensure that 'legitimate' electors were not disenfranchised, the documents used to establish identity had to be so readily available and diverse that they produced no greater certainty than the previous system of self-affirmed identity. So for no demonstrated prevention of multiple voting there was an administrative cost plus inconvenience to electors, which may have contributed to the decline in elector participation.

My concern would be that making voting more inconvenient to electors

will act to reduce participation, particularly amongst older electors and those who may have a tenuous engagement with the democratic process. Very possibly there will be no gain but substantial downsides. Australia's participation rate compared to other countries that do not have compulsory enrolment and voting is extraordinarily high.

Impressions are left in the public's mind by matters raised in the media. One of the longest running concerned the names of the two political parties missing from the iVote Legislative Council ballot paper. Coverage continued till the Legislative Council results were declared. My investigation of this matter revealed that this was caused by human error rather than a deficiency in the iVote system. Allegations around the security of the iVote system also received media coverage though in this case, largely online coverage. These claims are covered elsewhere in our report.

Following the election, the unpaid wages of election day helpers for the No Land Tax Campaign occupied parts of the media and resulted in many people seeking the Commission's assistance to gain redress. The Commission was powerless to assist as this is a responsibility, and appropriately so, of the political party concerned. The activities of the No Land Tax Campaign raised questions of whether there should be a common code of behaviour that all parties and candidates should sign at the time of nomination to prevent such occurrences.

Another high profile matter concerned the alleged 'smear campaign' which portrayed the Labor candidate for East Hills, Mr Cameron Murphy, to be a 'supporter of paedophiles'. The

coverage was equally divided across online and traditional media. The investigation is continuing on this matter.

The Challenge to the Election Result

I note that there was one petition to the Court of Disputed Returns lodged by the No Land Tax Campaign and that following the directions hearing the applicant, the No Land Tax Campaign, has sought leave to withdraw the petition.

New Directions

NSW has proven its ability to be a leader in electoral administration.

Examining and challenging established electoral practice is critical to meeting the needs of electors and facilitating their engagement with the democratic system. Rapid technological and lifestyle changes mean electoral legislation, within which the Electoral Commissioner and the Commission operate, cannot be a straitjacket preventing innovation because of its prescriptive nature. I strongly believe that good and robust legislation is more likely when based upon a basis of clearly stated objects and principles.

Elections are expensive events to conduct. The 2015 State General Election was undertaken for a total operating expenditure of \$55.577 million and a capital expenditure of \$3.850 million.

The average cost per elector was \$11.03, an increase of \$2.20 from the 2011 State General Election, however, the 2011 Election did not face the same degree of complexity or challenges.

Some efficiency opportunities have been identified for the next State General Election in 2019. There is a need to examine the tradition of having a Returning Officer for each metropolitan district within the Sydney basin. The establishment of centralised processes for approving 'how to vote' electoral material, recruitment, application and distribution of postal votes, counting results, distribution of ballot papers has reduced the need for that role. This concept is already in place for the Legislative Council where the Electoral Commissioner is the Returning Officer. The change would mean greater control of the quality of services to candidates and electors.

The availability of electronic voting is a very positive innovation for strengthening the democratic system. The community has shown strong support and interest in this form of voting. Consideration is required on the wider adoption of electronic voting and other uses of technology to maintain and increase engagement in democracy. More work will be undertaken to develop appropriate safeguards to the integrity of iVote and to enhance the existing security of the system and processes.

The NSW Parliament can have every confidence in the outcome of the 2015 State General Election. I look forward to attending the hearings established by the Committee.

Colin Barry
NSW Electoral Commissioner

About this Report

The NSW Electoral Commissioner's report to the Committee on the conduct of the 2015 State General Election reflects the commitments made in its Service Charter for the 2015 State General Election. It provides an overview of services provided and measures satisfaction with these services by electors, candidates, political parties and media. It also includes an overview of financial management of the 2015 State General Election.

The report addresses the NSW Electoral Commission's action in response to recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters in recent inquiries either directly relating to the conduct of the 2015 State General Election or from the Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2011 State General Election.

It is made up of two main parts provided in hardcopy and disc form respectively. Part 1 provides the overview and content for each section addressing the Service Charter Goals and relevant appendices. Part 2 in disc form provides the report of the evaluations of the satisfaction of election participants with the NSW Electoral Commission's conduct of the 2015 State General Election. This disc is attached to the back page of the report's cover.

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2. Overview of the 2015 State General Election

This section covers:

- *2015 State General Election statistics and trends*
- *The Writ, the 2015 Election Calendar, Service Charter and performance against targets*
- *Action on Recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' Inquiry into the 2011 State General Election and the Inquiry into Preparation for the 2015 State General Election*
- *Challenge to the 2015 State General Election result and enforcement activities*
- *Recommended future electoral directions including legislative amendment*

2015 State General Election Statistics

In the 2015 State General Election, 4,561,234 million electors voted, 2,806 polling places were provided, 22,270 staff were employed, 934 candidates nominated (540 for the Legislative Assembly and 394 for the Legislative Council) and approximately 29 million ballot papers were printed.

Changes between 2011 and 2015 State General Elections

Between the 2011 and 2015 State General Elections, changes have occurred in:

iVote	↑ 505.33%	Absent voting	↓ 29.40%
Pre-poll voting	↑ 81.98%	Postal voting	↓ 17.03%
Enrolment	↑ 8.73%	Declared Institution	↓ 4.05%
Voters	↑ 6.31%	On the day voting	↓ 3.61%
Informal Votes	↑ 0.24%	Participation	↓ 2.08%

Changes were seen also in candidate nominations particularly in the Legislative Council. Nominations increased from the 2011 State General Election:

Legislative Assembly	↑ 8.43%	Legislative Council	↑ 26.69%
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The increase in nominations for the Legislative Council has been a trend since the 1995 State General Election when there were 99 nominations as compared to 394 in the 2015 State General Election.

The following table shows the number of nominations in each election since 1995.

Table 1: Number of Candidates Nominated in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, 1995 to 2015 State General Elections

State General Election	Legislative Assembly	Change from previous election	Legislative Council	Change from previous election
2015	540	8.43%	394	26.69%
2011	498	-7.26%	311	-6.61%
2007	537	-18.63%	333	17.25%
2003	660	-9.83%	284	7.58%
1999	732	60.53%	264	166.67%
1995	456	Base Year	99	Base Year

Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Registered Political Parties

There were 19 political parties registered for the 2015 State General Election, up from 17 parties in 2011. At the issue of the Writs, the following parties were registered under Part 4A of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*:

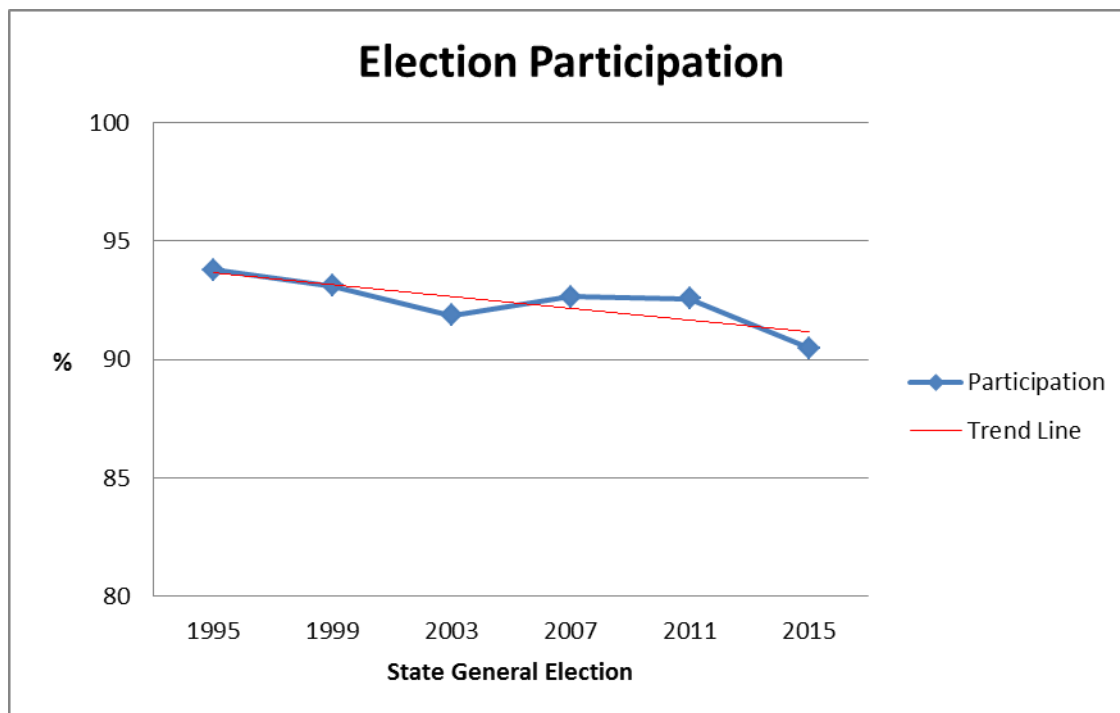
Animal Justice Party	Australian Cyclists Party
Australian Democrats (NSW Division)	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)
Australian Motorist Party	Building Australia Party
Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Country Labor Party
Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division)	National Party of Australia - NSW
No Land Tax Campaign	No Parking Meters Party
Outdoor Recreation Party	Shooters and Fishers Party
Socialist Alliance	The Fishing Party
The Greens	Unity Party
Voluntary Euthanasia Party (NSW)	

Appendix C details the number of nominations by party and the party numbers elected to the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

Trends in Voting

Voting Participation

Despite increases in voter participation in the State General Elections of 2007 and 2011, the overall trend for voter participation has been slightly downward.



Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

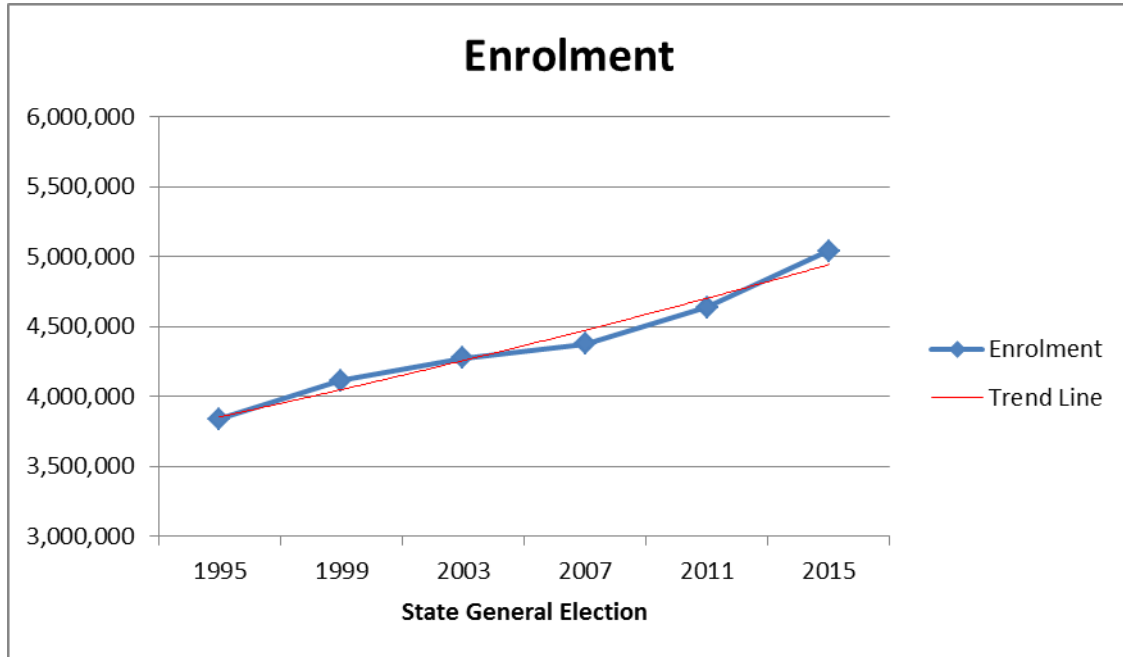
Graph 1: Election Participation in the State General Elections from 1995 to 2015

NSW has had a fall in participation rate from the 2011 State General Election (2015 90.5%; 2011, 92.6%). The 2015 rate is not out of step with other jurisdictions. Queensland for example had a decrease in participation of 1.1% between the 2012 and 2015 State General Elections (89.89% in 2015 and 90.99% in 2012).

Victoria experienced a small increase in election participation, from 92.96% for the 2010 State Election to 93.01% (0.05% increase) for the 2014 State Election. Further detail of inter-jurisdictional comparisons is provided in Section 3. On a national level, Federal Election participation decreased by 0.82% between the 2010 and 2013 elections (from 93.22% to 92.4%).

Enrolment

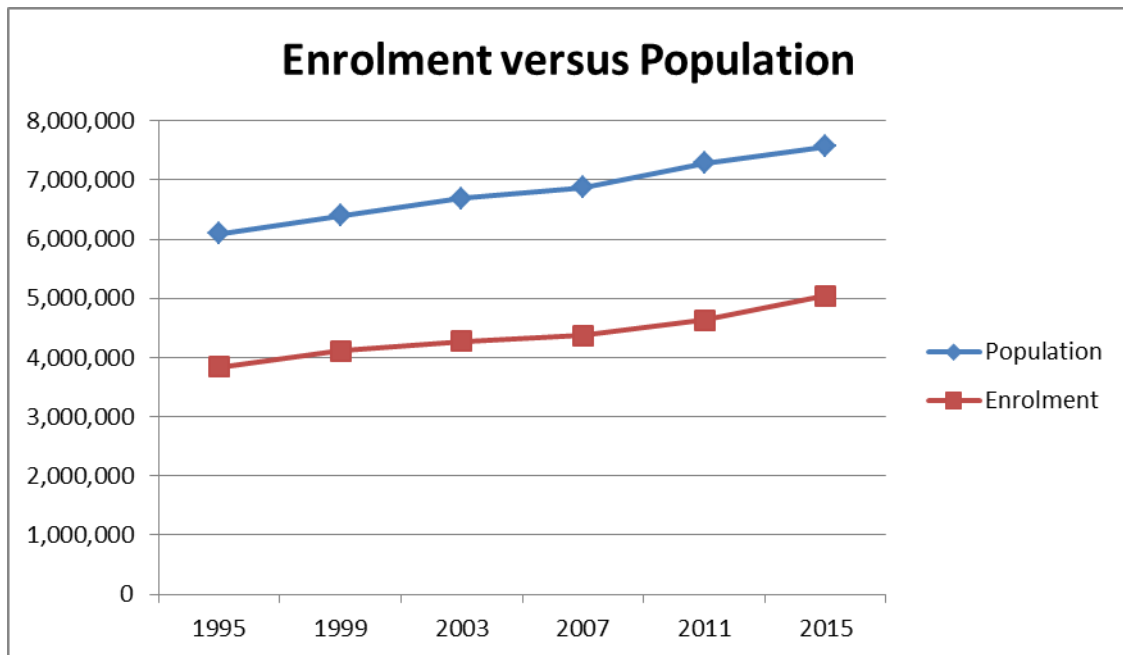
At the same time, more electors are enrolled. Between 1995 and 2015, 1,203,560 electors were enrolled.



Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Graph 2: Number of Enrolments in the State General Elections from 1995 to 2015

This increase is not only a product of population increases. It is the Commission’s view that SmartRoll has been a positive force in increasing the enrolment participation rate which has grown from 92.1% in 2011 to 96.5%, a 4.4% increase.



Source: NSW Electoral Commission. The 2015 figure is as at 31 December 2014.

Graph 3: Enrolment versus Population Growth from 1995 to 2015

From the 2003 State General Election to that of 2011, population growth increased greater than growth in enrolment. More recently however enrolment has increased, most noticeably by 8.73% in the 2011 State General Election. The introduction of SmartRoll in 2010 has facilitated the enrolment of many people who would not

normally enrol to vote. Details on population and enrolment growth figures are in Appendix H.

From a national perspective, NSW has the largest proportion and number of electors enrolled followed by Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia. The table below details the number of electors enrolled in each State and Territory.

Table 2: Electors on the Federal roll by State and Territory as at 31 March 2015

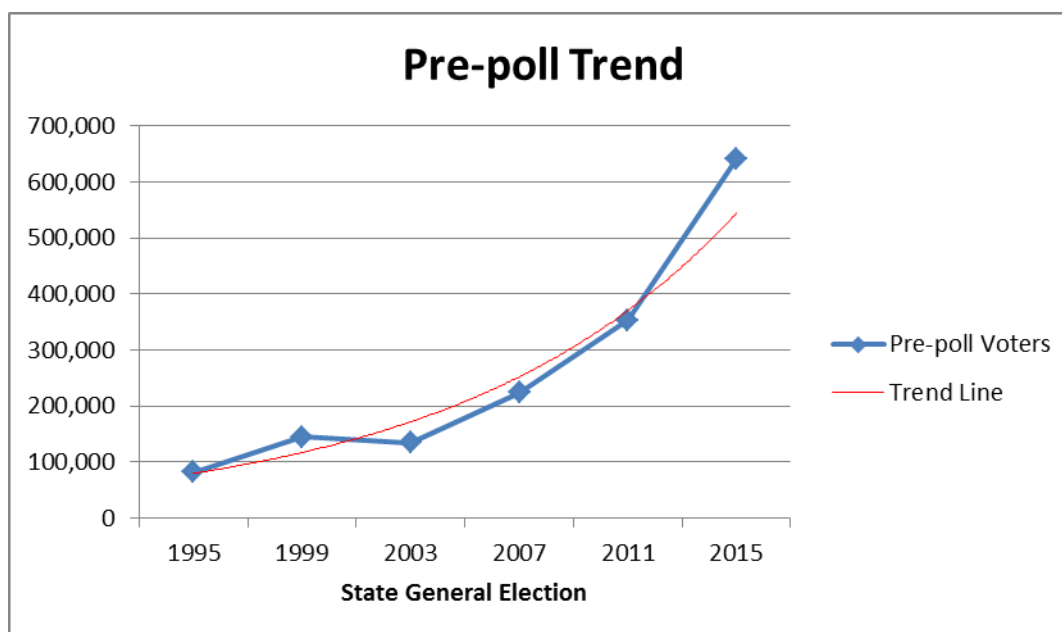
State or Territory	Number Enrolled	%
New South Wales*	5,040,662	33.1
Victoria	3,811,049	25.0
Queensland	2,956,722	19.4
Western Australia	1,513,263	9.9
South Australia	1,150,909	7.6
Tasmania	366,283	2.4
Australian Capital Territory	272,153	1.8
Northern Territory	129,445	0.8
Total	15,240,486	100.0

Source: All states except NSW from http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/Enrolment_stats/type/2015/03.htm, *NSW data sourced from NSW Electoral Commission.

Trends in Early Voting

There has been a major ongoing shift in voters' preference to vote before election day. All States and Territories and the Commonwealth have seen an increase in electors using early voting over recent elections.

Within NSW the greater usage of early voting has been marked since the 2003 State General Election as shown below.



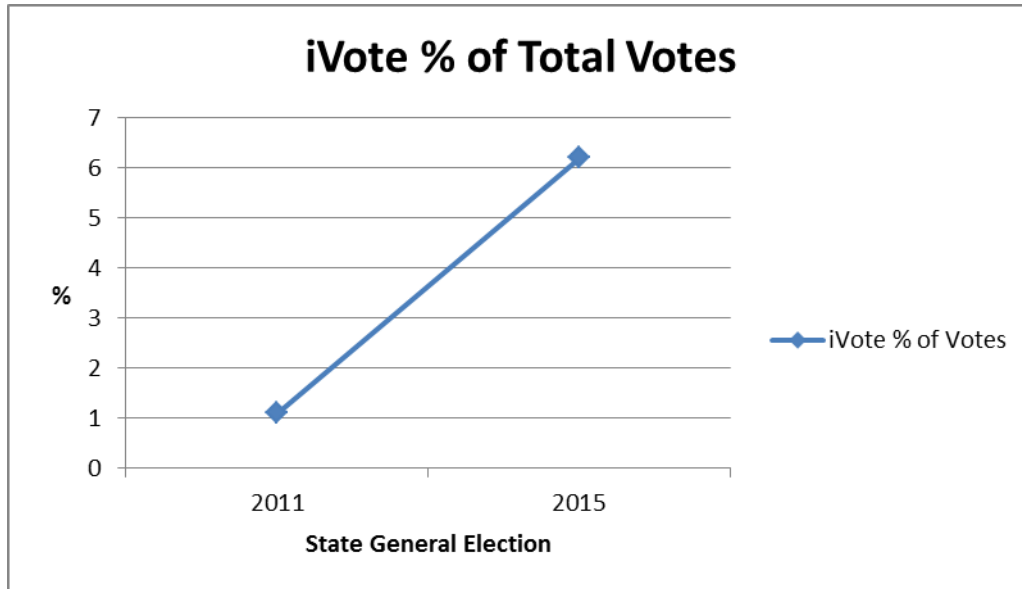
Source: NSW Electoral Commission. The 2015 figure is as at 31 December 2014.

Graph 4: Pre-poll Participation in the State General Elections from 1995 to 2015

The movements in the various forms of early voting are shown in the graphs below.

iVote

iVote usage has increased dramatically from the 2011 to the 2015 State General Election. In 2015, 283,669 votes were cast using iVote, an increase of 505% from the previous election.



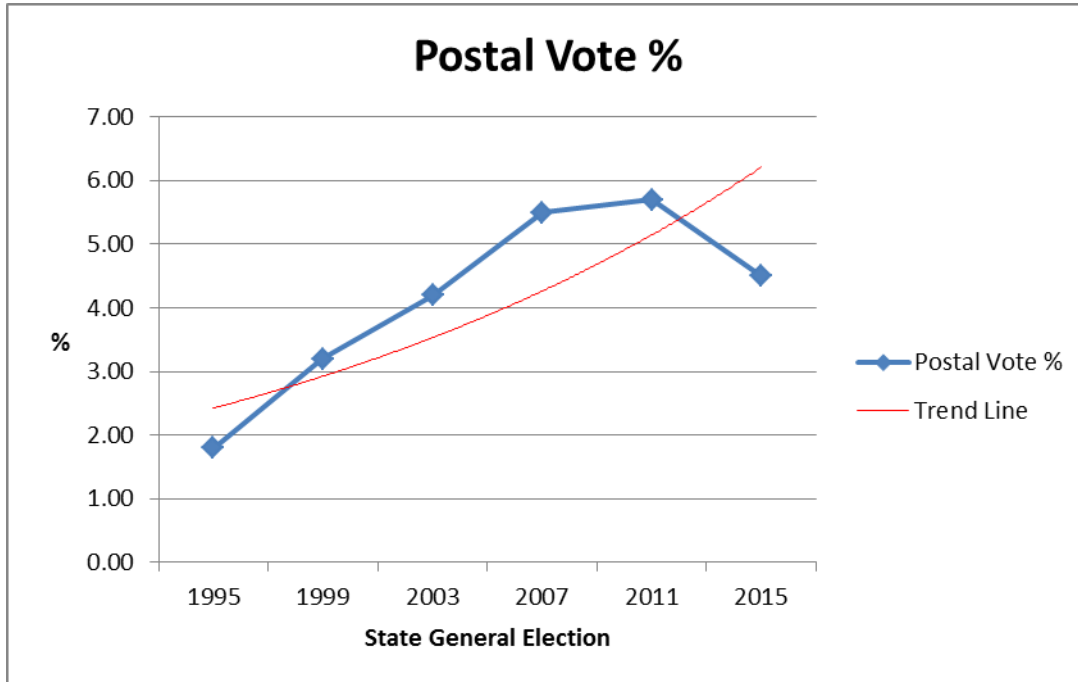
Source: NSW Electoral Commission

Graph 5: iVote Percentages in the State General Elections from 2011 to 2015

Postal Votes

Postal voting showed a steady increase to 2011 but decreased between the 2011 and 2015 State General Elections. Based on previous elections the trend line would predict that postal voting would continue to increase in use. The most likely reason for this large decrease can be attributed to the increase in the usage of iVote.

The Commission is concerned about the long term reliability of postal voting as a viable voting channel due to changes in Australia Post's service model especially in regional and rural NSW.

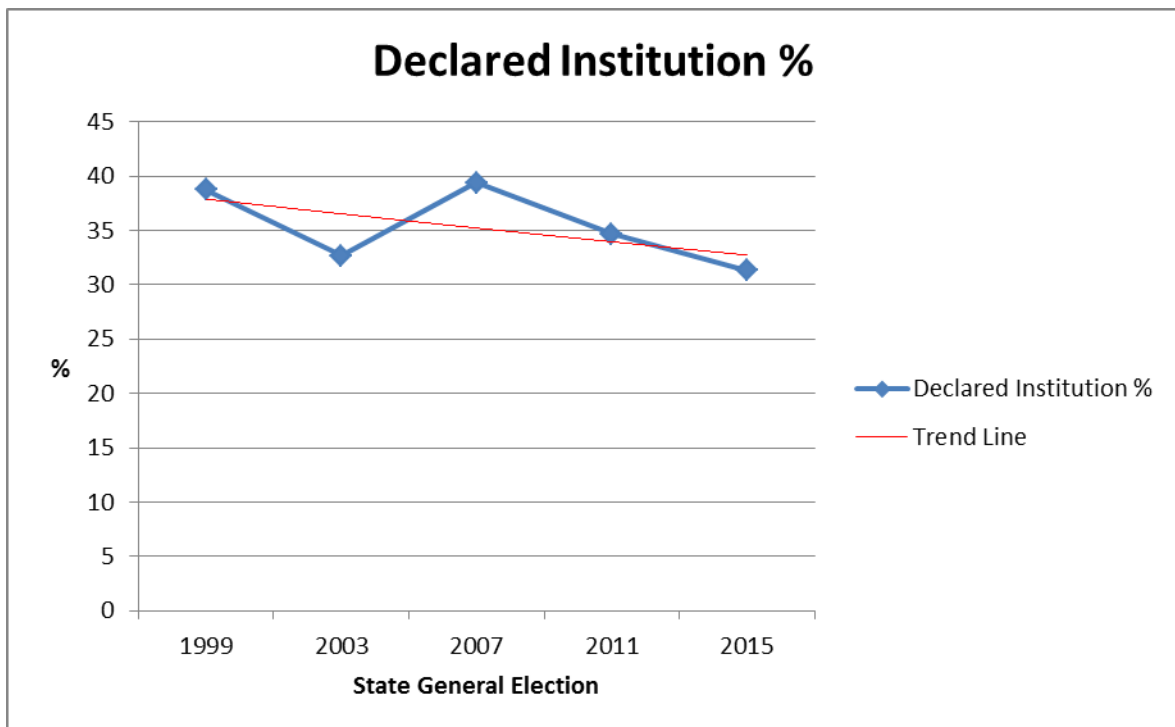


Source: NSW Electoral Commission

Graph 6: Postal Vote Percentages in the State General Elections from 1995 to 2015

Declared Institution Voting

Declared Institution voting experienced an increase in usage between the 2003 and 2007 State General Elections however usage has been declining steadily since.

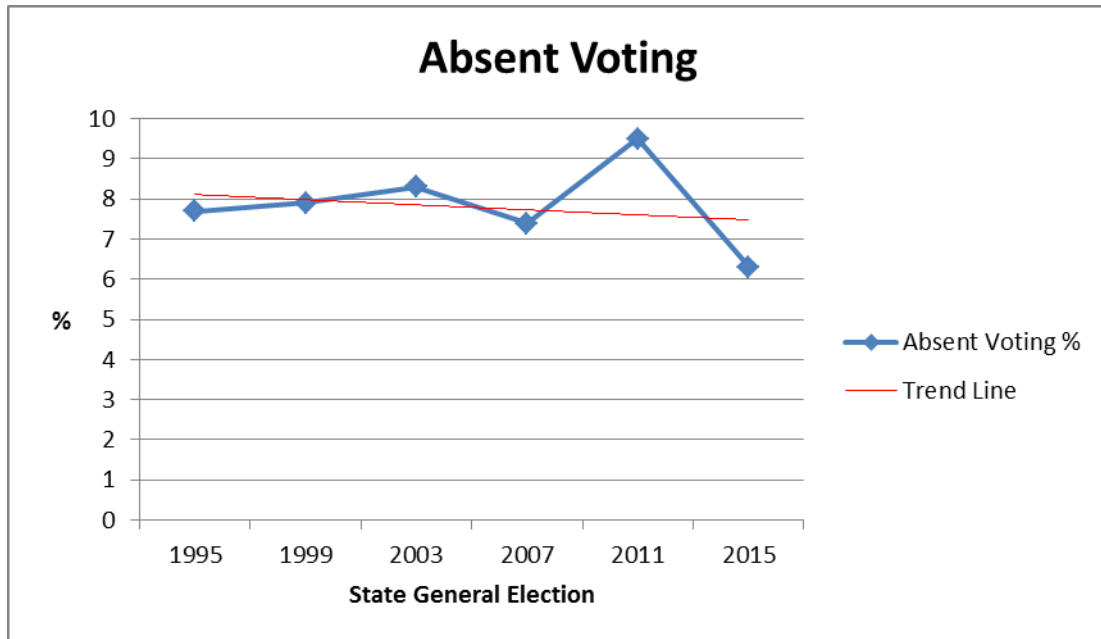


Source: NSW Electoral Commission

Graph 7: Declared Institution Voting Percentages in the State General Elections from 1995 to 2015

Absent Votes

There has been a downward trend in absent voting since 2003 (with the exception of 2011) as indicated in the below graph. The marked drop from 2011 to 2015 could be attributable to iVote and the slightly lower participation rate in the 2015 State General Election. It could also be that there were more polling places that had issued ordinary votes for neighbouring districts.



Source: NSW Electoral Commission

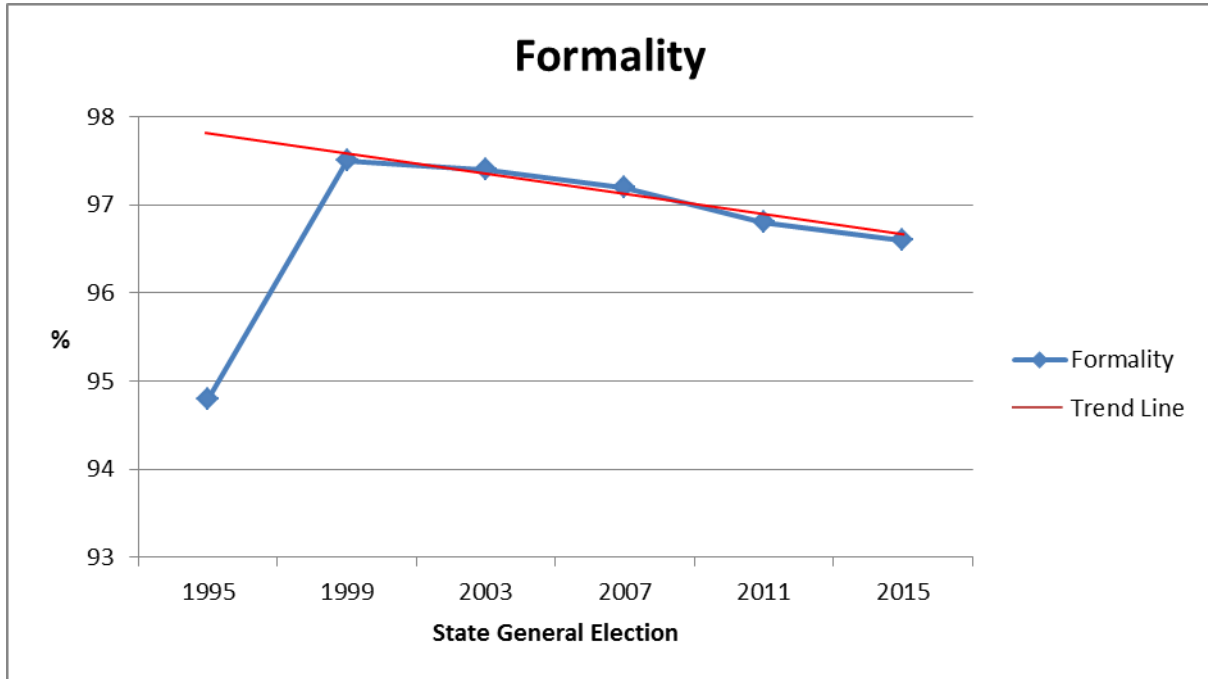
Graph 8: Absent Voting Percentages in the State General Elections from 1995 to 2015

Formality and Informality

Another form of measuring participation in the democratic system is to gauge the proportion of ballot papers correctly completed.

The proportion can be described either in terms of the proportion that are incorrectly filled in ('informal' votes), or the proportion that are correctly completed that is, 'formal' votes. Both approaches have been used by Electoral Commissions and both are presented in this report.

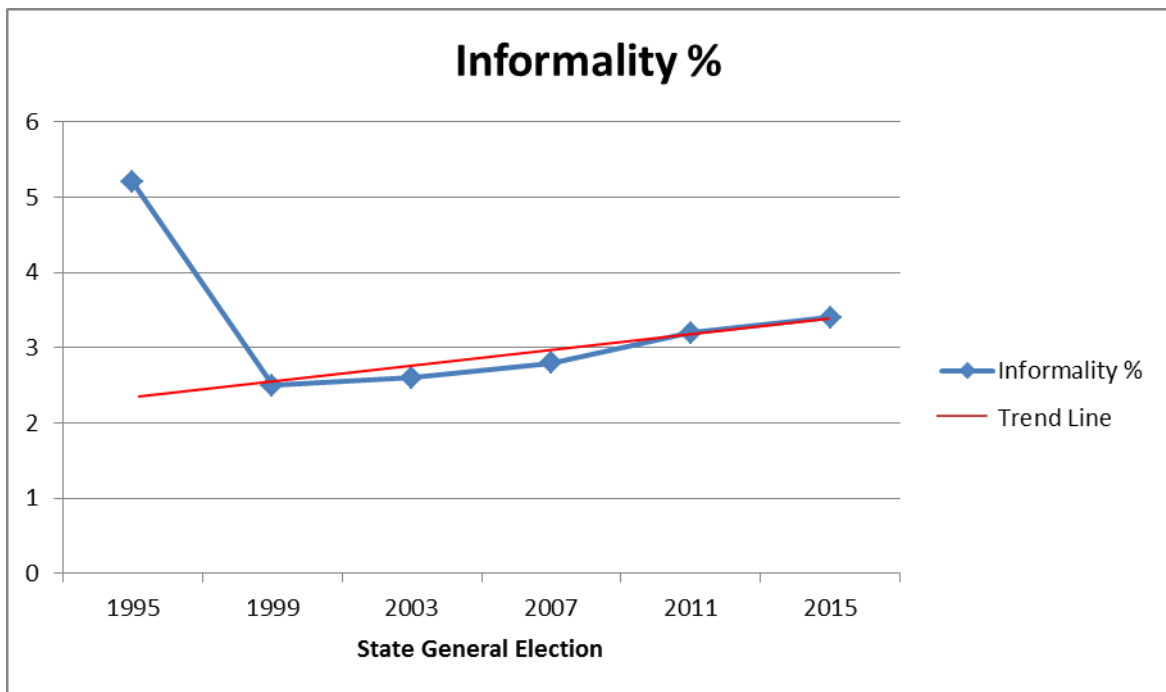
Formality has decreased slightly, from 96.8% in the 2011 State General Election to 96.6% in the 2015 State General Election as shown in the following graph.



Source: NSW Electoral Commission

Graph 9: Formality Percentages in the State General Elections from 1995 to 2015

The obverse, informality, has increased slightly from the previous election, from 3.2% in 2011 to 3.4% of total votes in 2015.

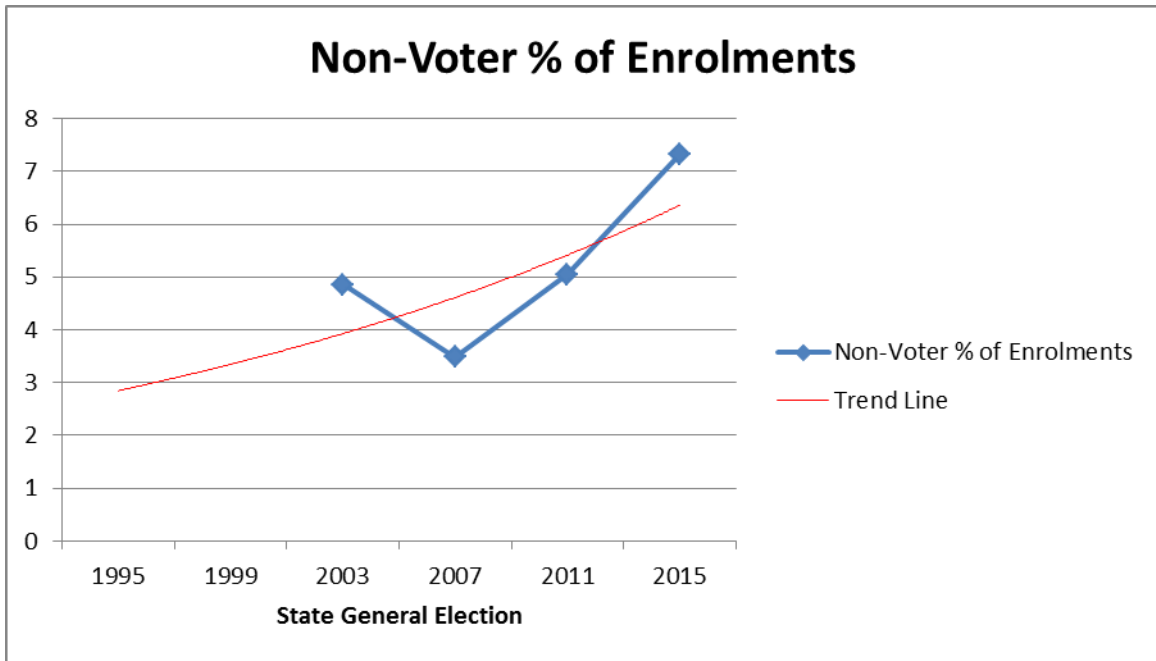


Source: NSW Electoral Commission

Graph 10: Informality Percentages in the State General Elections from 1995 to 2015

Non-Voters

The percentage of non-voters has increased from 5.05% of enrolments in 2011 to 7.32% of enrolments in 2015. This corresponds to the lower voting participation rate. The most reported reason for not voting was “Absent from electoral area/district on polling day” (31% of non-voters who provided a reason for not voting) – this is most likely due to the population becoming more mobile.



Source: NSW Electoral Commission

Graph 11: Non-Voter Percentages in the State General Elections from 1995 to 2015

Appendix H provides absolute numbers for the figures in the early voting graphs.

2015 State General Election Calendar

The Writs were issued on 7 March 2015 and returned on 20 April 2015. The election calendar is provided on the next page and it sets out the key milestones in the election period.

ELECTION CALENDAR

NSW State Election Saturday 28th March 2015



SE.108

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8 FEBRUARY	9 FEBRUARY	10 FEBRUARY	11 FEBRUARY	12 FEBRUARY 10am – Registration for iVote® and Postal vote opens	13 FEBRUARY	14 FEBRUARY
15 FEBRUARY	16 FEBRUARY	17 FEBRUARY	18 FEBRUARY	19 FEBRUARY	20 FEBRUARY	21 FEBRUARY
22 FEBRUARY	23 FEBRUARY RO and OM fulltime	24 FEBRUARY	25 FEBRUARY	26 FEBRUARY	27 FEBRUARY	28 FEBRUARY
1 MARCH	2 MARCH	3 MARCH	4 MARCH	5 MARCH	6 MARCH	7 MARCH Issue of Writ (TBC) Candidates must be on the roll by 6pm
8 MARCH	9 MARCH 8am-6pm RO Office opens to public Nominations open	10 MARCH	11 MARCH 12 noon – Close of LA party nominations at NSWEC HO	12 MARCH 12 noon – Close of LA nominations at RO office 12 noon – Close of LC nominations at NSWEC HO Ballot paper draw 2pm – LA 3pm – LC 12 noon – Registration of electoral material commences	13 MARCH	14 MARCH
15 MARCH	16 MARCH 8am-6pm Pre-poll voting opens 8am – iVote® voting opens	17 MARCH 8am-6pm Pre-poll	18 MARCH 8am-6pm Pre-poll	19 MARCH 8am-6pm Pre-poll	20 MARCH 8am-6pm Pre-poll 5pm – Registration of electoral material closes	21 MARCH 9am-5pm Pre-poll voting open
22 MARCH	23 MARCH 8am-6pm Pre-poll DI voting commences 6pm – Postal vote applications close (delivery outside Australia)	24 MARCH 8am-6pm Pre-poll	25 MARCH 8am-6pm Pre-poll 6pm – Postal vote applications close (delivery within Australia)	26 MARCH 8am-8pm Pre-poll	27 MARCH 8am-6pm Pre-poll voting closes DI voting closes	28 MARCH ELECTION DAY Polling places open 8am to 6pm 1pm – iVote® registration closes 6pm – Initial Pre-poll count commences 6pm – iVote® voting closes
29 MARCH LA data entry commences Commence collection of Authorised Rolls, LC and Dec Vote ballot papers	30 MARCH	31 MARCH	1 APRIL 6pm – Receipt of postal vote declaration closes	2 APRIL	3 APRIL Good Friday Public Holiday	4 APRIL Receipt of final Dec Votes, Postal and STH ballot papers
5 APRIL Easter Sunday Public Holiday	6 APRIL Easter Monday Public Holiday (RO Office in operation – data entry continues)	7 APRIL Performance Assessment Reports in progress	8 APRIL Declaration of LA result by RO	9 APRIL	10 APRIL Final day for OM	11 APRIL
12 APRIL	13 APRIL	14 APRIL	15 APRIL	16 APRIL Declaration of LC result by EC	17 APRIL Performance assessments by ROs completed Decommissioning of RO Office completed	18 APRIL

2015 State General Election Service Charter

The Commission's Service Charter for the election sets out the service standards applying to the conduct of the 2015 State General Election.

The Charter reflected the Commission's goals to promote engagement with democracy through enrolment and voting services; providing quality election services in a customer focussed manner; and improving electoral services by innovation in response to opportunities and the community's wishes.

The Commission's evaluation of its conduct of the 2015 State General Election revealed that election participants regarded the election as an outstanding success.

Electors

"...it was extremely well organised an astonishingly a quick and easy process." - **Core telephone survey respondent**

"The process is quite fair, down the lineit's very organised and fair..." – **Arabic-speaking discussion group participant**

"(The polling place) was well set up and professional and it was easy – no waiting, a small ten minute wait" – **Core telephone survey respondent**

Candidates and Political Parties

"I was in contact with the Electoral Commission through candidate seminars, phone calls from returning officers, ballot draws etc and at no time did I see any indication of anything other than strict neutrality and high levels of helpfulness" – **Online survey respondent**

"The NSW Electoral Commission has a good tradition of running fair elections." – **Online survey respondent**

Election Officials

"The elections are always done professionally and leaders have been well trained and informed. The teams are willing to work well due to leaders being open, helpful and encouraging. The information provided is of high quality." – **Online survey respondent**

"The checks and balances put in place in the sorting and counting were most impressive- there was no possible way that any person could influence the result." – **Online survey respondent**

Media

(Media Liaison Officer) was extremely helpful given we were 'small fish' – **Online survey**



NSW State Election 2015 – Service Charter

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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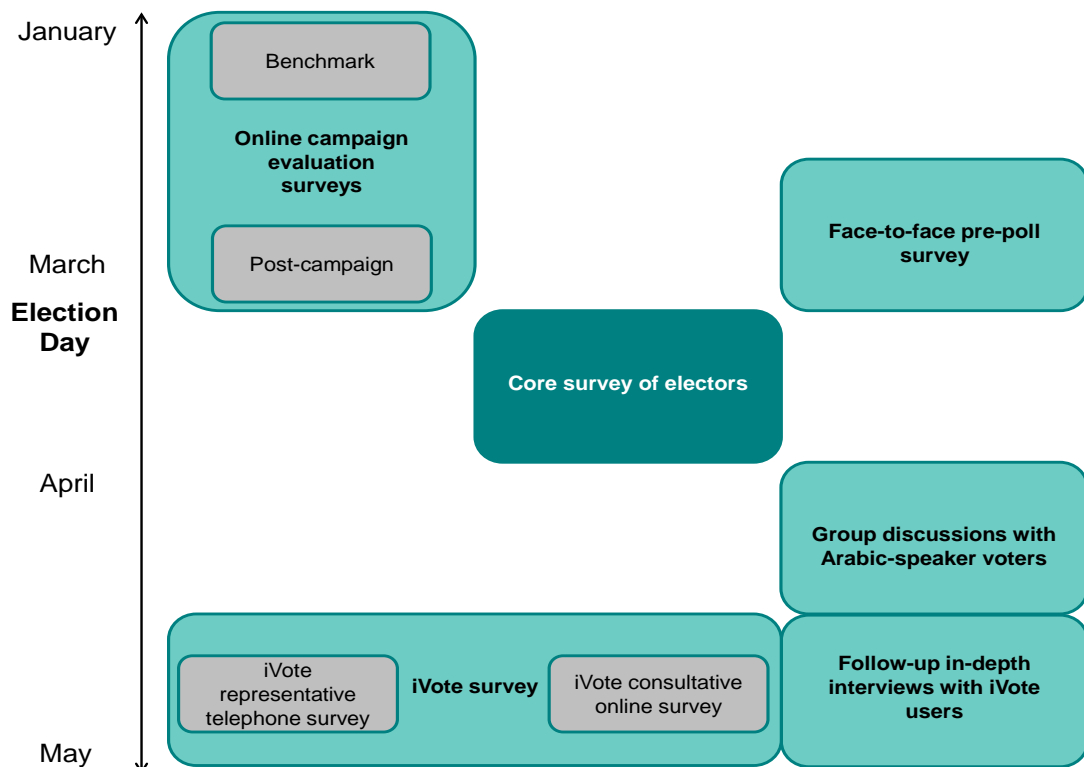
Evaluation of the NSW Electoral Commission’s Conduct of the Election

Ipsos Social Research Institute conducted research on behalf of the NSW Electoral Commission on the satisfaction of electors with the conduct of the 2015 State General Election. The aim of the research was to provide a reliable and representative picture of electors’ perceptions of, and satisfaction with the services offered at the 2015 State General Election. The Ipsos Social Research Institute was contracted to undertake the Commission’s elector surveys to enable comparison against the standards in the Charter.

The components of the evaluation of electors’ satisfaction were:

- online evaluation of the communication campaign;
- on site interviews at four pre-poll centres over the pre-poll period;
- telephone representative survey of electors following election day;
- in-depth interviews with the iVote service users; and
- follow-up survey of electors who used iVote.

Diagrammatically, the research components and timeframes were:



The findings from these evaluation components are presented in each of the following sections. The questionnaires and survey results are provided in Part 2 of this report (disc form).

The satisfaction of other election participants, candidates and political parties, the media and election staff was measured through online surveys the Commission developed and distributed. The results of these surveys are also provided in the following sections.

These various evaluations, taken together with the elector evaluations, demonstrate that the conduct of the 2015 State General Election overall achieved the goals of the Service Charter. Where performance has not met the standards indicated, typically the causes are not related to the performance of the NSW Electoral Commission, for example, the declared result of the 2015 State General Election was challenged and while leave has been sought to discontinue the petition, the Commission points out that the challenge was not based on a failure of the Commission as outlined further in this section.

Successful Performance against Service Charter

Goal: Foster participation in democracy ✓

Success: election participants see the election as impartial and fair, participation is fostered, so participation and formality rates exceed or equal prior elections and there are no Court challenges stemming from the conduct of the election by the Electoral Commission.

Goal: Provide seamless service delivery ✓

Success: participants feel well informed and satisfied with electoral services.

Goal: Be customer focussed and commercially responsible ✓

Success: participants are satisfied with services and electoral staff.

Goal: Be innovative and fast adaptors ✓

Success: the Commission is recognised for innovative services that meet participants' needs and for advising the NSW Government of innovations to strengthen the democratic system and improve administration of elections.

The Commission's Response to Recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, 2011 State General Election

The Committee's Report on the 'Administration of the 2011 NSW Election' contained recommendations specifically directed to the NSW Electoral Commission; the remainder fell to the NSW Government to action. A number of the latter recommendations required legislative amendment but no Bills were introduced into Parliament before the 2015 State General Election to give effect to them.

The NSW Electoral Commission actioned all of the recommendations where it had the necessary authority and legislative mandate to do so, specifically:

Recommendation 2. *Continue to promote awareness of registered general postal voting and promotion of those options such as iVote and mobile voting which are available to rural and remote voters.*

Completed.

This was undertaken via the Commission's communication campaign preceding the 2015 State General Election.

Recommendation 3. *Undertake a review of the pre-poll application process. This review should include consideration as to:*

- *whether the current categories for applicants should be simplified*
- *allow any voter, who cannot attend a polling place on polling day, to apply for pre-poll voting;*
- *what the impact of any recommended changes to the pre-poll application process might be on the resources of the NSWEC and other stakeholders (such as the political parties); and*
- *whether any recommended changes to the pre-poll application process might require adjustments to be made to the pre-poll voting period.*

Completed.

In August 2013, the NSWEC provided the Committee with its *Report on Pre-Poll and Postal Vote Application Processes*. This Report was included also in the Commission's submission to the Committee's *2014 Inquiry into Preparations for the 2015 Election*.

Recommendation 4. *The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Family and Community Services, assist the NSWEC in developing means for the timely identification of declared institutions for the purposes of elections.*

Completed.

Facilities listed by Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and Family and Community Services were contacted to obtain numbers of eligible residents and provide information on voting options.

Recommendation 5. *Facilitate a dialogue between disability advocacy groups and parties and candidates, on the importance of providing voter information in accessible formats.*

Completed.

With the Commission's Disability Reference Group and the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Reference Group, the NSWEC prepared materials for registered political parties and candidates.

Recommendation 7. *Publish registered electoral material at NSWEC offices and on its website, as soon as is practicable after the deadline for registration, with a view to increasing public access to this material during future elections.*

The Government did not support this recommendation although the Commission undertook preliminary work on the recommendation.

Recommendation 11. *Develop and implement voter preference verification for voters using iVote at the 2015 State General Election.*

Completed.

See http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/125454/iVote_Strategy_for_SGE_2015_Amendment_4_-_March_2015.pdf

Recommendation 14. *Investigate and report back to the Committee on the future use of an electronic system to mark-off voters.*

Completed.

See http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/173373/Multiple_Voting_and_Voter_Identification.pdf.

The Commission's Response to Recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, 'Preparations for the 2015 State General Election'

The Committee was asked to report on the electoral processes concerning the lead up to the 2015 State General Election with particular reference to the NSW Electoral Commission's preparations for this election and the Western Australia Senate count and steps being taken to avoid similar issues with the NSW Legislative Council count.

The Committee found that:

- based on the evidence that the Electoral Commission was making good progress in the preparations for the 2015 State General Election and that it had no major concerns.
- the Commissioner was progressing well in engaging with youth voters, but should monitor social and other media to ensure this progress is maintained.

Recommendation 1. *The Committee recommends that the requirement to initial the front of every ballot paper is reinforced during training of all State General Election staff.*

Completed.

Recommendation 2. *The Committee recommends that the NSW Government gives consideration to amending the legislation to make the initialling of all ballot papers a legislative requirement.*

The Electoral Commissioner believes the legislation already provides for initialling of all ballot papers, and that un-initialled ballot papers are saved from informality under special provisions in the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*. It is however, a matter for the NSW Government to action.

Recommendation 3. *The Committee recommends that the Commissioner should include in contracts for pre-poll booths a requirement for limited storage space for the use of candidates contesting the election to store their pre-poll election material.*

Implemented via instructions given to pre-poll managers to allow party workers to store materials in the pre-poll venues overnight on the condition they were removed before voting commenced each morning the pre-poll venue was operational.

Recommendation 4. *The Committee recommends that the NSW Government gives consideration to amending the legislation to remove the requirement for the Electoral Commissioner to keep paper rolls.*

Supported but is a matter for the NSW Government to action.

Challenge to Election Result

On 29 May 2015, Mr Peter Jones, leader of the 'No Land Tax Campaign' [NLTC], lodged a petition in the Court of Disputed Returns, challenging the Legislative Council election result. This challenge was based on claims that there was interference with the party's employees by the Liberal Party, Macquarie Radio Network and the Labor Party; and a defamatory smear campaign by Macquarie Radio Network.

The orders sought were:

- Mr Jones be declared elected and that public funding be paid to the NTLC for its election campaign expenditure, or
- The Legislative Council result be declared void, a new election held and election campaign expenditure be reimbursed, or
- The NTLC party receive public funding for election campaign expenditure

The petition named Mr Mark Pearson (elected to the Legislative Council representing the Animal Justice Party) as First Respondent and the Electoral Commissioner as Second Respondent. As Mr Jones did not make any claims of misconduct on the part of Mr Pearson or the NSW Electoral Commission, nor allege any breaches of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*, on 23 June 2015 the Electoral Commissioner filed a motion to have the matter dismissed and Mr Jones subsequently filed a motion to discontinue the petition. The matter is expected to be concluded in September.

Enforcement Activities

On 1 December 2014 the *Electoral and Lobbying Legislation Amendment (Electoral Commission) Act 2014* commenced, granting the Commission a clear mandate to institute criminal and civil proceedings for contraventions of the electoral and lobbying laws. To facilitate this mandate, the Commission will undertake investigations into any suspected contraventions of the legislation, with the view of collecting, collating and presenting such evidence in an admissible format, to ensure compliance and enforcement functions meet appropriate professional standards.

The Electoral Commission received a considerable number of complaints concerning alleged breaches of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* during the 2015 State General Election. The vast majority concerned the alleged inadequate authorisation and/or registration of electoral ('how-to-vote') material and other election material, and the conduct of election participants.

There were four matters of interest that came to the attention of the Commission, which involved allegations of aspects of the following:

1. Multiple voting – matter was the subject of a preliminary review and assessment and it was determined that there was insufficient evidence to conduct an investigation;
2. Failure to provide details of printer and failure to register electoral material pursuant to s 151E and s 151G of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*, (East Hills electoral district) – investigation is ongoing;
3. Tampering with the NSW Electoral Commission's iVote system/protection of computer hardware and software pursuant to s 121AI of the *Parliamentary Electorates*

and Elections Act 1912 – the matter was subject to a preliminary review, and no offence found;

4. Tampering with electoral papers – post election – pursuant to s 136 and s 114J of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* – the matter was investigated, and no offence was found.

Advice on Future Legislative Amendment

On 9 May 2013, the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters reported on the conduct of its review into the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* and *Election Funding, Expenditure Disclosure Act, 1981*. The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' recommendations largely reflected the submissions made to it by the Commission which were, in summary: to simplify, modernise and combine the electoral and campaign finance laws under one Electoral Act; to abolish the Election Funding Authority (EFA); and to reconstitute the Commission into a three member entity with the enforcement functions of the former EFA in relation to campaign finance offences and additional enforcement functions in relation to electoral offences.

In its November 2013 response to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' review of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* and *Election Funding, Expenditure Disclosure Act, 1981*, the Government supported the Committee's principal recommendation that those Acts should be replaced with a modernised and unified Electoral Act. The response also noted that each of the Committee's specific recommendations was to be considered in detail during the drafting of legislation. In May 2014 however, the Government established a 'Panel of Experts' to investigate the potential for further reforms to election funding laws, and the government announced that it intends to refer the Panel's findings to the Joint Standing Committee for Electoral Matters for consideration. Therefore, it is anticipated that amendments to the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* and the *Election Funding, Expenditure Disclosure Act, 1981* will take place before the 2019 State General Election.

As noted earlier, on 1 December 2014 the *Electoral and Lobbying Legislation Amendment (Electoral Commission) Act 2014* introduced amendments to, among other things, give effect to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' recommendation regarding the reconstitution of the Commission. A Bill is yet to be introduced to Parliament to give effect to the remaining Committee's recommendations which largely go to streamlining and modernising the NSW electoral and campaign finance laws. The full list of recommendations is included as Appendix P.

Since the Commission's submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' Acts review, and following the conduct of the 2015 State General Election, additional amendments are recommended, including:

- enabling registered postal voters to be deemed as registered for iVote due to concerns that reduced postal delivery services ultimately will impact on the

ability of postal vote material to be distributed and returned in accordance with election time frames;

- amending the Court of Disputed Returns provisions to clarify that “illegal practices” means only those that are breaches of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*, in order to prevent unwarranted/ misguided petitions as occurred in the Jones petition referred to above. Mr Jones did not allege any irregularity in the conduct of the election or any breach of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*, but that the illegal practices consisted of defamatory statements made by political parties and the media which had affected the election result;
- further streamlining the political party registration provisions to address past problems;
- limiting the membership of a Legislative Council Group to the number capable of being elected, i.e., 21. A model provision is in s58(4) of the *South Australian Electoral Act, 1985* – ‘The number of candidates in a group must not exceed the number of candidates required to be elected at the particular election’;
- fully centralising nominations for the Legislative Assembly at the office of the NSW Electoral Commission, as is currently the case for Legislative Council nominations;
- amending authorisation requirements to make it clear on whose behalf electoral material is being distributed. This is in line with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, and will assist with eliminating second preference ‘how-to-vote’ cards being distributed prior to election day (currently s151G(7A)(a1) deals only with material to be registered for election day distribution); and
- including offences for passing off as the NSW Electoral Commission, or otherwise distributing material made to appear as an official message, e.g., brochures bearing the State Arms, and posters stating “Just Vote 1” or “Remember to number every square”.
- enhancing the electoral commissioner’s ability to make approved procedures in connection with the iVote system that will ensure responsible disclosure of iVote system vulnerabilities.

3. Service Charter Goal: Foster Participation in the Democratic Process

We aim to:

- ***conduct impartial and fair elections in accordance with the law and to provide services and information to enable all election participants to participate fully including communities with historically lower participation rates, and***
- ***communicate election information and support activities that encourage participation in democracy***

We will be successful when election participants see the election as impartial and fair, participation is fostered, so participation and formality rates exceed or equal prior elections and there are no Court challenges stemming from the conduct of the election by the Commission.

The Commission successfully engaged electors and citizens with the democratic process. Services were provided that enabled electors to participate easily and conveniently. Electors stated that they thought the Commission conducted the election impartially and fairly.

Electorate boundary changes

New South Wales is currently divided into 93 electoral districts. At a NSW State General Election, the people in each electoral district elect one person to represent them in the Legislative Assembly or lower house of Parliament. Each of these elected representatives has one vote in the Parliament so it is important that each of them represents approximately the same number of voters. This means that all electoral districts should have approximately the same size population of voters.

The number of voters in each electoral district should equal the number of people enrolled in NSW divided by the number of districts, allowing for no more than a 10% variation.¹

In NSW, legislation requires a redistribution to take place after every two state elections. The last redistribution was held in 2004. There have been two state elections held since the 2004 redistribution (in 2007 and 2011) so NSW was required to conduct another redistribution in preparation for the 2015 State General Election.

A redistribution must also take place if, at any time, more than one quarter of electoral districts differ from the average, by more or less than 5%, for more than two

¹ http://www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au/about_redistributions/why

months. This is to safeguard equal representation in the event that many electoral districts become uneven before the next scheduled redistribution. In recent times this trigger for a redistribution has not arisen.

In 2013, a redistribution of the NSW electoral districts was carried out. The district of Newtown was created and Murrumbidgee was abolished. The following districts were renamed:

- Cootamundra (formerly Burrinjuck)
- Holsworthy (formerly Menai)
- Murray (formerly Murray-Darling)
- Prospect (formerly Smithfield)
- Seven Hills (formerly Toongabbie)
- Summer Hill (formerly Marrickville)

More information on the re-distribution process can be found at http://www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au/about_redistributions/how

Engaging Citizens with the Democratic System

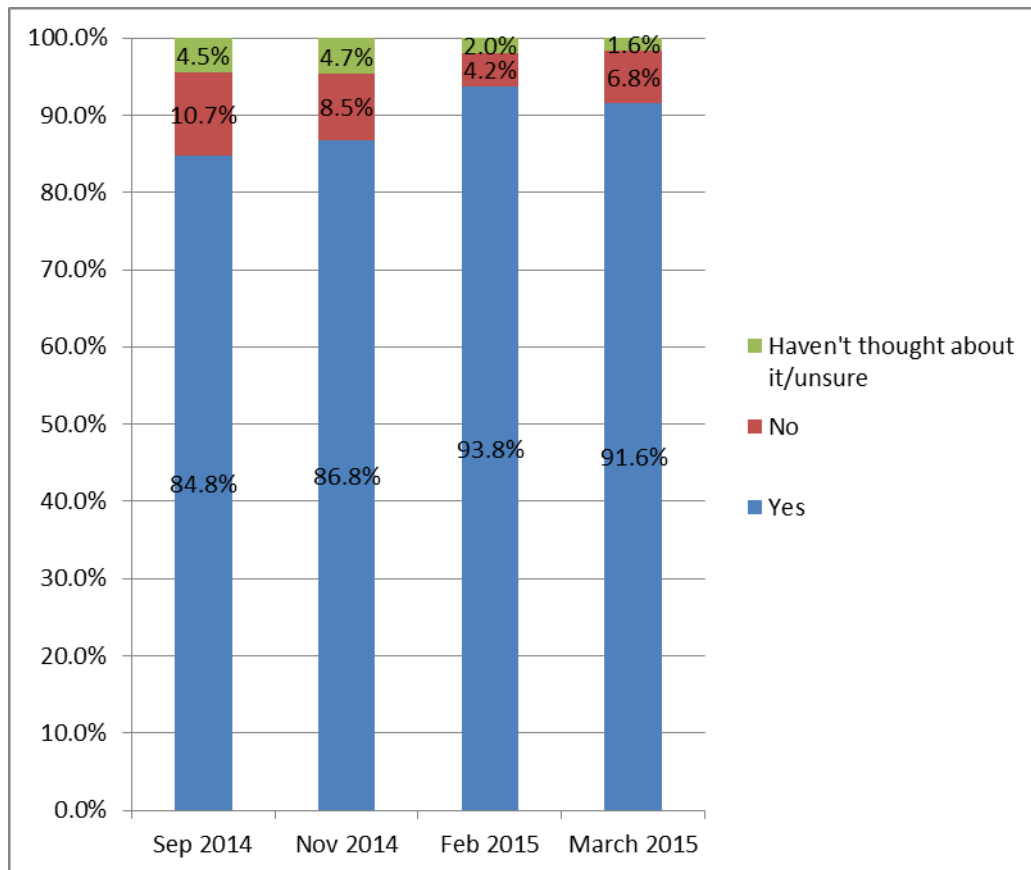
Between elections the Commission engages with the community via peak bodies and various groups representing communities and special interest groups. Consultation and communication heightened with these groups in the run up to the 2015 State General Election. The NSWEC engaged with the community by:

- seeking feedback from registered political parties and elected Members of Parliament on the number and location of polling places;
- liaising with the following advocacy groups on services required by special groups in the community:
 - Homelessness NSW
 - NSW Council for Intellectual Disability
 - Vision Australia
 - Blind Citizens Australia
 - Brain Injury Association
 - Mental Health Coordinating Council
 - Mental Health Association
 - Physical Disability Council of NSW
 - Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW
 - Carers NSW
 - Deaf Society of NSW
 - Aboriginal Disability Network
 - NSW Council of Intellectual Disability
 - SHHH Australia Inc.
- actively promoting participation for all groups in the community;

- establishing online mechanisms for enquiries and feedback including complaints of allegations of unlawful activities, to be raised with the NSW Electoral Commission.
- seeking feedback from all stakeholders on electoral services and the performance of the Commission.
- conducting ‘Get Ready to Vote’ and other election workshops to educate community reference groups on the election.

To guide its communication campaign for the coming election, the Commission from September 2014 monitored the intention of electors to vote in the March 2015 State General Election.

Snapshot surveys were undertaken in September and November 2014 and again in early February and March 2015. As the following graph shows, intention to participate peaked in the February 2015 survey and then fell slightly in the following (March) survey.



Source: Woollcott Research for the NSW Electoral Commission, September 2014, November 2014, February 2015 and March 2015.

Graph 12: Intent to Vote in the 2015 State General Election

Voting Participation by Electors

Despite these positive indications of intentions to vote, the election had a participation rate of 90.5%, a small decrease (2.1%) from 2011. This is generally consistent with recent elections held in other Australian jurisdictions.

Across Australia, Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia and Tasmania experienced a decrease in election participation. Victoria and the Northern Territory had small increases in elector turnout.

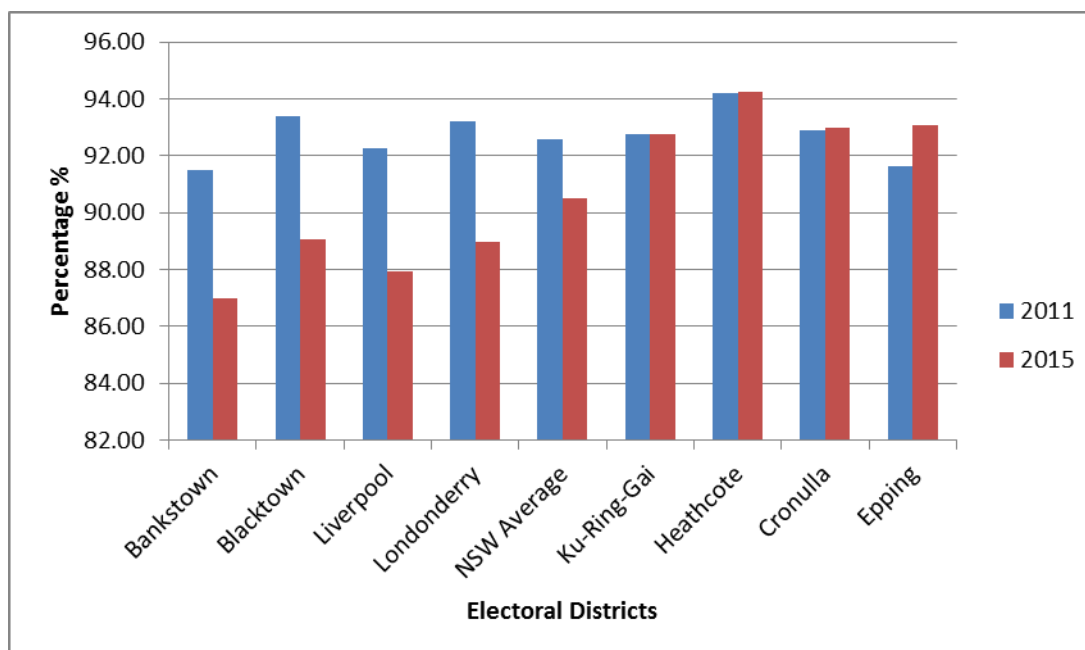
Table 3: Election Participation Across Australia

State	Election Period	Participation Rate	Change
Australian Capital Territory	2008 - 2012	90.32% - 89.26%	-1.06%
Northern Territory	2008 - 2012	75.65% - 76.91%	1.26%
Queensland	2012 - 2015	90.99% - 89.89%	-1.10%
South Australia	2010 - 2014	92.78% - 91.94%	-0.84%
Tasmania	2010 - 2014	93.85% - 93.49%	-0.36%
Victoria	2010 - 2014	92.96% - 93.01%	0.05%

Source: <http://elections.uwa.edu.au/statedetail.lasso?statesection=Elections>

As in every election, the rate of participation varies by electoral district. Within NSW, for the 2015 State General Election, the picture is indicated by:

- Heathcote (94.2%), Baulkham Hills (93.8%), Hornsby (93.4%) and Blue Mountains (93.3%) districts had the highest rate of participation.
- Sydney district with 83.9% had the lowest participation rate as in the 2011 Election (83.9%).
- Epping, Cronulla, Heathcote and Ku-ring-gai districts had the largest increases in participation.
- Bankstown, Blacktown, Liverpool and Londonderry districts had the largest decreases in participation.



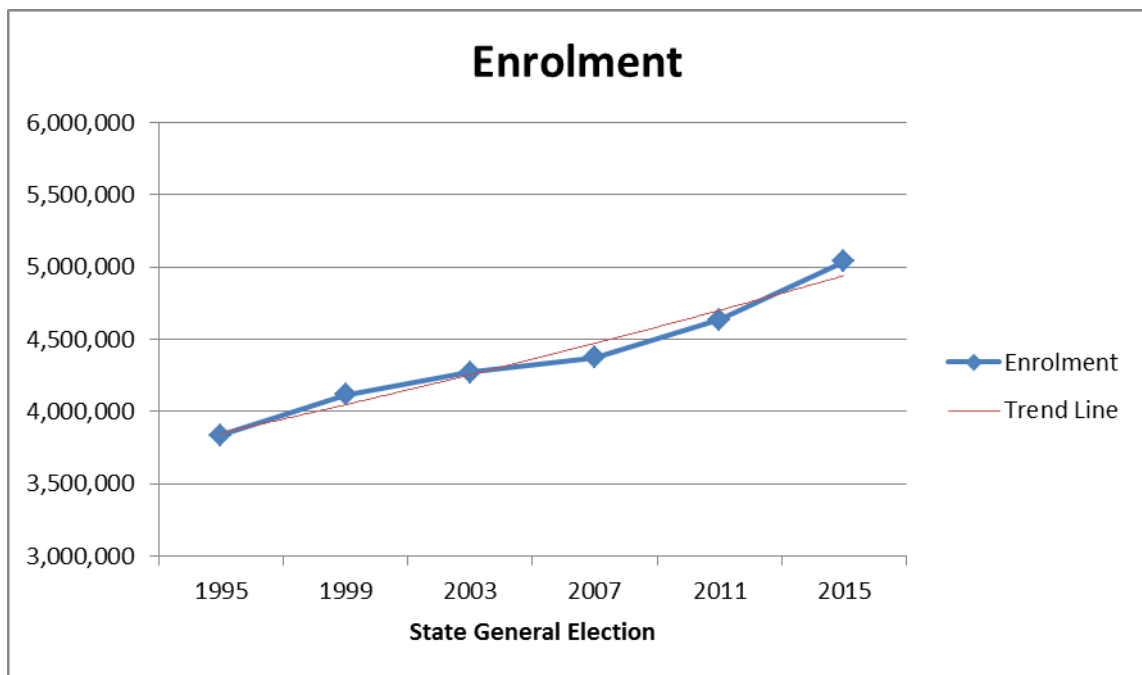
Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Graph 13: Electoral Districts with the Greatest Changes in Participation between State General Elections 2011 and 2015

While some district boundaries have changed between the 2011 and 2015 elections making comparisons more difficult, the comparisons provide some useful indications for further monitoring.

Enrolment by Electors

The number of citizens enrolled for the 2015 State General Election was 5,040,662; an increase of 404,852 voters (8.7%) from 2011 State General Election. There has been a steady increase in the number of enrolled electors since 1995 as shown in the following graph:



Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Graph 14: Enrolments from 1995 to 2015 State General Elections

Formality

Formality of votes cast is also an indicator of participation. In the 2015 State General Election, formality had a negligible decrease from 96.8% in 2011 to 96.6% in 2015. All ten districts with the highest informality rates were located within the Sydney metropolitan area.

The ten electoral districts with the highest informality rates were:

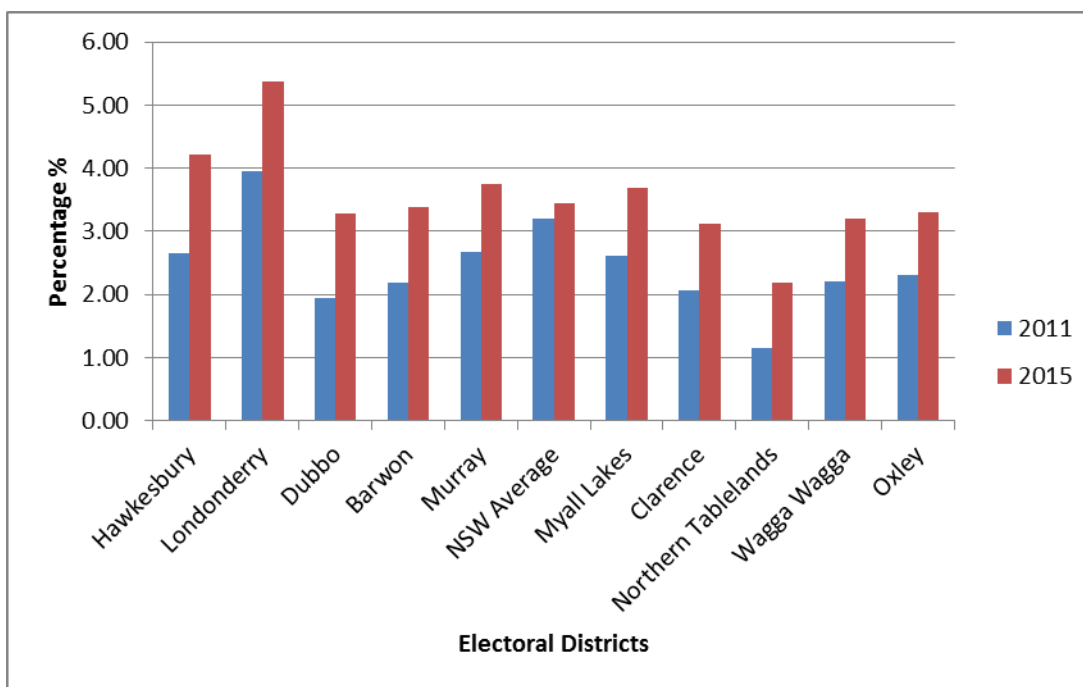
Bankstown	6.1%	Lakemba	5.5%
Auburn	5.5%	Fairfield	5.4%
Londonderry	5.4%	Liverpool	5.4%
Mount Drutt	5.3%	Holsworthy	4.9%
Prospect	4.8%	Canterbury	4.8%

Nine of these ten districts (excepting Holsworthy) have a higher than average proportion of Aboriginal or culturally and linguistically diverse residents. Six also had some of the highest informality rates in the 2011 State General Election (Bankstown, Lakemba, Auburn, Fairfield, Liverpool and Mount Druitt).

The ten electoral districts recording the lowest informality rates were:

North Shore	2.0%	Balmain	2.1%
Manly	2.1%	Northern Tablelands	2.2%
Davidson	2.2%	Lismore	2.2%
Hornsby	2.3%	Tamworth	2.3%
Ballina	2.4%	Coogee	2.4%

The districts that showed the largest increase in informality since the 2011 election were Hawkesbury, Londonderry, Dubbo, Barwon, Murray-Darling, Myall Lakes, Clarence, Northern Tablelands, Wagga Wagga and Oxley. The below graph shows a comparison between the informality rates of these districts during the 2011 and 2015 elections:



Graph 15: Electoral Districts with the Greatest Changes in Informality Rates between State General Elections 2011-2015

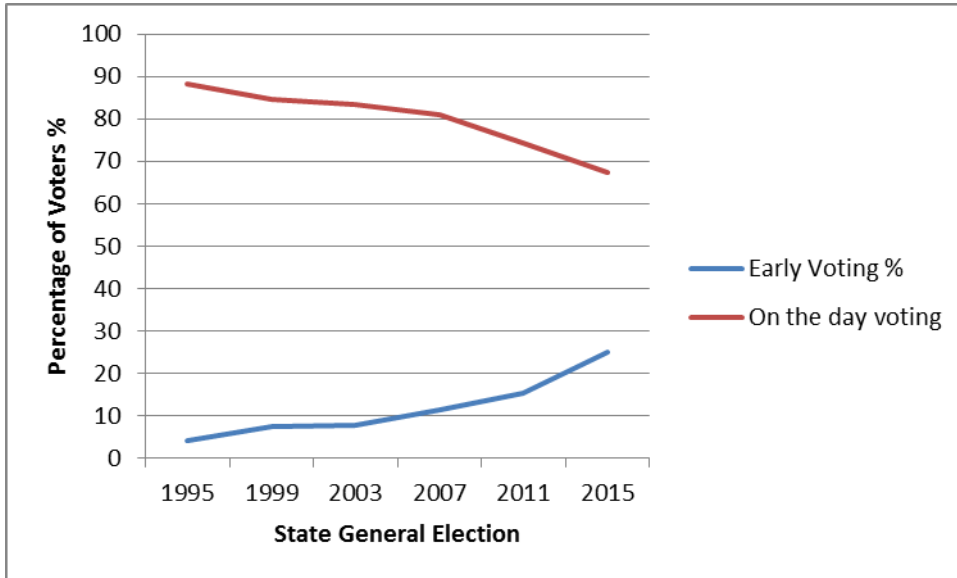
Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Early Voting

Overall, the percentage of voters using an early voting method, such as iVote, postal, pre-poll and declared institution voting, increased from 15.3% in 2011 to 25.1% in 2015. Pre-poll voting and iVote experienced the greatest change in usage (up by 82% and 505% respectively). There is a fuller description of iVote in Section 6.

Ordinary voting (voting on the day of the election at a polling place) has experienced a steady decline since the 1995 State General Election, from 74.3% of votes in 2011 to 67.4% of votes in 2015.

The following graph shows the trend in early voting versus voting on the day.



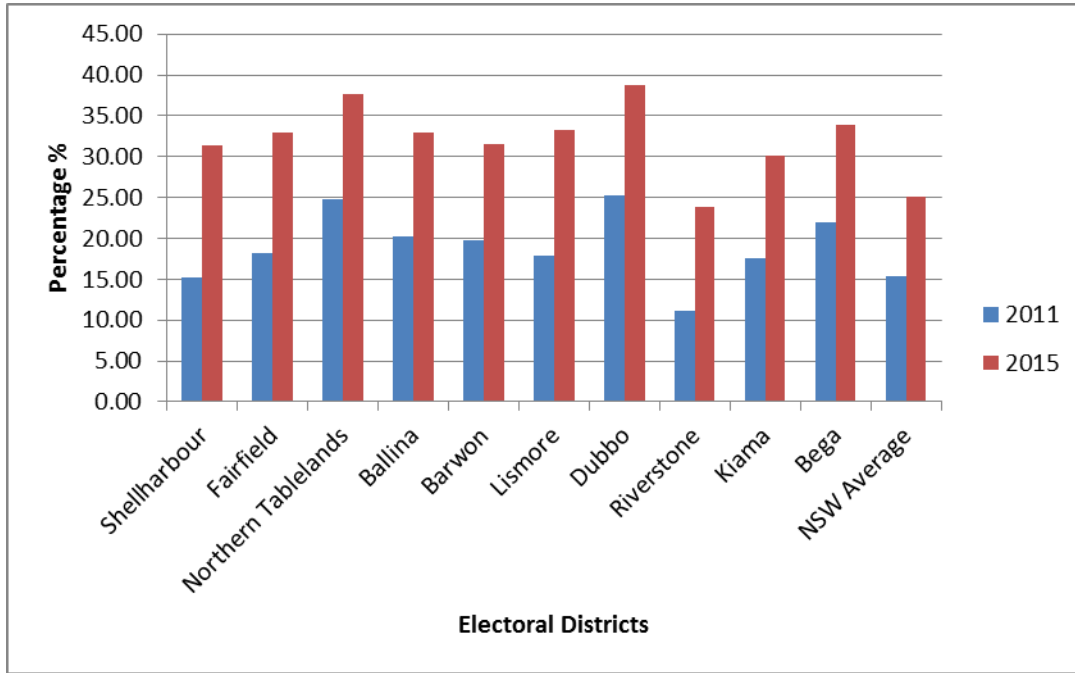
Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Graph 16: Early Voting versus on the Day Voting Percentages for the State General Elections from 1995 to 2015

The ten districts with the highest increases in usage of early voting methods were:

Shellharbour	16.1%	Lismore	15.4%
Fairfield	14.8%	Dubbo	13.5%
Northern Tablelands	12.8%	Riverstone	12.8%
Ballina	12.7%	Kiama	12.5%
Barwon	11.8%	Bega	11.9%

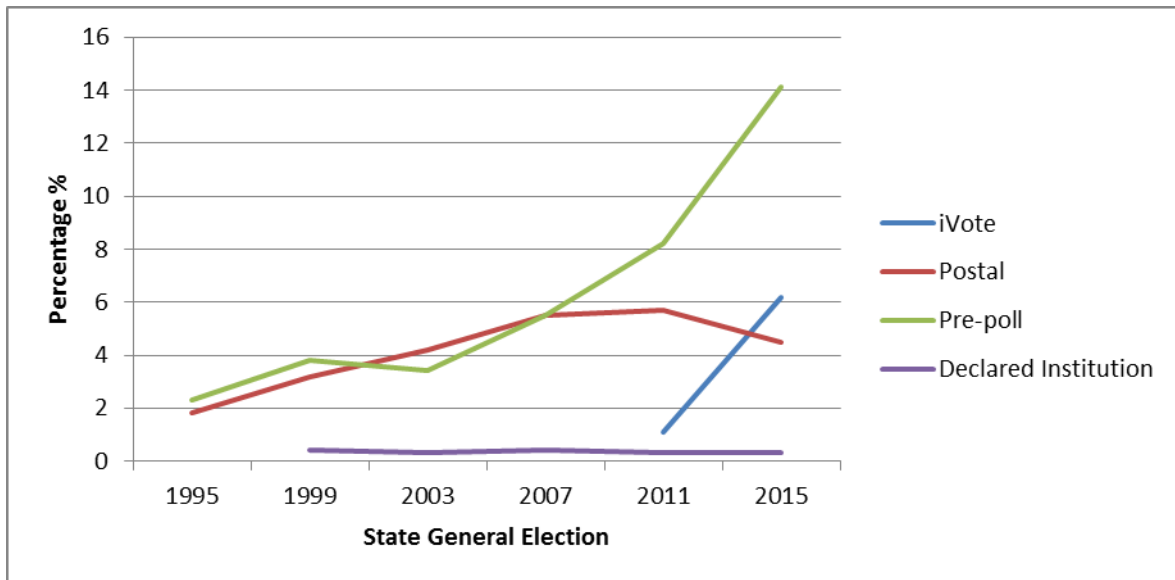
See the below graph for a comparison of early voting percentages for the above districts between the 2011 and 2015 State General Elections.



Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Graph 17: Electoral Districts with the Greatest Changes in Early Voting Rates between State General Elections 2011-2015

The next graph shows the change in usage of early voting methods over the past 20 years:



Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Graph 18: Trends in Early Voting State General Elections 1995 to 2015

Postal voting is the only voting type that markedly decreased in use between the 2011 and 2015 State General Elections. It is likely that some postal voters from 2011 would have used iVote in the 2015 State General Election.

The below table shows the percentages for the different types of voting methods used at the elections from the years 1995 to 2015.

Table 4: Proportion of Total Votes by Vote Types at 1995 to 2015 State General Elections

Vote Type	1995	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015
	%	%	%	%	%	%
iVote®	-	-	-	-	1.1%	6.2%
Postal	1.8%	3.2%	4.2%	5.5%	5.7%	4.5%
Pre-poll	2.3%	3.8%	3.4%	5.5%	8.2%	14.1%
Declared Institution	N/A	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Early Voting Totals	4.1%	7.4%	7.9%	11.4%	15.4%	25.1%
Ordinary	88.2%	84.6%	83.6%	81.1%	74.3%	67.4%
On the day voting totals	88.2%	84.6%	83.6%	81.1%	74.3%	67.4%
Section/Silent	N/A	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Enrolment New	-	-	-	-	0.5%	0.9%
Absent	7.7%	7.9%	8.3%	7.4%	9.5%	6.3%
Other voting methods totals	7.7%	8.0%	8.5%	7.5%	10.3%	7.6%
Totals	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Appendix H shows the number of votes for these types of votes in the State General Elections from 1995 to 2015.

Candidate Participation (Nominations)

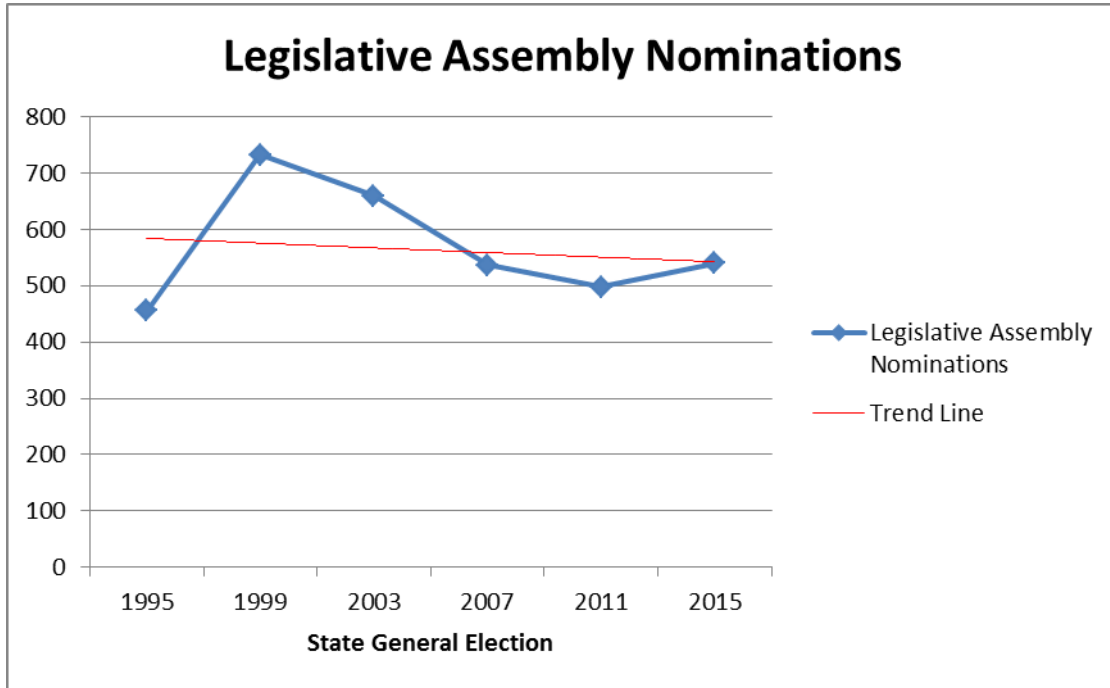
The number of candidates nominated for the Legislative Assembly steadily decreased from the 1999 to 2011 elections but increased by 8.5% since the 2011 election.

Legislative Council nominations jumped from 311 in the 2011 election to 394 in 2015, an increase of 26.7%.

It has been said the increase in the number of candidates in 1999 can be explained by the fact that 81 groups were registered on the ballot paper for the 1999 election as opposed to only 28 groups in 1995. After the 1999 election, rules regarding the registration of political parties were amended causing the number of candidates nominated to decrease as there were less parties registered for the 2003 election.²

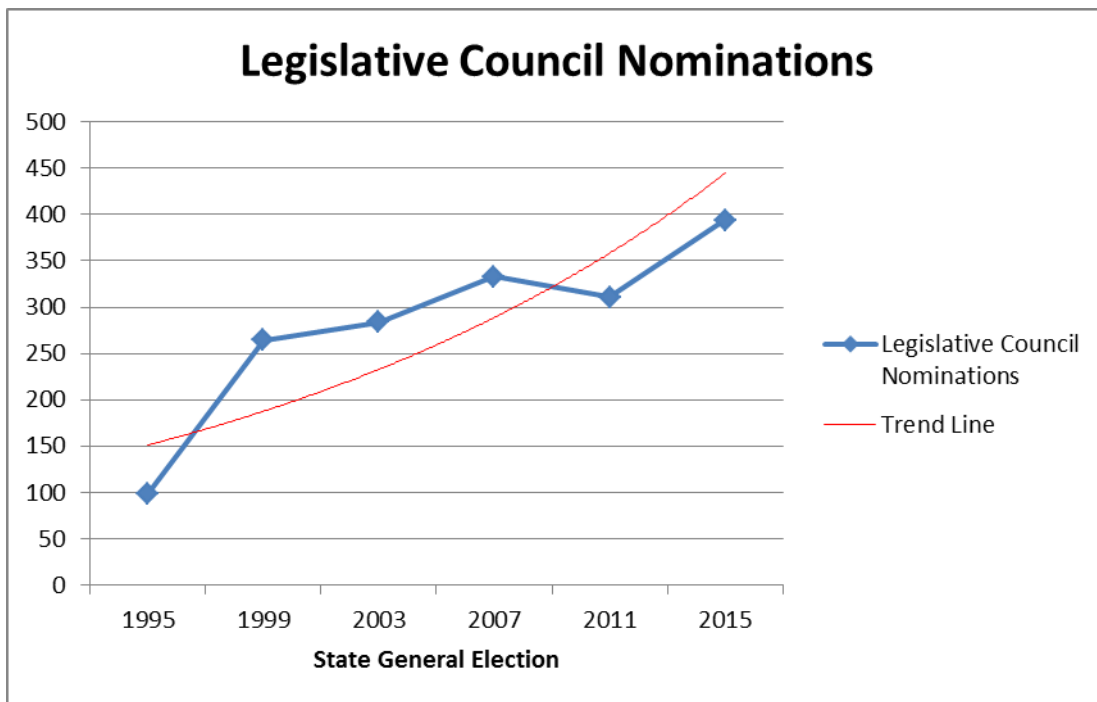
These trends are shown in the two graphs following.

² <http://blogs.abc.net.au/antonygreen/2009/06/nsw-legislative.html>



Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Graph 19: Legislative Assembly Nominations from State General Elections 1995 to 2015



Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Graph 20: Legislative Council Nominations from State General Elections 1995 to 2015

iVote

iVote was introduced in 2011 to give the following elector groups access to internet/telephone voting while maintaining their right to a secret ballot:

- electors with blindness or low vision;
- electors with another disability including a reading disability;
- electors living 20 kilometres or more from a polling place; and
- electors going to be outside of NSW on election day.

299,890 people registered for iVote for the 2015 State General Election and 283,669 used the system to cast their vote. This means that 94.6% of people who registered used the system to vote in the 2015 State General Election. Detail on iVote is provided in Section 6: Innovative, Fast Adaption.

The below table shows the number of people from each eligible group who cast their vote using iVote.

Table 5: iVote Votes by Eligibility Criteria and Technology Used, 2015 State General Election

Criteria	iVote Totals	Total %	Internet/Call Centre iVote	Telephone (IVR) iVote®
Blind/vision impaired/illiterate	4,818	2%	4,609	209
Other disabilities	12,714	4%	12,337	377
20km from a polling place	8,407	3%	8,270	137
Outside NSW on polling day	257,730	91%	255,357	2373
Totals	283,669	100%	280,573	3,096

Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

2015 State General Election Communication campaign

The *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* requires the NSW Electoral Commission to advertise certain electoral activities and milestones such as nominations. The Commission also provided a broader communication campaign using its website, media releases and liaison with community groups to promote an awareness of coming election and maximise participation. A total of 19 media releases were distributed as part of the 2015 State General Election campaign (see Appendix N for more detail).

The NSW Electoral Commission's advertising campaign was organised around the following messages:

- Redistribution may affect you.
- Participation - the need to enrol and vote;
- issue of the Writ;
- candidate nominations;
- registration of candidates and registered political parties' 'how-to-vote' material;
- arrangements for pre-poll and postal voting;
- arrangements for interstate and overseas voting;
- Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council candidates; voting formally for the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council elections;
- remember to vote – election day messages.

A media briefing was held at Parliament House on 16 February 2015 and was attended by 24 media personnel.

The communication campaign commenced on 22 February 2015 with Brand/ enrolment and iVote as the first messages. The messages, advertising timeframes and medium used are shown in Appendix N.

The forms of media used went beyond the more traditionally used forms of television, radio and press, to include catch up and internet television. A total of 68 interviews were conducted on 30 regional, Sydney metropolitan or state-wide radio and television stations. Culturally and linguistically specific forms of communications outlets were used as shown in Appendix N.

Please see Appendix J for the advertisements used in the lead up to the election.

Election funding and disclosure information was provided via press and radio advertisements focussing on the reporting requirements for the election. The messages, advertising timeframes and medium used are provided in Appendix I.

Using Digital Advertising and Social Media for the 2015 State General Election

Digital advertising delivered a huge number of banner advertisements to internet users raising awareness of the election and delivering a direct 'clickthrough' to the NSW Electoral Commission's website for further action and information. The interest it engendered through subsequent actions such as going to the Commission's website or posting comments or blogging was directly measurable.

Digital banner advertising was placed on major portals such as Fairfax Digital, News Limited, Nine MSN and Yahoo. The target audience was all people over 18 years but with a younger skew. Each advertisement invited viewers to click through to the Commission's website for further action or more information. Copies of digital advertisements are at Appendix J.

Digital Advertising

The target audience was all people over 18 years but with a younger skew. In line with changing media consumption habits digital advertising continues to be used to reach a more fractured media audience, particularly the younger demographic. Digital spend was second only to television. Digital advertising utilised multiple formats including banner display on major portals for PCs, laptops and mobile devices optimised towards the most engaged audiences, social media through video and photo posts on Facebook and Spotify. Each advertisement invited viewers to click through to the Commission's website for further action or more information.

Getting online with Social Media

For the first time the Commission used the new forms of communication provided by social media and digital advertising to increase awareness of the election.

The rapidly increasing use of the internet as information and communications medium and the relative decline in the reach of traditional forms of media resulted in digital advertising and social media being included as communication forms for the 2015 State General Election. The investment in social media and digital advertising was \$18,000 and \$450,000 respectively.

The results of these new forms of interaction were striking in maximising the distribution of election messages and the nature and quantity of responses. Please see Appendix N for detail and statistics regarding social media usage.

The 2015 State General Election is the second election to actively use social media to communicate election information and increase awareness. The NSW Electoral Commission created Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts to encourage awareness of and engagement with the election. As the election drew closer interaction and engagement increased, for example from 1,486 'likes' on the NSW Elections Facebook page on 31 December 2014, to 4,287 on 30 April 2015, a 188% increase.

Facebook was used to broadcast messages during the election period to support the various phases of the election and answer questions posted to the NSWEC Facebook

account. 'Boosted' posts performed well with a 'work at the election' post reaching over 357,000 people. Forty posts (not including replies) were made over the election period. Page followers increased by the identical amount as the growth in 'likes'.

Twitter was also used to broadcast messages during the election period to support the various phases of the election. Generally each Facebook post had a corresponding twitter post. Questions addressed to @nswelections were responded to as required. Seventeen posts (not including replies) were made over the election period.

YouTube: Videos were posted on the NSW Electoral Commission's YouTube account with social media posts linking to them as required. The YouTube channel was used to host election official training videos for convenience of users. Comments by the public were turned off for all videos. Fourteen videos were posted receiving 15,583 views over the election period.

LinkedIn was monitored but not actively used.

The Commission's social media channels were managed in-house, delivering cost savings and effective moderation and monitoring over the election period.

Conversations on the Commission's social channels were monitored. In addition, election related social media conversations around search topics were monitored.

Social channels were continuously monitored through the following channels: Hootsuite, social management tool, Facebook and Twitter accounts and daily reports from third party supplied social media monitoring. This monitoring provided us with timely accurate intelligence about conversations that related to the election and our management of it.

Maximising Website Reach

Search engine optimisation was used to ensure the maximum number of people looking for information on the election were able to find it. Data from this optimisation is below:

- there were 1.45 million visits to the www.votensw.info website, 90% of these were unique visits
- 578,139 were free wording in to search engines and of this total, 544,742 were google/organic visits (37.6%)
- 328,419 (22.6%) were 'referred on' from the main elections site (<http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au>)
- 119,680 were paid search (8%)
- 59,490 (4%) were paid advertisements
- 49% of visitors used a mobile to access website, an increase from 38% for the previous election)

Feedback indicates overall satisfaction with the 2015 State General Election

The overall impression of the Commission from electors, candidates and staff is overwhelmingly positive.

Electors' feedback

Electors were generally satisfied with their overall voting experience (88% were satisfied in the core survey), with more than half very satisfied (53%) and one-third fairly satisfied (35%).

Further, nine in ten participants were satisfied that the NSW Electoral Commission conducted the election fairly and impartially (89%), with again more than half very satisfied (53%) and 36% fairly satisfied.

Information on the election including electoral boundary changes

It is difficult to directly link advertising with outcomes, as elector behaviour is complex and depends on many factors, including engagement with the political process and specific issues only pertinent to a particular electoral district. The advertising campaign competed with media coverage and party political advertising, adding to the difficulty of assessing the effectiveness of the NSW Electoral Commission's information campaign. The success in scheduling and targeting messages was measured by traffic to the Commission's website and call centre, election metrics and post-election surveys.

Identified exposure to the NSW Electoral Commission's advertising campaign was relatively low. Fourteen percent had seen television advertising, 16% had heard radio advertising and 8% had seen print advertisements (campaign evaluation).

The vast majority of participants agreed the campaign made it clear when they had to vote (69% strongly agreed and 22% somewhat agreed) and what to do if they needed more information about the election (67% strongly agreed and 22% somewhat agreed). Before election day, around three-quarters of participants were able to correctly identify the date of the election (72%). Participants also generally felt informed about finding out where they could vote on election day, with almost four in five indicating they felt informed (78%, with 55% feeling very informed and 23% fairly informed; core survey).

Seeing or hearing the NSW Electoral Commission advertising campaign did not appear to impact awareness of the election date but did appear to increase the likelihood of both calling the enquiries line and visiting votensw.info to find out the date.

Prior to election day, the majority of participants were aware of being able to vote by post and pre-poll (71% and 63% respectively; campaign evaluation). Two-thirds of participants felt informed about early and alternative voting options (65%, with 32% feeling very informed and 33% fairly informed; core survey), however around one-third felt uninformed (30%, with 17% feeling fairly uninformed and 17% very uninformed).

Respondents generally felt informed about finding out where to vote on election day, with almost four in five (78%) indicating they felt informed. Seeing or hearing the NSW Electoral Commission advertising campaign appeared to increase the likelihood of both calling the enquiries line and visiting votensw.info for this information. Half of in-person voters in the core survey cast their vote at the same polling place as they voted last time. To find out where to vote, around one in nine asked a friend, family member or neighbour (11%), and a similar proportion said they found their polling place upon seeing crowds or signs (9%).

Two-thirds of respondents in the core telephone survey felt very informed about how to fill in a ballot paper, with a further 29% feeling somewhat informed.

Around half of pre-poll respondents received information from the NSW Electoral Commission to help them vote (52%). Satisfaction was typically high with this information, with most of those who received information very satisfied (76%).

Some of the Arabic-speaking voters recalled assistance from other (non-family) Arabic speakers outside the polling place, but none once they had entered. There was interest in greater in-language support from electoral officials once inside the polling place.

Most respondents who had a disability or restriction and their carers were unaware of information being available in large print, audio files or Auslan. Only one in five respondents (20%, 14% and 13%, respectively), were aware of information in these formats.

Around a quarter of participants were aware of iVote (26%; campaign evaluation). Among those who did not use iVote, around two-fifths were aware of the system (38%; core survey). However, seeing or hearing the campaign did not appear to significantly impact their awareness of the eligibility requirements. In addition, it did not appear to significantly impact motivation to use it.

Almost half of participants had heard of the enquiries line (48%; campaign evaluation) and two in five had heard of votensw.info (39%), and seeing or hearing the campaign appears to have increased both awareness of the enquiries line (65% of those who had seen or heard the campaign compared with 41% of those who had not) and likelihood of calling it (11% and 7% respectively).

Around two-fifths of participants were aware there had been changes to state electoral boundaries since the previous State General Election (39%; core survey). Most were satisfied with the communication of these changes (22% very and 35% fairly satisfied), however one-quarter were dissatisfied (24%), with 14% fairly dissatisfied and one in ten very dissatisfied (10%). Supporting this, only a third of Newtown voters were aware that their State Electoral District had changed (32%; campaign evaluation), and around half of those in Murrumbidgee (46%). Further, prior to the election, the majority of participants in Newtown and Murrumbidgee did not recall receiving the letter from the NSW Electoral Commission informing them about their changed State Electoral District (68% and 56% respectively).

Most of those in the relevant locations who were aware of the redistribution had checked their enrolment details (55% in Newtown and Murrumbidgee combined).

Understanding of how to check and update enrolment details was somewhat low, with around one in three participants saying they felt uninformed of how to do this prior to election day (16% fairly uninformed and 13% very uninformed). For this, though, the campaign appeared to increase the likelihood of calling the NSW Electoral Commission enquiries line and visiting votensw.info (33% and 27%, respectively among those who had, compared with 23% and 12% of those who had not).

Of those in Murrumbidgee, the vast majority correctly identified that they could vote at any polling place (92%) while less than half of the respective Newtown participants were aware of this (47%).

Voting attitudes, intentions and behaviours

The campaign had a positive impact on attitudes towards voting and the State Government. Those who had seen or heard the campaign were more likely to rate both voting and State Government decisions as important (96% for each, compared with 86% and 83% respectively among those who had not), and State Government decisions as impactful (93% compared with 83%). Most participants agreed that the campaign communicated the importance of voting (85%), with three in five agreeing strongly (59%) and one in four agreeing somewhat (26%).

The vast majority of participants saw voting as important (89%; campaign evaluation), with two in three thinking it very important (65%) and one in four somewhat important (24%). In addition, participants tended to agree the election was their chance to vote for what mattered to them (80%, with 49% agreeing strongly and 31% agreeing somewhat) and that decisions made by State Government were important to them on a personal level (87%, with 50% thinking them very important and 37% somewhat important).

In general, older participants placed a greater level of importance on voting than younger participants (88% of those aged 65+ rated it as very important, compared with 44% of those aged under 25), and were more likely to strongly agree that the election was their chance to vote for what mattered to them (68% of those aged 65+ compared with 37% of those aged under 35) and that decisions made by State Government were important to them personally (66% compared with 46%).

The campaign was typically more impactful in this respect among younger participants. For example, those in the 18-44 age bracket who had seen or heard the campaign were more likely to rate State Government decisions as important (92% compared with 80% of those who had not) whereas no significant impact was observed among those aged 45+.

Prior to election day, the vast majority expected that they would vote in the election (95%) and, of these participants, around nine in ten intended to cast a valid vote (assuming they voted; 92%). Almost all participants ended up voting in the election (98%; core survey), with three-quarters doing so on election day (75%).

The campaign did appear to impact intention to cast a valid vote (98% of those who had seen or heard the campaign intended to cast a valid vote, compared with 90% of those who had not). This campaign effect was most prominent among younger participants (aged 18-44; 97% compared with 85% amongst 45+ years).

Candidates, parties, media and election staff feedback

Candidates were asked to complete an online survey based on their overall experience. When asked “Do you believe the NSW Electoral Commission conducted the NSW State General Election on 28 March 2015 fairly and impartially?” 88% of respondents answered “Yes”. When asked the same question, 80% of media, 98% of Office Managers, 98% of Polling Place Managers and 94% of Election Officials also answered “Yes”.

The Commission’s media communication response for the election received positive feedback, with 70% of respondents from the media being satisfied or very satisfied.

4. Service Charter Goal: Customer Focused and Fiscally Responsible

We aim to build better relationships with clients and partners by understanding their needs, and responding to them professionally with well organised, reliable and quality elections provided on a competitive basis.

Our success is measured by participants' satisfaction with services and electoral staff.

Electoral Services Reflect Customer Needs

In the 2015 State General Election over 4.5 million electors voted through a variety of voting service options. The *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912* largely determines the services and flexibility the Commission can provide electors, candidates and parties. Legislative amendments for the 2015 State General Election had been mooted but did not eventuate. Consequently, changes to better meet the needs of election participants were not introduced as planned.

Using feedback from evaluations of previous elections and input from community reference groups, the Commission improved the services provided for election participants within legislative parameters.

This section covers the services provided to certain groups traditionally less well represented in the electoral system, public funding of candidates and political parties, the financial details of conducting the 2015 State General Election and the management of the election workforce.

Meeting the Needs of Different Community Groups

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group, the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Reference Group and the Disability Reference Group assisted in identifying barriers to equal participation and solutions to these barriers for the 2015 State General Election.

Community education materials were produced to address the needs of each of these groups in paper, audio, online, video, Auslan and translated form. The 'how to vote' brochures were produced in 23 community languages with the most downloaded brochure being the Chinese guide.

The Commission sought to increase employment from communities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and people with bilingual and multilingual skills. Recruitment strategies targeted electoral districts with significant populations of electors who spoke a language other than English at home and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

Electoral districts that were identified as having a significant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population were expected to achieve an employment target of 2.6%. The majority of districts participating in the targeted recruitment strategy met and/or exceeded the 2.6% target.

Bilingual speakers were given priority for employment in the 15 districts that have a high population of people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. A total of 1,404 people with bilingual skills were employed to work across these 15 districts.

The number of community languages spoken by electoral staff was 110. (See Appendix P for languages spoken by election staff.)

The Commission also trained electoral staff to assist voters who might experience language or cultural challenges in navigating voting.

Communicating according to Customer Ways - Social Media

Conscious of the growth in social media, particularly by younger people, the NSW Electoral Commission used its Facebook³ and Twitter⁴ and YouTube⁵ accounts to communicate information about the election and answer questions from electors in real time. The evaluation showed social media was a highly effective way of engaging electors.

Traditional radio, print, internet and television advertisements were used also to communicate election information to the public. More detail has been set out in Section 3 'Foster Participation in the Democratic Process'. Appendix J sets out the advertising strategies used.

Section 5 'Provide Seamless Service Delivery' gives information on general election services provided to election participants.

Public Funding – Election Campaigns Fund

The public funding scheme for the 2015 State General Election was amended by way of the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Amendment Act 2014* which commenced 28 October 2014.

Under the scheme, public funding is available to eligible parties and eligible candidates who are not endorsed by an eligible party.

A party is eligible if, among other things, it is a registered party and the total number of first preference votes received by the party's endorsed candidates in either the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council election is at least 4% in the Legislative

³ <https://www.facebook.com/NSWElections/>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/nselections>

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/user/NSWElections>

Assembly or Legislative Council (as applicable), or at least one endorsed candidate of the party is elected.

A candidate is eligible if, among other things, the person is a registered candidate and the candidate receives at least 4% of the first preference vote in their district (in the case of a Legislative Assembly candidate) or in the case of a Legislative Council candidate the candidate was not a member of an endorsed group and receives at least 4% of the first preference vote in the Legislative Council.

Under the scheme the amount of public funding to be distributed from the Election Campaigns Fund to an eligible party is the lesser amount of the following:

- \$4 for each first preference vote received by the party’s endorsed candidates in the Legislative Assembly and \$3 for each first preference vote received by the party’s endorsed candidates in the Legislative Council; or
- the total amount of actual campaign expenditure incurred by the party and all of its endorsed candidates.

If the party was eligible for funding only by way of the % of first preference votes received in the Legislative Council and the party had fewer than 10 endorsed candidates in the Legislative Assembly then the amount of funding is \$4.50 for each first preference vote received by the party’s endorsed candidates in the Legislative Council or the total amount of actual campaign expenditure incurred by the party and all of its endorsed candidates, whichever is the lesser.

The amount to be distributed to an eligible candidate who is not endorsed by an eligible party is \$4 for each first preference vote received by the candidate in the Legislative Assembly or \$4.50 for each First Preference Vote received by the candidate in the Legislative Council.

To receive a payment from the Election Campaigns Fund the agent of an eligible candidate or party is required to make a claim for payment. The claim for payment is to include all actual campaign expenditure of the eligible candidate or, in the case of an eligible party, all actual campaign expenditure of the party and its endorsed candidates.

Claims are required to be lodged by 28 August 2015. The maximum amount payable to the eligible parties and candidates is \$29.4 million as shown below.

Table 6: Public Funding Available to Political Parties and Candidates, 2015 State General Election

Total Public Funding available to Parties	Total Public Funding available to Candidates	Total Public Funding available
\$28,733,669	\$703,928	\$29,437,597

Source: NSW Electoral Commission.

Eight parties and 31 candidates are eligible to make a claim. Two of those parties have made a claim and five of those eligible candidates have made a claim. The two party claims have been finalised as has one candidate claim. Advance payments were made

to the parties prior to the election and the two parties that have lodged a claim have each received a preliminary payment.

Advance payment is 30% of the amount a party was entitled to receive at the 2011 election. Advance payments can be paid any time after 1 October in the year before a general election. \$4,795,516.43 has already been paid to eligible parties by way of advance payments.

Preliminary payment is 70% of the estimated amount payable to the party reduced by the amount of the advance payment, which is paid within 14 days of the party making the claim. \$ 4,926,644.66 has been paid to parties by way of preliminary payments.

Responsible Financial Management - Resourcing the Election

The project structures, processes and governance arrangements established for the 2015 State General Election were documented in the Commission's submission to the Joint Standing Committee Electoral Matter's Inquiry into preparation for the 2015 Election and those interested are referred to this submission at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/63E9DD13653B69FFCA257D7B001A633C.

2015 State General Election Budget

Treasury provided funding for the conduct of the 2015 State General Election based on the 2011 State General Election with escalation for price inflationary factors. Additional funding above the 2011 level was provided for iVote (100,000 electors) and systems support. The budget across the two-year programme totalled \$49.2 million.

Expenditure is currently forecast to exceed budget by \$6.4m to total \$55.6m. Significant overspend items were:

- **Quality Control Enhancements \$1.6m** - a review of our election processes following examination of the report into the Australian Electoral Commission conduct of the Western Australian Senate Election in 2013. This review highlighted the need to increase our quality control measures resulting in an increase in expenses for ballot paper tracking and additional security.
- **iVote \$2.6m** – initial iVote funding was based on an estimate of 100,000 voters. This usage increased to a final total of 283,000, which, due to the fee per vote nature of the costs and the increased security required around the system, resulted in the cost overrun.
- **System Support \$1.7m** – increased software support costs were incurred to ensure enhancements to the three key internally developed election programs were operational in time for the election. This included the critical election results system.

Supplementary funding was sought and approved by Treasury in May 2015.

As in previous elections, expenditure incurred to conduct the 2015 State General Election included both operating and capital expenditure. The nature of preparing for a major event such as a State General Election has a long lead-time and typically expenditure is incurred over two financial years.

Capital Expenditure

A total of \$3.850m was invested in IT infrastructure and election systems (including some in iVote) over the two financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Table 7: Capital Expenditure Financial 2013/14 and 2014/15 State General Elections

Capital Project	2013/14 \$m	2014/15 \$m	Total \$m
iVote	-	677	677
Online Electoral Material	-	197	197
iRoll	-	553	553
ICT Infrastructure	1,899	524	2,423
Total	1,899	1,951	3,850

Source: NSW Electoral Commission, August 2015.

The Right Number of Staff with the Right Skills

Recruitment of Election Staff

There were approximately 22,000 election officials employed for the 2015 State General Election. Additionally, there were an estimated 4,500 individuals employed as office assistants in Returning Officer offices, visiting Declared Institutions and counting ballot papers.

Table 8: Number of Employees for Each Position Type for the 2015 State General Election

Position	Number Employed
Declaration Vote Issuing Officers	6,773
Election Officials	6,486
Polling Place Managers	2,810
Office Assistants	2,669
Part Day Election Officials	1,607
Deputy Polling Place Managers	845
Legislative Council Count Managers	464
Polling Place Assistants	333
Senior Office Assistants	182
Returning Officers	93
Returning Officers' Support Officers	8
TOTAL	22,270

Source: NSW Electoral Commission, 2015

Since 2010, the Commission has established an eligibility pool of senior election officials across NSW. The pool typically contains approximately 240 individuals who have undergone a merit selection process including written application, interview and online training against specific criteria to fulfil the role of

- Returning Officer Support Officer
- Returning Officer
- Office Manager, or
- Senior Office Assistant

Recruitment information required includes response to the selection criteria, previous experience as an election official, references, a declaration of political neutrality and no criminal convictions. This conforms to the recommendation of the Keelty Report into the Federal Western Australian Senate election in 2014, that the political neutrality of all persons having contact with a ballot paper should be assured.

Polling Place Election Officials

The Commission has developed a model based on vote projections and other factors such as redistribution of electoral boundaries, special events being held in electoral districts on election day, population movement and growth across districts, to determine the number and type of polling place staff to be recruited for each voting venue on election day.

A similar model forecasts the number of office assistants a Returning Officer requires during nominations and pre-poll period, and staffing requirements for ballot paper counting and decommissioning of the Returning Officer's office. An advertising campaign supplemented SMS and email messages to those who had indicated they wished to be notified of recruitment opportunities for the 2015 State General Election.

The staffing model has been tested at prior major election events. It is calculated on:

- location of the polling place (country, metropolitan or regional);
- whether there is a high culturally and linguistically diverse community or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population;
- if the district has been affected by the 2013 Redistribution; and
- whether there are any local events (for example, festivals on election day or during the pre-poll period).

The model is also adjusted for multi district polling venues versus issuing ordinary votes for a single venue. The number of Polling Place Managers corresponds directly to the number of polling places.

Applicants used an online recruitment system available on the Commission's website. Paper applications are also made available for members of special interest groups for whom online systems are not appropriate. The Commission's monitored applications and undertook additional advertising in specific geographic areas to increase the number of applications.

Three information packs were developed focussing on three stakeholder groups:

- Aboriginal applicants
- Multilingual applicants
- Applicants with a disability

The information packs were available from 29 January 2015 on the website which received a total of 12,208 visits. The information packs provided information about working at the election in terms of:

- the application process
- the selection process
- the requirement of the jobs (tasks and duties]
- the hours of work

Election Official Training

Depending upon their role, election officials have different levels of training. All election officials are briefed by their supervisor and short training videos, such as how to do Legislative Assembly and Two Candidate Preferred counts, are available on mobile tablet devices for viewing at any time, including during the counting process if required. Procedure manuals, and a more comprehensive online training programme, including interactive quizzes and scenario testing, are provided along with check lists and quick reference guides for reference at the polling place.

In early 2014, the Commission undertook a training needs analysis for senior election officials and election officials. An upgrade to the online learning management system provided a greater level of interactivity and a better training delivery platform. A

minimum pass rate was required for each module undertaken and the system monitored the number of attempts the individual made per module.

Face to face training on processes such as ballot paper allocation and reconciliation and ballot paper counting procedures occurred and was supplemented by a set of Standard Operating Procedures and associated forms, quick reference guides, training manuals and short videos to provide guidance for daily election activities. For this election, in addition to the usual online and face-to-face training, a video was created on the vote counting process.

Performance Assessment

All senior election officials underwent a formal performance assessment undertaken by their supervisor during and at the end of the election event. All performance assessment Reviews were checked against minimum quality standards before being provided to the officer. An appeal mechanism is in place for those who feel the performance assessment review did not accurately reflect their work. Once signed by the recipient of the review, these assessments were stored and used to assess suitability for future roles.

Providing Equipment and Materials Logistical Support

Approximately 29 million ballot papers were produced to cover the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council and absent voting requirements. These ballot papers were distributed across 3,327 polling locations to cover both pre-poll and election day polling places.

The Commission introduced a new approach to distributing the ballot papers required for each polling place within each of the 93 electoral districts. Instead of each of the 93 different districts allocating, packing and distributing ballot papers to polling places, this was undertaken centrally. This entailed the allocation required for each polling place being determined centrally by modelling of expected votes and the ballot papers supplier packaging the allocated number of ballot papers for each polling place. These packages were then provided to the Returning Officers' offices for distribution to polling places. The supplier was certified with ISO 9001.

This approach provided a higher level of security by centralising access to the ballot papers and by monitoring the movement of ballot papers. The outcome was an improvement in the quality of the ballot paper distribution and accuracy of matching supplies to the polling place requirements. The transfer and ownership of ballot papers was enhanced further by introduction of tamper evident seals with unique identification numbers.

The success of this process change provides an opportunity for the Commission to further review the functions and need for Returning Officer Offices, especially in metropolitan districts.

Workplace and Venue Safety

The Commission reports the occupational health matters that arose during the election as part of its accountability.

There were 82 workplace safety incidents reported to the Commission. Of these the bulk (66%) occurred on election day when the majority of election officials were employed. The incidents which became Workers' Compensation matters made up 39% of the total and were primarily slips, trips and falls incurred on voting premises.

In terms of public liability matters, there were a total of 50 incidents reported by members of the public; a very small number considering the number of voters who use the election venues. Of these 37 or 74% were slips, trips and falls at voting premises.

The Commission is concerned that there are increasingly more adverse comments from election officials regarding the long working hours on election day. This is a nationwide trend and growing from election to election, so much so that it is becoming difficult to attract people to take up positions.

Regrettably there is no simple answer to the long hours. Attempts have been tried to introduce part-day staff with limited success, attracting fewer people than desired.

One of the key issues in NSW is the time taken to count the Legislative Council ballot paper. One option might be to only count the Legislative Assembly ballot papers on election night and not count the Legislative Council ballot papers.

Electors' Satisfaction with election services and election officials

- As stated above, participants were generally satisfied with their overall voting experience (88%; core survey), with more than half very satisfied (53%) and one in three fairly satisfied (35%). The majority voted on election day in-person (97%). The vast majority of these respondents voted in their own electorate (91%). Only 2% voted by iVote.
- Satisfaction with the voting services available to electors was all high but satisfaction was highest among iVote users (97%, with 80% very satisfied and 17% fairly satisfied; iVote telephone survey), followed by postal voters (95% satisfied, with 73% very satisfied and 22% fairly satisfied; core survey) and pre-poll voters (93% were satisfied with their pre-polling experience, with 70% very satisfied and 23% fairly satisfied; pre-poll survey). Among those who voted in-person on election day, 87% were satisfied with their overall experience (with 49% very satisfied and 38% fairly satisfied).
- Those aged 25-34 were more likely to have voted at a polling place in another electorate (13%) compared with any other aged group (3%-7%). Those in regional areas were more likely to have voted in-person in their own electorate (94%) than those in metropolitan areas (89%).
- Among those who voted before election day, more than half voted 'in person' pre-polling (57%). Most pre-poll voters did so in their own electorate (49% of

pre-election day voters). Around one-fifth of early voters voted by iVote online (22%) and a similar proportion by postal voting (20%).

- Younger voters (aged 25-34) were more likely to have used iVote (49%) on the internet before election day than voters aged over 35 (22%-26%).
- In the core survey, voting in-person on election day received the highest level of advocacy. Nine in ten participants were likely to recommend it to a friend or family member (90%; core survey), with more than half very likely to do so (53%) and 37% somewhat likely. This compares with 44% who were very likely to recommend pre-polling and 29% who were very likely to recommend postal voting. Among those who had heard of iVote (but not necessarily used it), likelihood to recommend was relatively high, with around half very likely to recommend it (46%). However, iVote also received higher levels of those saying they were very unlikely to recommend, with one in nine (11%) saying this.
- Older respondents were more likely to recommend postal voting (63% of those aged over 65) than respondents aged 18-24 (50%) or 25-34 (45%).
- Most in-person voters either did not need or did not receive assistance from electoral staff in understanding how to vote properly (60%). Of those who did ask for assistance, around three-quarters were very satisfied (31% of all in-person voters). Only 1% of in-person voters were dissatisfied with the assistance. Younger voters (aged 18-24) were more likely to be satisfied with the assistance they received than older respondents as were respondents with a disability.

Culturally and linguistically diverse participants

- Participants from a culturally and linguistically diverse background (CALD) were generally less engaged overall. Prior to election day, they were less likely to say they were certain to vote (73% compared with 89% non-CALD).
- Despite this, satisfaction levels among CALD participants did not significantly differ from the overall figures, with high levels of satisfaction reported for all key measures. Almost nine in ten CALD participants were satisfied with their overall voting experience and 90% were satisfied that the Commission conducted the election fairly and impartially (50%).
- Two-thirds of CALD participants were very satisfied with the facilities at the polling place (68%), with a further 27% fairly satisfied. Similar proportions were very satisfied with the amount of time it took to cast their vote (67%) and fairly satisfied with this (24%).
- 67% were very satisfied with their privacy when filling out the ballot paper and 28% were fairly satisfied and, of those who received assistance in understanding how to vote properly, 74% were very satisfied with this assistance and a further 16% were fairly satisfied.

- CALD participants however felt least informed about early and alternative voting options (31% very informed) and how to check and update their details (33% very informed). They were also the most likely to want more information about parties or candidates (13%) and iVote (10%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants

- Satisfaction levels among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) participants were generally high with 84% satisfied with their overall voting experience while two thirds of ATSI participants were very satisfied with the assistance they received if they needed assistance in understanding how to vote properly (67%) and a further 22% were fairly satisfied.
- ATSI participants were significantly less likely than overall to be satisfied that the NSW Electoral Commission conducted the election fairly and impartially (31% were very satisfied, compared with 54% of non-ATSI participants).
- They were significantly less likely to be very satisfied with the amount of time it took to cast their vote (46%, compared with 72% of non-ATSI). They were also less likely to be very satisfied with the facilities at the polling places (50% compared with 73% of non-ATSI) and their privacy when filling out the ballot paper (46% compared with 71% of non-ATSI).
- ATSI participants were the least likely to feel informed about how to check and update their details (15% very informed) and when the election results were declared (23%).

Electors with a Disability

- The vast majority were satisfied (96%) with the accessibility of the polling place.
- Those who were not very satisfied one-third (34%) said there was nothing that could be improved. Those mentioning an improvement suggested: allowing online voting (14%), more information and help on how to vote (6%), reducing the queues (5%), more identity checks (4%), more polling booths/more room and privacy (4%) and more staff members (3%)..
- Very few of those who were aware of information in other formats used any of them, either for themselves or for the person they care for (14%). Among the two respondents who used audio files, both were very satisfied with this information, while the two respondents who used large print were satisfied. The respondent who used Auslan did not know whether he or she was satisfied or dissatisfied.

On-the-day enrolment

- While a small number of respondents had enrolled and voted on the day (14 respondents in total), all were satisfied with this service.

Privacy and security

- Almost all in-person voters interviewed in the core telephone survey were satisfied with their privacy while filling out their ballot papers (95%). Older respondents were more likely to be satisfied with their privacy (98% of those over 65 were satisfied) compared with those aged 25-34 (93%).

Satisfaction with polling place facilities

- Almost all in-person voters were satisfied with the facilities at their polling place (96%).
- Respondents who had a disability or mobility issue were generally satisfied with the accessibility of their polling place and their ability to move around it (96%).

Satisfaction with time taken to vote

- Around three-quarters of in-person voters were satisfied with the time it took them to cast their vote (92%).
- Two-thirds of in-person voters in the core telephone survey waited less than five minutes to vote, with 40% not waiting at all.
- Nine percent (9%) waited for more than 15 minutes. The average queue time was around 4 minutes.

Pre-poll voting meets electors needs

- Among those pre-polling at the four survey locations, satisfaction was higher at Sydney Town Hall and lower at Fairfield, largely reflecting the waiting times at each of these locations. Around half of pre-poll respondents received information from the Commission to help them vote (52%). Satisfaction was typically high with this information, with most of those who received information very satisfied (76%).
- As with overall experience and ease of voting, satisfaction with the amount of time it took to vote was typically high. Again, satisfaction was highest at Sydney Town Hall (86% very satisfied), and significantly lower at Fairfield and Tamworth (54% and 60% respectively, compared with 71% overall).
- Respondents living in regional areas were more likely to say they would recommend pre-polling in-person (77% likely to recommend), than those living in metro areas (67%), while respondents with reading difficulties (81%) and hearing impairments (82%) were also more likely to say they would recommend pre-polling in-person.

Electors reporting dissatisfaction with services

- Those who were dissatisfied, were critical of crowded polling places, long queues and consequent lengthy waiting time (7%).

“It took too long the line was long and it was slow inside.” - Core telephone survey respondent

- Others were confused by the ballot paper instructions (6%) and long list of candidates.

“I don’t like the big bits of paper.” - Core telephone survey respondent

- While some were negative due a general dislike of politics and a disdain and detachment from the political process (4%).

“I don’t think that voting really matters - politics bore me death.” - Core telephone survey respondent.

Location plays a role in satisfaction

- Respondents in metropolitan areas more likely to be satisfied (91%), than those in regional areas (86%). The location of the polling place also influenced satisfaction, along with closeness to home (4%), parking, and amount of signage (6%).

Satisfaction with website and enquiries line

- Four in five website users in the core telephone survey were satisfied with NSW Electoral Commission websites (83%). Respondents aged 25-34 were the most satisfied with the website (94% compared to 79% of those aged 45-54).
- Almost nine in ten call centre users in the core telephone survey were satisfied with the enquiries line service they received (85%).

Election Results

- Among those who followed the election results on election night, almost all were satisfied with the speed at which these results were available; 71% were very satisfied and a quarter were fairly satisfied (25%).

Candidates’ and political parties’ satisfaction with election services

- Both candidates and parties were confident that the Commission conducted the election impartially (88.4% candidates and 76.9% parties). Perceptions of the overall conduct of the election were similarly high with 85.1% of candidates and 84.6% of parties indicating satisfaction.
- The vast majority of both candidates and parties indicated that they received sufficient information to explain their rights and obligations, and where to get help if needed. The political parties were most satisfied with the website 78.6%, Enquiry and Help Desk 77.1% followed by advertising 50.0%. The

corresponding figures for candidates were website 74.7%, advertising 56.8% and Enquiry and Help Desk 50.0%.

Table 9: Candidate and Political Party Satisfaction with Information Sources, 2015 State General Election

Services	Candidates	Political parties
Website	74.7%	78.6%
Advertising	56.8%	50.0%
Enquiries and Help Desk	50.0%	77.1%

Source: NSW Electoral Commission in-house surveys conducted April, 2015

- Both candidates and parties were satisfied with election and funding and disclosure staff although candidates were markedly more satisfied with election staff (78.5%) than funding and disclosure staff (53.5%). The provision of election funding and disclosure responsibilities was not regarded as positively with 56.9% of candidates and 50.0% of parties feeling they received sufficient information.
- Usage of the new online webinars was low with 9.1% of responding candidates participating and only 25.3% aware these were provided. The majority (76.9%) of responding political parties did not attend the parties' briefing. The majority (58.3%) of responding candidates did not use the new online registration for 'how to vote' materials nor the online analysis tool for performing customised two candidate preferred counts.
- Political parties were more satisfied with the provision of election results than candidates (91.7% as compared to 73.7%).
- The comments from parties and candidates for suggested improvements included

"There is a very short time from when candidates nominate to run and when pre-polling opens, which makes it almost impossible to get voting material printed in time. Would it be possible to make the registration of candidates earlier in the election campaign?" – **Online political party survey respondent.**

"Bearing in mind the late input of the NSW Government more timely information would be helpful. With a fixed 4 year term I think the lodgement date for candidates should close one month prior to the Election. For smaller parties and individual candidates setting up and printing approved electoral material was difficult and led to additional expenses. Pre-polling should only be for one week prior to the election day." - **Online political party survey respondent.**

"Independent candidates would struggle with many requirements. I stood for a party which provided many resources, but independents

perhaps need direct help from the EC especially for funding and disclosure requirements. This may be one barrier to more people standing as independents?” – **Online candidate survey respondent.**

“A single list of all electorates with every candidate (and party where applicable) in ballot paper order would be a great advantage.” - **Online candidate survey respondent.**

Satisfaction of election officials

- In an online survey conducted by the Commission, staff were asked to “Rate your overall satisfaction with the recruitment process run by the NSWEC for this election.” The majority of respondents were happy with the recruitment process, with an average of 83.1% of staff answering “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied”.

Table 10: Staff Satisfaction with Recruitment Process, 2015 State General Election

	RO Office Managers	Election Officers	Polling Place Managers
Very Satisfied	45.2%	36.6%	30.8%
Satisfied	40.6%	50.8%	45.4%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	7.9%	6.9%	11.5%
Dissatisfied	4.4%	3.1%	8.6%
Very Dissatisfied	2.0%	2.6%	3.8%

Source: NSW Electoral Commission in-house surveys conducted April, 2015.

- In the online survey of Polling Place Managers, they were asked: “How adequately did your training prepare you for sorting and counting votes on election night?” – a total of 81.2% of respondents answered “Very adequately” or “Adequately” (29.4% and 51.8% respectively).
- Office Managers were asked if they were satisfied with the training received, with 79.9% of respondents answering “Yes”.
- Comments from election officials regarding training include:

“Possible if instead of just online training to have an evening/day session prior to election day to run through the whole procedure of everything and questions can be asked then to make a more efficient election day.” – **Online election official survey respondent**

“I believe training could be streamlined. Whilst elections are a process that needs to be carefully controlled, the online training is so long that many of the points get lost in it. Summary slides would be useful.” – **Online election official survey respondent**

“Love the training - doing the modules thoroughly I then proceeded to summarise the training on a cheat sheet and used it on the day. I felt extremely confident that I could handle all situations - and I did. Well done whoever put it together.” - **Online election official survey respondent**

The majority of election officials (72.9%) said that there were no workplace health and safety issues they wanted to raise with the Commission. Of those they did (22.4%) the matters raised centred on the facilities at polling places for storing food brought by staff, the number and length of breaks, suitability of furniture for counting ballot papers. As polling place venues are not owned by the Commission it is not always possible to locate premises that suit all criteria including kitchen facilities. There are other issues however that fall within the control of the Commission that will be addressed such as providing safety briefings prior to staff commencing work.

Some of the issues raised included:

“Would be more efficient to employed ballot counters separately at 6pm to avoid fatigue” **Online election official survey respondent**

“Ensure enough tables for sorting of votes so staff don't have to place them on the floor and bend over to count them.” **Online election official survey respondent**

“People were leaning on polling booths, crushing and pushing it around the room, and try to keep an eye on voters to place the right paperwork in the right box. The disability booth should be at the front of the room rather at the back for easy access.” **Online election official survey respondent**

“Need more breaks and more staff to come in and help with counting as it is a very long day and the breaks are not adequate considering the pay is low compared to the long hours without penalties.” **Online election official survey respondent**

"The lighting in the venue in the evening when sorting and counting votes was not adequate to make reading and seeing the pen marks easily without straining. **Online election official survey respondent**

“No OHS briefing was conducted.” **Online election official survey respondent**

5. Service Charter Goal: Provide Seamless Service Delivery

We aim to provide well-planned, cohesive and comprehensive services including:

- *information services*
- *enrolment services*
- *voting options*
- *location and accessible polling places*
- *services to assist those with particular needs*
- *responsibilities and entitlements of candidates, groups and political parties including funding and disclosure requirements*

that meet the need of participants according to legislative mandate in a timely, efficient and professional manner.

Our success is measured by participants feeling well informed and satisfied with electoral services.

A key feature of the Commission's efforts to provide seamless services for election participants for the 2015 State General Election was to improve the communication of services available and how to access these, and to increase quality control through centralisation where possible and practicable.

The Commission introduced changes to provide greater convenience to election participants such as an increased number of multi-district polling places and the introduction of multi-district pre-poll venues for electors, online registration of 'how to vote' materials for candidates and political parties, pre-packing of polling place materials centrally rather than within each electoral district by Returning Officers and training videos for 'just in time' refresher training of polling place staff on how to conduct the count post 6pm.

The project structures, processes, and governance arrangements established for the State General Election were documented in the Commission submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matter's Inquiry into preparation for the 2015 State General Election. Those interested are referred to this submission at [http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlament/committee.nsf/0/a7a5bc53400a1aa8ca257d8e001c88f4/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20-%20Preparations%20for%20the%202015%20NSW%20State%20Election.pdf](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlament/committee.nsf/0/a7a5bc53400a1aa8ca257d8e001c88f4/$FILE/Final%20Report%20-%20Preparations%20for%20the%202015%20NSW%20State%20Election.pdf).

Information services

The Commission provided broad information services to electors, candidates and parties as well as the media. The following information services were provided to electors in the lead up to the election:

- Votensw.info website
- NSWEC enquiries phone line
- Community education kits
- Voting instructions
- Animations
- Auslan video clips
- Audio instructions

Information on the Commission's information campaign is contained in Section 3.

Enrolment services

SmartRoll

Over past election cycles, electoral jurisdictions around Australia realised that there are a significant number of eligible voters who are not included on the current Australian Electoral Commission register (or Roll) for NSW or not included at their current address.

The SmartRoll project, established by the NSW Electoral Commission in 2009 and implemented in 2010, addresses this problem by delivering NSW a more up-to-date, accurate and comprehensive roll for upcoming elections through automatic enrolment and re-enrolment systems, than that supplied through conventional enrolment techniques.

Between the 2011 and 2015 State General Elections, there was an increase in enrolment participation of 4.4%. This increase can be attributed to the proactive approach SmartRoll takes in automatically enrolling eligible voters.

Enrol and Vote on Election Day

This involves enrolling on the day of the election at a polling place. A total of 41,978 electors used this form of enrolment for the 2015 State General Election, up from 20,960 electors in 2011 (an increase of 100%).

Voting services

In addition to voting on the day of the election, eligible electors were able to vote via:

- Pre-poll voting
- Postal voting
- iVote

- Declared Institution voting
- Absentee voting

Location and accessible polling places

The Commission established 2,806 polling places, 1,355 (48.3%) of these were outside the Sydney metropolitan area. To prevent delays and inconvenience arising from the changes to electoral districts, 1,000 multi-district polling places were provided. These delivered the following benefits to electors:

- a faster and more effective service – electors were able to take advantage of where the polling places are located in their local area, regardless of district and cast a normal vote instead of an absent vote
- reduction in confusion/frustration arising from electoral district boundary changes, a number of districts were highly affected. Multi-district polling places assisted with this pressure
- maintained electors expectation of service – at the last Federal election, all of the pre-poll locations had multi-district voting, therefore it was understandable for electors to expect the same in the 2015 State General Election.

Where possible, the Commission used polling places that were fully accessible, and met other criteria such as appropriate workplaces. Polling places must meet a comprehensive criteria before being deemed accessible. Many of these polling places were the same as ones used by the Australian Electoral Commission which assists electors as most go to the polling place they have used in past elections. Information was provided on location and accessibility of polling places via inspection reports.

The location of pre-poll and polling places always attracts local media attention. The general issue of location of pre-poll polling places received 22 mentions in the media. Local media raised issues around polling places in Whiporie, Clarence District, Nowendoc in the Tamworth electoral district, Mingoola at Picton, and Upper Horton, Glendonbrook, Lyndhurst, Neville, Newbridge, Rowena, and Tumbarumba. Such stories tended to centre on either a change in location or a view that a polling place had not been provided. The Commission's media liaison officer provided responses to the media questions raised.

The Commission is conscious of its responsibility to assist all electors to vote and the particular assistance required by some sections of the community. A total of 543 polling places were fully accessible (19%) and 1,845 (67%) were assisted access. All polling places and pre-poll voting centres had the following resources to assist those with particular needs:

- Hand-held magnifiers
- Maxi pens
- Voting instructions in large print
- Instructions for voting – multilingual guide

Section 4 provides more detailed information on particular services to meet the needs of different sections of the community.

Services for candidates, groups and political parties

The elections website contained fact sheets, forms and information for candidates on the following topics:

1. How to register as a candidate
2. How to appoint an official agent for a candidate
3. How to open and operate a campaign account

The following information services were provided:

- Candidate seminars and webinars
- Candidate registration, funding entitlements, and funding and disclosure information with the relevant forms

Six candidate seminars and two webinars were held in the lead up to the election, with a total of 85 people attending (9.1% of the total nominations). Seminars for future elections should be better publicised in order to reach more candidates. The following table shows the number of attendees for each seminar and webinar.

Table 11: Details of Information Seminars and Webinars held for Candidates, 2015 State General Election

Seminar or Webinar	Date	Location	Candidate Attendees
Seminar	29 November 2014	Newcastle	2
Seminar	2 December 2014	Sydney	19
Seminar	6 December, 2014	Wollongong	4
Seminar	9 December 2014	Hurstville	10
Seminar	10 December 2014	Blacktown	12
Seminar	16 December 2014	Sydney (Kent Street)	8
Webinar	3 December 2014	From NSWEC	15
Webinar	9 December 2014	From NSWEC	15
Total			85

The information provided by the Commission also included funding and disclosure requirements. Appendix K outlines the venues and dates of these seminars and webinars.

Satisfaction of electors with election information and services

Information provision, enquiries line and votensw.info website

- Prior to election day, the vast majority of respondents were aware of being able to vote in-person at a polling place (87%), vote by post (71%) and pre-poll (63%). Awareness was generally higher among older respondents (voting in-person at a polling place: 93% of those aged 55+ compared with 81% of those under 35; postal voting: 84% compared with 58%; pre-poll: 78% compared with 47%).
- Two-thirds of respondents in the core telephone survey felt informed about early and alternative voting options: 32% very informed and 33% fairly informed. Seeing or hearing the campaign appeared to increase the likelihood of using both the votensw.info and ivote.nsw.gov.au websites to find out about these options (28% of those who had selected each of these websites, compared with 17% and 14% respectively of those who had not).
- Prior to election day, 5% of electors had either used, or intended to use, the election enquiries line, and 3% of participants actually called it. Satisfaction was high with 85% satisfied.
- Of those who used votensw.info website, 83% were satisfied with the website and 91% were able to find the information they wanted. The majority of media respondents (75%) were satisfied with the range and comprehensiveness of information on the votensw.info website.
- Most of those who accessed a NSW Electoral Commission website had done so using a computer (73%, compared with 18% who used a tablet and 17% a smartphone).
- Satisfaction was also high with the enquiries line. Eighty-five percent were satisfied, with more than two in three very satisfied (68%) and 17% somewhat satisfied.
- Survey respondents from the media were satisfied overall with the media communication support provided by the Commission, with 83% satisfied or very satisfied with the comprehensiveness, 91% satisfied or very satisfied with the quality and 82% satisfied or very satisfied with the timeliness of information provided.

Enrolment

- Prior to election day, the vast majority of respondents reported that they were enrolled (96%), and enrolled at the correct address (97% among those enrolled). Indeed, upon voting, almost all voters said their electoral details were correct (95%).
- The reported level of enrolment was higher among older voters (99% of those aged 55+ compared with 92% of those under 25), as was the level of being enrolled at the correct address (99% of those aged 55+ compared with 93% of those under 35).

- Further, among those who thought their electorate had changed, only four per cent reported that they had experienced difficulties as a result.
- Among those who enrolled and voted on election day, satisfaction was generally high (thirteen of the fourteen participants in the core survey who used the service were satisfied, with ten very satisfied and three fairly satisfied). Further, among those who thought their electorate had changed, only 4% reported that they had experienced difficulties as a result.

Polling place facilities and assistance

- Almost all in-person voters were satisfied with the facilities at their polling place (96%).
- Participants who had a disability or mobility issue were generally satisfied with the accessibility of their polling place and their ability to move around it (96%).
- Satisfaction with wait time was typically high among election day in-person voters. More than nine in ten were satisfied (92%). The average queue time was recalled as around four minutes. Two thirds of in-person voters waited for less than five minutes to vote (66%), with 40% not waiting at all.
- Similar recalled waiting times were found among those voting at a pre-poll centre. Sydney Town Hall received the most positive report of wait times, with only 7% of participants waiting at all before voting. In comparison, around 30% of Fairfield participants had to wait for over twenty minutes. Around half of participants did not have to wait at all (46%; pre-poll survey), and for a further 29%, the wait was less than five minutes.
- Some of the Arabic-speaking voters in the qualitative research recalled assistance from other (non-family) Arabic speakers outside the polling place, but none once they had entered. Among such participants, there was interest in greater in language support from electoral officials once inside the polling place.
- Additionally, most participants who had a disability or restriction and their carers were unaware of information being available in large print, audio files or Auslan (core survey). Only 20%, 14% and 13% respectively were aware of information in these formats.

Provision of results

- Satisfaction with the speed of election results was high, 96% were satisfied. Confidence in the accuracy of the results was similarly high (90%).
- Of voters who followed the election results on election night, the vast majority got their information from television (86%), with 5% using the NSW Electoral Commission website. (Television services obtained their results from the Commission.)

- Survey respondents from the media were satisfied with the provision of results, with 67% satisfied with timeliness and 75% satisfied with the accuracy of election results.

Satisfaction of candidates and political parties with election services

- Candidates and political parties reported that they received sufficient information to explain their rights and obligations and where to get help if they needed it (see survey results in Appendix P).
- 78% of registered political parties were satisfied with the website and 57% were satisfied with the Candidates Enquiry and Help Desk while 78% of candidates were satisfied with election staff and 54% were satisfied with funding and disclosure staff.
- 56% of candidates and 50% of parties felt that the NSWEC provided sufficient information on their election funding and disclosure responsibilities.
- 77% of parties were satisfied with the assistance provided by Commission staff.
- Two-thirds (67%) of candidates were satisfied with their Returning Officer.
- The majority of candidates (73%) and political parties (92%) were satisfied with the provision of the results on election night and 74% were satisfied with information provided on how the count would be conducted. 83% of parties were satisfied with information provided on how the count would be conducted.

Satisfaction of media with election services

- The respondents were small in number (13) and the majority were from smaller newspapers with particular interest in the local candidates and electorate issues.
- Correspondingly, the information sought by journalists concerned candidates and election results.
- Most media contacts were reported to have been with the Commission's media spokesperson on a weekly basis.
- Satisfaction with the Commission's media strategy as comprehensive (83.3%), quality (90.8%), timely (81.8%), ease of access (90.9%), content of media releases (81.8%) and the media page (80.0%).
- Satisfaction with the Commission's website was 87.5% for range of information, 75.0% comprehensiveness of information, 75.0% for accuracy of information, and 75.0% for timeliness.
- The Virtual Tally Room was reported as satisfactory in terms of its layout and ease of use, the timeliness of results provided, and the accuracy of results.

- Overall the media communication strategy was seen to be satisfactory.

Satisfaction of election officials

- The majority of Polling Place Managers (85.3%) reported satisfaction with the location accessibility, security, signage of their polling place. This view appears to have been shared by electors as 85.3% of Polling Place Managers reported that they received no complaints about accessibility for example.
- Both Polling Place Managers and Polling Place officials (83.7%) reported that the morning was the busiest time. Polling Place officials reported that the longest time an elector had to queue to vote was less than 10 minutes (55.4%). Two thirds of officials reported no complaints about queuing (64.7%)
- In terms of complaints, the majority of Polling Place Managers (58.2%) reported less than 5 received over the entire election day. Polling Place Officials reported few complaints by voters overall but where complaints were received the majority concerned having to vote (75.4%).
- The majority of Polling Place Officials reported that electors did not ask for more information but when they did the majority of requests concerned information about enrolment (85.5%). The second highest request was reported to be for information about electronic voting (43.5%).
- Polling Place Officials were satisfied with the briefing received before they commenced their duties (78.7%) and the recruitment process run by the Commission (86.4%). Polling Place Managers also were satisfied with the recruitment process (76.3%) and their training for election night counting of votes (81.3%).
- Polling Place Officials found the Commission's instructions useful for sorting ballot papers (78.4%), checking formality (79.4%) and on how to count votes (78.3%).
- The majority of both Polling Place Managers (84.7%) and Polling Place Officials (72.9%) reported there were no workplace health and safety issues on election day although the majority did not finish work until after 9pm (88.0% Polling Place Managers and 83.8% Polling Place Officials).
- On staffing, Polling Place Managers felt that staffing was adequate (67.4%) and that there were sufficient numbers of multi-lingual staff (70.7%).

6. Service Charter Goal: Innovative, Fast Adaption

We aim to utilise new technologies to increase convenience for election participants while maintaining the integrity of the election and security of information.

We are successful when the Commission is recognised for innovative services that meet participants' needs and for advising the NSW Government of innovations to strengthen the democratic system and improve administration of elections.

Innovations introduced for the 2015 State General Election included an enhanced iVote system, expansion of self-service roll look up and mark off, social media communication campaign and centralisation of manual, labour intensive processes such as processing of postal vote applications, and the introduction of a self-service facility for non-voters responding to a non-voting penalty notice.

These innovations were designed to improve customer service and increase efficiency in service delivery.

More Choice and Convenience - Internet and telephone voting (iVote)

The Commission provided internet and telephone voting services for the 2015 State General Election. Known as iVote, this system of internet and telephone voting was introduced in the 2011 State General Election. Until then, voters could vote only by attending in person or using the post; options that don't always suit people living in remote areas with infrequent postal services, or electors with a disability. Those with vision impairments can also be denied a secret ballot when dependent upon someone else for voting assistance.

In 2011 iVote was taken up enthusiastically, particularly by voters intending to be outside NSW on election day (92.3% of users). A total of 46,864 votes were cast using the iVote system. The evaluation showed:

- iVote was effective in facilitating a secret and independently verifiable vote for electors who were blind or visually impaired
- the system enfranchised many people who would not have otherwise voted
- high satisfaction levels with iVote overall and individual elements of the system
- most would use the system again and would recommend it

The major improvement suggested by users in the 2011 State General Election was for increased promotion of iVote and to amend the legislation to allow a wider group of people to use it. Additional recommendations concerned improving navigation of the

iVote website, addressing technical issues and making the registration process easier to use. The Commission's survey of electors after the 2011 State General Election suggested the general population would use iVote if it was available to them. The evaluation suggested a potentially larger population of users as it was found that while 35% of the representative sample of the NSW population was eligible, only three respondents (0.3%) had used iVote.

The Commission was confident after the 2011 State General Election and various subsequent by-elections that the system could handle greater numbers than cast in 2011. The Commission also gauged interest in iVote before the election. It was found that prior to election day, around a quarter of those aware of iVote (excluding those who thought/knew they were ineligible) had registered for it (23%) and a further one in five intended to do so (19%).

Accordingly, the Commission undertook a more extensive communication campaign. The number of likely iVotes for the 2015 State General Election was estimated at a total of 250,000 votes. As it turned out, 283,699 votes were taken although registrations for iVote numbered 299,890.

Developments to the system since 2011 have included:

- addition of 'person-to-person' telephone voting to the original remote Interactive Voice Response (IVR) telephone voting and internet voting options
- vote verification to confirm the vote was cast as intended (only available during the election period)
- competitive tendering to procure the major elements of the iVote service
- specialist expertise to implement, project manage, advise, operate, review and audit the iVote service
- provision of system architecture and project management documents available to the public via the NSWEC website
- qualified experts (observed by scrutineers) to confirm the votes going into the count matched those verified by iVoters
- increased system audits of the iVote system by specialist contractors

Ensuring a Secure iVote environment

The critical analyses and reviews undertaken to ensure the systems were 'fit for purpose' are contained in documents available on the Commission's website www.elections.nsw.gov.au:

- 2015 State General Election Specifications
- 2015 Strategy for State General Election
- Presentations to NSW Parliament in 2013 and 2011
- 'Evaluation of Technology Assisted Voting (iVote) at the NSW State General Election March 2011 Report'

- Feasibility Report for the 2011 State General Election
- 'International Experiences of Electronic Voting and their Implications for New South Wales Report 2009'.

To address technological threats the Commission:

- engaged external experts to undertake a threat analysis and received advice on securing the iVote service against the identified threats
- established a Technical Advisory Group of international experts
- used the NSW Government Data Centres to raise the technical and security requirements for hosting of the Core Voting System.

Concerns had been raised about the level of confidence that iVoters could have in their vote being counted as cast. In response, vote verification was introduced to allow voters to confirm their vote was captured as cast; and to enable the auditor and independent observers to verify that the vote preferences forwarded to the count agreed with the separate store of votes on the verification service.

The verification service was provided by telephone to voters to separate the checking process from the device used to cast the vote. This removed the possibility that a virus on the voter's computer had undetectably altered their preferences and then hid the alteration when the voter verified their vote. The Commission encouraged all voters to use the iVote Verification service once they had voted and provided this service until 6pm election day.

The Commission deployed an advanced multi-layer security framework to ensure vote integrity whereby a large scale attack would be detected through one of the additional security layers, for example, the verification service. We also implemented new cryptographic techniques such as 'Zero Knowledge Proofs' to improve security, verifiability and privacy.

Issues raised by the Media about iVote

The concerns around using the internet for voting range from coercion of voters through to system inadequacies and human error.

The Commission sees coercion as a small risk because of the difficulty for any person or organisation to identify those individuals intending to vote remotely and in sufficient numbers, and then successfully subvert their vote to influence an election result. Such coercion would have to be of such a scale that the cost and risk would make it a barely viable option to attempt.⁶

Of more concern were reports in the media that the iVote system was insecure following concerns raised by Dr Halderman (University of Michigan, USA) and Dr

⁶ R. Smith, *Internet Voting and Voter Interference - A report prepared for the New South Wales Electoral Commission*, University of Sydney, March 2013 (rodney.smith@usyd.edu.au)

Teague (University of Melbourne).⁷ The resulting media coverage questioned the security of the iVote system and the ability of the electorate to have confidence in the iVote system.

The Commission's position following its review of the claims and the advice of the information security auditors was that these vulnerability claims were overstated. The Commission was advised that the likelihood of someone intercepting votes online using this approach was low. The posited FREAK attack required a high level of technical expertise and certain pre-conditions to be successful and as a result, was not a real threat to iVote.⁸

The evaluation of the views of electors' generally and iVote users' views of the security of the system is provided below and more detail is provided in the full evaluation report (Part 2 disc).

A further issue arose in relation to the ballot paper for the Legislative Council used by the iVote system. Through human error, the digital ballot paper provided between 8am Monday, 16 March and 11am Tuesday, 17 March was missing the group voting squares for two parties. Voting using the iVote system was paused from 11am to 3:45pm on the Tuesday to enable the Commission to correct the error on the iVote Legislative Council ballot paper. The registration system and verification service continued to operate normally.

Approximately 19,000 people had cast their vote through the iVote system prior to the suspension. Voting was suspended when the Commission became aware that above the line Group Voting squares for the Outdoor Recreation Party (Group B) and the Animal Justice Party (Group C) had been omitted. Notwithstanding this omission, the names of the respective candidates for these groups appeared below the line on the ballot paper. (Hard copy ballot papers used for voting at pre-poll venues were unaffected.)

The Commission is satisfied that the omission on the ballot paper was due to a human error not a system error with the iVote system.

The effect of the inaccurate ballot paper upon iVote users was probed in the evaluation and 94% were confident that the ballot paper they used included all candidates. Responses from iVote users on this issue are outlined below. More detail is available in the full evaluation report (Part 2 disc).

⁷ On 20 March 2015 Dr Teague and Dr Halderman sent a report marked "Confidential report: Please do not distribute" to media outlets and CERT Australia and published a blog which received prime time TV coverage on 21 March 2015. The report was titled "New South Wales iVote System is Vulnerable to MiTM Vote Stealing Attacks"

⁸ Dr Teague also is understood to have said this type of "hack would be difficult for an attacker to perform". <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-23/ivote-security-hack-allowed-change-of-vote-security-expert-says/6340168>.

Lastly, there was a performance issue with the registration system on election day due to inadequate network capacity when a peak of demand was experienced. Many people had left it to the last day to register and vote by iVote and this received some media attention.

Feedback - Electors Highly Satisfied with iVote

The Commission evaluated satisfaction with the iVote system through the general survey of electors and a survey specifically of iVote users.

The vast majority of iVote users were satisfied with the system (97%; iVote telephone survey). This was supported by the findings of the general survey of electors which found that of those in this sample who had used iVote, satisfaction with iVote overall was similarly very high (96%).

The main reason for this high level of satisfaction was the ease and convenience of the system (85% of users). Almost all iVote users found the system easy to use (96%). Respondents also liked that it was quick and secure. Those who were dissatisfied generally felt so because of technological issues.

Table 12: Overall Satisfaction with iVote, 2015 State General Election

Core telephone survey	
Very satisfied	80%
Fairly satisfied	17%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1%
Fairly dissatisfied	1%
Very dissatisfied	0%
Don't know	1%

Source: IPSOS *Evaluation of the Conduct of the 2015 State General Election*, NSW Electoral Commission.

Satisfaction with the time taken to cast a vote with iVote was high (96%), with four in five participants very satisfied (80%) and 16% fairly satisfied. Similar results were observed for the time taken to register to use iVote (93% satisfied, with 67% very satisfied and 26% fairly satisfied) and to receive their post registration iVote number (91% satisfied, with 75% very satisfied and 16% fairly satisfied). There were, however, a number of participants in the qualitative research for whom their iVote number took longer to arrive than they had expected.

Satisfaction was also high for assistance received with using iVote. Almost all of those who required assistance were satisfied (97%), with more than four fifths very satisfied (84%) and 13% fairly satisfied.

Confidence was similarly high for the ballot paper listing all candidates (94% confident, with 67% very confident and 27% fairly confident) and their vote being recorded accurately (92% confident, with 59% very confident and 33% fairly confident). Further, 95% of participants were satisfied with the security of iVote, and nine in ten said they trusted the process (90%), with three in four trusting it a great deal (76%) and 14% a little. Feedback on the ballot paper in both the quantitative and qualitative research was generally positive, as was that for the level of mobile optimisation of the website.

When asked how iVote could be improved, around one in four iVote users thought there were technological issues that needed to be addressed (23%) and 7% that it should be made more secure. Awareness of the verification service was relatively low, with around one-third of iVote users aware (34%; core survey).⁹

Participants in the research overall typically thought that the eligibility requirements for iVote were not made clear enough. Indeed, in the qualitative research, a number of participants were not confident of the criteria until actually using iVote.

Australia's embassies in London, New York and Hong Kong reported high satisfaction with iVote with no complaints from travellers and expatriates. A particular advantage reported for both consul staff and iVoters was that attendance at the embassy was not required. Other stakeholders provided qualitative feedback with the Vietnamese Embassy advising that there were some very positive responses to the new system, particularly from younger voters. They also indicated that awareness that there was no longer voting at embassies had not reached all expatriates and some Australians still attended in person, seeking to vote because they had found it difficult to use the iVote system. This was reported to be the case more amongst older and non-English speaking voters. Some of these voters lacked access or literacy in computers and some were unable to communicate with the Australia based telephone helpdesk.¹⁰

Trust in the iVote system varied considerably between those who used iVote and the general electorate. The core evaluation of electors generally, indicated a reasonably substantial amount of distrust of iVote, with 16% saying they distrusted it. On the other hand, around a third of those who did not use iVote trusted the system a great deal (30%) and a further 19% trusted it only a little, around a quarter stated they neither trusted it nor distrusted it (27%) and nine per cent did not know. Older respondents were the most likely to distrust the iVote process, with 25% distrusting, compared to only 14% of those aged 18-24.

Respondents living in major cities were more likely to trust the process (50%) than those living in inner regional areas (42%). CALD respondents were also more likely to trust the process (61%) than non-CALD respondents (47%).

Table 13: Trust in the iVote process, 2015 State General Election

Core telephone survey	
Trust it a great deal	30%
Trust it a little	19%
Neither trust nor distrust it	27%
Distrust it a little	8%
Distrust it a great deal	8%
Don't know	9%

Source: Ipsos Social Research Institute Elector Survey, 2015. Due to rounding, totals may not equal 100%.

⁹ The instructions were set out on the screen after the iVote was submitted.

¹⁰ Vietnamese Embassy 15 April 2015, communication to the NSW Electoral Commission iVote Team.

While iVote users were generally satisfied with the security of the iVote voting process (90%), 7% felt the system could be improved by being more secure as shown in the table below.

Table 14: Satisfaction with the Security of the iVote process, 2015 State General Election

Core telephone survey	
Very satisfied	60%
Fairly satisfied	30%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4%
Fairly dissatisfied	1%
Very dissatisfied	1%
Don't know	3%

Source: Ipsos Social Research Institute Elector Survey, 2015. Due to rounding, totals may not equal 100%.

Nine in ten iVote users were confident about using iVote prior to registering (89%), with around half very confident (48%) and 41% fairly confident. The evaluation asked those who registered but did not vote using iVote why they did not proceed to use the system following registration. The reasons provided are set out below:

- In the telephone survey, 3% of respondents registered for iVote but did not use it to vote. Out of these, 33% said they registered because they expected to be outside of NSW on election day, 30% tried to vote using iVote but had issues using or accessing the system.
- In the online survey, 2% registered for iVote but did not use it. The main reason for this was that they had problems accessing iVote to cast their vote (50%) or thought they would be out of NSW (9%) or more than 20km from a polling place (5%).

The core evaluation of electors generally (not specifically iVote users) revealed that among those who did not use iVote, around two-fifths were aware of the system (38%). Respondents without disabilities were more likely to have heard of iVote (40%) than those with disabilities or vision impairment (28%). Respondents who would have liked more information on iVote wanted to receive this via direct mail (52%) or email (40%). Those who had heard the advertising campaign on radio, print or Facebook posts were more likely to be aware of their eligibility for iVote.

Vision Australia conducted an informal email survey of around 30 people in the blind and low vision community who had used iVote. Their recommendations are based upon this informal survey and observations from Vision Australia staff and clients, and included: training for call centre operators on eligibility for iVote; improvements to the user friendliness of the web interface; making the process of selecting candidates easier; and addressing some minor navigation issues with the telephone option. Vision Australia remains strongly supportive of iVote and their involvement with the

testing of the new system in the lead up to the 2015 State General Election was invaluable in the development of the 2015 iVote system.

Use of the Verification Service

Among online iVote users interviewed in the core telephone survey of electors, 5% called the Verification Service after voting. Of the four respondents who called the Verification Service three were satisfied with the service because of the ease of the service, and its calming of anxieties about voting online. One was very dissatisfied as the respondent tried to cancel their vote but was unsuccessful.

Users Recommend iVote

The survey specifically of iVote users found that 99% of iVote users said they would recommend the system, and almost all iVote users said they were likely to use it again (96%), with around nine in ten saying they were very likely (88%) and 8% that they were fairly likely.

In the general elector survey, among respondents who had not used iVote, interest in the system was high with 70% indicating they were likely to use it in the future, assuming it was available to them. However, a quarter said they were unlikely to use it.

Younger voters were more likely to say that they would use iVote in the future and those living in metropolitan areas were also more likely to say that they would use it (74%) than those living in regional areas (64%).

Interest in iVote was higher among those voters from a culturally and linguistically diverse background; 81% said they would make use of iVote in the future, compared to 68% among those who are non-CALD. In contrast, there was a lack of interest among respondents with a disability, with 34% saying that they were unlikely to use iVote than those without a disability (23% unlikely to use).

iVote increases Participation

The iVote internet and telephone voting system allows people to vote who, through disability or location, would otherwise find it difficult, if not impossible to do so. The public's acceptance of the iVote system is demonstrated quantitatively through

iVote increases voter participation.

One in ten iVoters said that they would not have voted if iVote had not been available.

uptake of the system and also the evaluation, which included questions on the security of the iVote system and reported below.

iVote was successful in both the 2011 and 2015 State General Elections in enfranchising electors. In

2011, the NSW Electoral Commission estimated that of the 43,257 people who used iVote because they were outside of NSW, 30,000 (64%) would not have voted at all, had iVote not been available. There are some indications that iVoting may encourage

participation as a comparison of the participation rates of those who registered for iVote and those who applied for a postal vote revealed higher participation rates for iVoters. This finding however needs to be regarded with caution as there could be alternate explanations and until proper analysis occurs can only be regarded as indicative.

In any system there are risks. With appropriate checks and balances, as there are in traditional 'pencil and ballot paper' voting, iVoting is no more vulnerable to coercion than any other form of voting. Weighing up the comparative risks between the iVote and traditional voting systems it is clear that the benefits of iVote outweigh the small risk of interception.

It is impossible to eradicate all risks in voting systems, however risks can be reduced. Future challenges will continue to be around perceptions of security, raising awareness of the system's availability and re-designing the screen so that concerns about a non-random order of presentation giving an undue advantage to those candidates/parties who are always shown first. The Commission will investigate whether random presentation will address such concerns for future elections.

With the growth of iVote it is important to improve service to electors whose first language is not English by providing in the future, iVote brochures/instructions in the 24 languages in which the Commission currently provides voting information. Ideally the system would be resourced to enable registration, voting and voting verification to be communicated in some or all of these 24 community languages. The Commission recognises that such enhancements would add to the cost of the iVote system but believes as an equity issue, it needs to be drawn to the Committee's attention.

Participants commonly felt that the iVote eligibility criteria should be expanded to be available to the whole community. Around one in five spontaneously mentioned this when asked how iVote could be improved (17%), and the theme commonly arose in the qualitative research.

If iVote becomes a standard part of the voting services provided to electors, the best use is to have broader eligibility to include those who would be eligible for a pre-poll or postal vote. This would reduce the cost per vote. In Estonia where an internet voting option has been provided in the last five elections from 2005 - 2011, the proportion of people casting an electronic vote has risen steadily from 1.9% to 24.3%.¹¹ Further, studies of the Estonian experience show that once an elector uses internet voting they are unlikely to return to traditional voting methods.¹²

In the 2015 State General Election, voters using iVote made up approximately 5% of the NSW voting population. The Commission believes growth to around 15% of voters using iVote would provide a good balance with paper based voting.

¹¹ iVoting in Estonian Elections 2005 – 2011: Vabariigi Valimiskomisjon (Estonian Electoral Commission –<http://www.vvk.ee>)

¹² A Council of Europe report (Internet Voting in Estonia: A Comparative Analysis of Four Elections since 2005, www.coe.int) examined whether iVoters continue to use the system in subsequent elections. They found that 100% (n=58) of 2005 iVoters used iVoting in 2007 with 100% (n=116) of 2007 iVoters using iVoting in 2009 and 97% (n=173) of June 2009 iVoters used iVoting in October 2009.

The findings of the two evaluations undertaken by the NSW Electoral Commission clearly indicate that the general pool of electors do not have concerns about the security of the system. Moreover, the community wants this form of voting to be available as survey feedback indicates.

Faster Service – Self Service Mark Off

Another innovation was the expansion of 'self-service mark off' first introduced at the Sydney Town Hall during the 2012 Local Government Elections. This was driven by the need to provide a more efficient and therefore faster, roll mark off service and to enable all voters regardless of where they were enrolled, the ability to cast an ordinary vote. The polling place was set up to allow electors to do a self-service look up and mark off through the use of computer consoles.

As Sydney Town hall is the largest polling place in NSW, there is considerable pressure to ensure long queues of electors are avoided. This has been a feature of voting at Sydney Town Hall which has been severely criticised in previous elections. Organising and managing a very large and complex polling place to best meet the needs of all electors has always been a challenge.

In the 2015 State General Election, Sydney Town Hall operated for both pre-poll and election day voting, issuing ordinary votes to electors who reside in any district of NSW. Electors could also update their enrolment details and be issued an enrolment vote. All processes were automated by the self-service mark off process which issued dockets direct to the elector which indicated whether the elector required to go to an ordinary issuing table or a declaration voting table.

The operation of self-service consoles is user friendly and many electors commented on how convenient it was to use. The consoles processed each elector's mark off in around 20 seconds. The self-service mark off by electors using computer consoles was only provided at the Sydney Town hall. All other polling places in NSW used the manual electoral roll mark off process requiring election officials to undertake the mark off.

In the 2015 State General Election, only 10% of voters at Sydney Town Hall said that roll marking took too long, compared with 35% at Tamworth and 19% in Fairfield. Wait times were also significantly shorter at Sydney Town Hall, with 93% of participants saying that they did not have to wait at all before casting their vote (compared with 46% overall). Only 3% of those voting at Sydney Town Hall waited for more than 5 minutes, compared with 64% at Fairfield and 40% at Tamworth.

Overall ratings of satisfaction were higher at Sydney Town Hall when compared with other pre-poll locations (pre-poll survey). Specifically, participants at Sydney Town Hall were more likely to be very satisfied with their voting experience (81% compared with 70% overall), the amount of time it took to cast a vote (86% compared with 71%) and any assistance they received (44% compared with 28%).

The Commission will examine the applicability of these approaches to other polling places across NSW typically where there are very large numbers of absent voters and consequently longer voting times.

Centralised Postal Vote Application Processing

Postal votes account for a significant portion of votes cast. The difficulties experienced in the 2007 State General Election with the large volume of applications, late receipt of bulk numbers of applications from political parties, the calls from electors regarding late receipt of postal vote material and the pressure of processing these applications within Returning Officers' offices required the Commission to review the approach to handling a more utilised form of voting.

Before the 2011 State General Election, applications for postal voting could be lodged by:

- mail – electors download the form, fill it in and mail the signed application form to the Commission;
- scan and email or fax – the signed application form is received by the Commission via fax or email;
- political parties – political parties are a major source of postal vote applications. The parties actively support the use of postal votes by distributing applications, receiving completed postal vote applications, and then submitting the completed applications to the Commission for processing. There is usually a significant amount of 'last minute' applications lodged by the parties; and
- 'over the counter' at Returning Officers' offices – electors could hand in applications personally.

Over successive State General Elections since 2003, the Commission has been progressively improving the traditional heavily paper based and manual process. In 2007, the Commission relieved pressure upon Returning Officers and enquiries and complaints from electors by establishing a centralised processing centre for receiving and data entry of postal vote applications and notifying Returning Officers of the recipients of postal vote packs.

The volume of postal vote applications generated from parties was expected to increase significantly for the 2011 State General Election. The likelihood of significant numbers of applications being received just prior to the close of applications led the Commission to take the application process online believing this would be convenient for many electors and that the centralised pool of resources established to process packages for Registered General Postal Voters would better handle the volume and other challenges of processing postal vote applications.

The 2011 State General Election was the first time the Commission in providing postal votes used online forms to increase convenience to electors and streamline the administrative processes involved. The processing of applications forms and distribution of postal voting packs to electors has continued to be a significant process that traditionally has been handled at the local level within Returning Officers' offices. A centralised and online approach was introduced for the 2015 State General Election.

The benefits of a centralised and online approach were:

- more efficient utilisation of dedicated resources;

- ability to better train and support staff processing postal vote applications; and
- reduced workload in Returning Officers' offices and possibly reduced staffing costs.

The service provided to electors meant that they could download the form and submit the application online. Once accepted the form was automatically forwarded to the centralised postal vote processing centre, which generated a 'postal vote certificate', pack and ballot paper appropriate for that elector and directly mailed back to the applicant. The elector then only needed to complete the ballot papers and the postal vote certificate and post them directly to the Commission.

Of the total number of applications received for postal voting at the 2015 State General Election (263,050 applications), 10.1% were from the online system (26,586 applications).

While the take up of the online application initiative was low the advantages of this new system were that it made the application process more convenient for electors and reduced the administrative workload for Returning Officers and their staff.

The independently conducted evaluation of electors' satisfaction with the electoral services provided by the Commission found that of the 64 respondents who had voted by post, 28% had obtained their application form from a political party process and 25% had contacted the Commission in one way or another. 11% had used the online application process. Of all postal vote users, 86% were either very satisfied or satisfied with the service. The numbers of respondents are too small to compare whether there were any differences in satisfaction between those who use the online system and other approaches.

The advantages of centralising the administrative workload, using web technology to meet growing demands for more convenience and the greater quality assurance available from maintaining just one processing centre are powerful incentives for the Commission to continue centralised postal vote application processing.

Social Media

In its communications campaign, the Commission utilised a Facebook strategy. Facebook posts generally directed voters to the votensw.info website. Nine percent of participants had seen advertising on social media about the election (in the campaign evaluation) and 7% specifically recalled seeing NSW Electoral Commission advertising or related posts on Facebook.

Compared with participants overall, those who had seen the NSW Electoral Commission campaign on Facebook were more likely to know about:

- whether they were eligible for iVote (63% compared with 49%)
- the election being in March (but not a specific date; 11% compared with 9%)
- the votensw.info website (31% compared with 25%)

On election night, 4% of participants accessed the election results through social media, a figure that increased to 13% for those aged 18-24. Further, in future, some

participants wanted to receive more election-related information through social media (3% mentioned social media when asked how they would like to have received additional information), including information:

- Enrolling or updating enrolment details (16% of those in the core survey who wanted this information);
- How to fill in a ballot paper (10%);
- Voting early (9%); and
- iVote (7%).

The Commission will continue to experiment with its best and most effective use of social media in encouraging participation in and knowledge of the NSW electoral system.

Self Service – Providing Reasons for Not-Voting

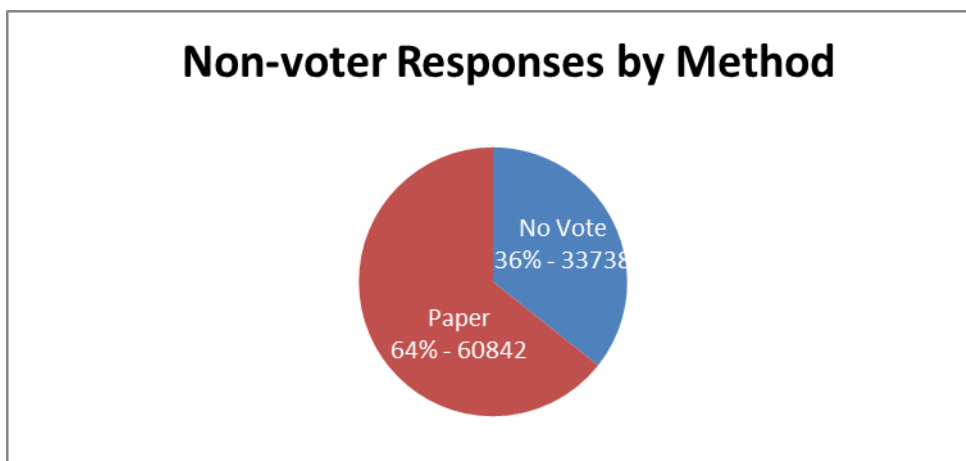
The NSW Electoral Commission is required to follow up on those electors who failed to vote. This has always been a labour intensive and protracted process due to the size of the number of apparent non-voters, the angst that can be generated and the procedural issues involved.

There were 368,740 penalty notices sent to apparent non-voters following the 2015 State General Election. This represents 7.3% of the total number of enrolments, which is a 2.2% increase on the 2011 figure (5.1% or 234,173 of the total votes). The electoral districts with the highest percentage of non-voters were Sydney (15%), followed by Vacluse (12%), Newtown (11%), Tweed (11%) and Heffron (10%). The district with the lowest percentage of non-voters was Heathcote (4%).

Non-voters can provide reasons as to why they did not vote and may be excused from voting if the reason given falls within the categories allowed under the legislation. The top reason provided for not voting was “Absent from electoral area/district on polling day” (31.0%). It was also the top reason provided in the 2011 State General Election (29.1%), indicating that the population are becoming more mobile as time goes on.

In past State General Elections, upon receipt of a ‘please explain’ letter, the only way non-voters could provide a reason as to why they did not vote was to call a hotline or to write a letter. For the 2015 State General Election, a website was created (<https://novote.elections.nsw.gov.au/>) to provide a more convenient means to allow non-voters to provide a reason for not voting. The objectives included greater efficiency for all concerned, reduced costs to the Commission and better customer service for recipients of the penalty notices.

The below graph shows which method people used to provide their reason for not voting:



Graph 21: Non-voter responses by method as at 31 July, 2015 State General Election

It can be seen that submitting a non-voting response via paper is still the most favoured method at 64%, however, it is expected that the No Vote portal will experience increased usage in future elections.

Based upon the findings from work in the area of behavioural insights, the 'tone' of the penalty notices was also changed to a less aggressive format. The change in language and tone can be seen from the samples of the 2011 and 2015 penalty notice formats below.

The number of calls received by the call centre regarding penalty notices from 1 June, 2015 to 5 August, 2015 totalled 11,849. This is an 18% increase in the number of calls from the 2011 State General Election for the same time period. Call centre operators reported a noticeable positive change in attitude from the non-voters between this and the previous election, most likely because of the new letter tone and format.

Penalty Notice 2011 State General Election:



**NEW SOUTH WALES
ELECTORAL COMMISSION
PENALTY NOTICE FOR FAILURE**

JOE CITIZEN
201 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



FORGET SOMETHING?

If you forgot to vote in the last election, take action now and avoid *another* fine. Log onto www.elections.nsw.gov.au and register for a FREE email or SMS reminder.

Remember - your vote is your voice

Issue Date: 12 June 2015

Due Date: 28 July 2015

The Electoral Commission records indicate that you appear to have failed to vote at the event: **NSW State General Election 2015**, held on **28 March 2015**

YOU MAY DISPOSE OF THIS MATTER BY ANY OF THE OPTIONS BELOW: MARK WITH AN 'X'

OPTION 1: PAYMENT OF PENALTY \$55 to the NSW Electoral Commission



Pay On-line* www.elections.nsw.gov
Reference Number: **0026000132014**

Pay by BPAY



Billor Code: 110239
Ref: **0026000132014**



Pay by Phone* **1800 242 509**
Reference Number: **0026000132014**

BPAY payments made after 6pm (EST/EDT) will be processed the next business day. Check with your institution for cut-off times.

Pay by Post **NSW Electoral Commission**
GPO Box 3715, Sydney NSW 2001

* Credit card surcharge applies

CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER: Should be crossed and marked 'Not Negotiable' and made payable to: 'NSW Electoral Commission'

DO NOT SEND CASH IN THE MAIL. PART PAYMENT OF THIS PENALTY CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

OPTION 2: REASON FOR NOT VOTING

- a) Named person is deceased (explanation required)
- b) I was absent from the area on Polling Day (explanation required)
- c) I am ineligible to vote at the election (i.e. not an Australian Citizen) (explanation required)
- d) I had an honest belief that abstention from voting was part of my religious duty (explanation required)
- e) Other reason - explain below (explanation required)

Explanation (consideration will be given)

Name:

Please print your

Signed:

Elector's signature

MORE OPTIONS ON NEXT PAGE

Penalty Notice 2015 State General Election:



Apparent failure to vote

JOE CITIZEN
201 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

GPO Box 3715
Sydney NSW 2001
Enquiry Line: 1300 135 736
Fax: (02) 9290 5991



Issue Date: **12 June 2015**
Document No: **009900007890**
Elector ID: **N72097545**
Due Date: **28 July 2015**

Dear JOE CITIZEN,

Apparent Failure to Vote - NSW State General Election 2015

According to records held by the NSWEC it appears that you failed to vote at the **NSW State General Election 2015** held on **28 March 2015**.

In order to clarify the situation, could you please explain whether you did or did not vote at this election?

If you **did not vote** and you believe that you have a valid reason for not voting at the **NSW State General Election 2015**, please provide your explanation using one of the two options mentioned below.

If you **did vote** in the **NSW State General Election 2015**, in your explanation please tell us the day, the approximate time and at which polling venue you voted.

Option 1.

Provide your explanation via the NSWEC's online self-service portal – please go to novote.elections.nsw.gov.au. To enter that website you will need to use your web browser to access the website and then enter the unique 12 digit Document Number specified above and follow the prompts.

Option 2.

Please write your explanation by completing **Section B** on the back page of this letter and then send the whole letter to the GPO Post Box address above using the provided envelope. Note that a stamp is required on the envelope for the completed letter to reach the NSWEC.

If you did not vote and you believe that **you do not have a valid explanation**, please pay the penalty of \$55.00 by the due date noted above. Various payment methods are detailed in **Section A** on the back page of this letter.

Alternatively, if you wish to have the matter dealt with by a court, please fill in **Section C** on the back page of this letter and send the letter to the NSWEC as in Option 2 above.

Should you require any further information, please contact this office on 1300 135 736 and then choose the "If you have received a penalty notice" option.

Yours sincerely

Colin Barry
Electoral Commissioner

Issued under the penalty notice provisions of sections 120C and 120F of the Parliamentary Electorates and Election Act 1912 No 41

Figure 1: Penalty notice samples, 2011 and 2015 State General Elections.

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Appendix A: Enrolment for 2011 and 2015 State General Elections (NSW Electoral Districts)

District	Enrolment 2011 SGE	Enrolment 2015 SGE	Change	Variance from 2011 Average %
NSW Total	4,635,810	5,040,662	404,852	
Albury	49,719	54,641	4,922	0.81
Auburn	50,994	53,262	2,268	-1.73
Ballina	48,432	54,958	6,526	1.40
Balmain	51,888	54,286	2,398	0.16
Bankstown	48,714	52,535	3,821	-3.07
Barwon	43,814	56,356	12,542	3.98
Bathurst	49,419	54,105	4,686	-0.18
Baulkham Hills	50,946	54,002	3,056	-0.37
Bega	49,678	54,510	4,832	0.57
Blacktown	49,412	54,495	5,083	0.54
Blue Mountains	49,326	53,377	4,051	-1.52
Burrinjuck	48,874	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cabramatta	50,127	55,076	4,949	1.61
Camden	50,362	53,653	3,291	-1.01
Campbelltown	45,458	52,493	7,035	-3.15
Canterbury	51,501	55,787	4,286	2.93
Castle Hill	51,963	53,050	1,087	-2.12
Cessnock	51,035	52,475	1,440	-3.18
Charlestown	47,804	54,788	6,984	1.08
Clarence	50,358	54,305	3,947	0.19
Coffs Harbour	50,671	52,507	1,836	-3.12
Coogee	49,131	54,322	5,191	0.22
Cootamundra	N/A	52,781	N/A	-2.62
Cronulla	49,825	55,820	5,995	2.99
Davidson	49,043	54,364	5,321	0.30
Drummoyne	51,706	52,441	735	-3.25
Dubbo	48,970	52,994	4,024	-2.23
East Hills	47,627	53,843	6,216	-0.66
Epping	49,410	54,553	5,143	0.65
Fairfield	51,273	54,512	3,239	0.57
Gosford	50,140	55,001	4,861	1.48
Goulburn	50,057	53,960	3,903	-0.44
Granville	50,957	53,212	2,255	-1.82
Hawkesbury	51,331	53,064	1,733	-2.10
Heathcote	48,287	56,013	7,726	3.34
Heffron	53,342	54,971	1,629	1.42

District	Enrolment 2011 SGE	Enrolment 2015 SGE	Change	Variance from 2011 Average %
Holsworthy	N/A	54,299	N/A	0.18
Hornsby	51,221	54,625	3,404	0.78
Keira	48,301	56,897	8,596	4.97
Kiama	50,626	53,141	2,515	-1.96
Kogarah	49,740	53,744	4,004	-0.84
Ku-Ring-Gai	49,900	53,498	3,598	-1.30
Lake Macquarie	49,757	54,178	4,421	-0.04
Lakemba	51,583	54,496	2,913	0.54
Lane Cove	47,976	54,485	6,509	0.52
Lismore	50,285	53,585	3,300	-1.14
Liverpool	49,897	54,443	4,546	0.45
Londonderry	47,633	54,564	6,931	0.67
Macquarie Fields	51,735	54,977	3,242	1.43
Maitland	52,441	53,493	1,052	-1.31
Manly	48,337	53,866	5,529	-0.62
Maroubra	50,198	53,212	3,014	-1.82
Marrickville	52,182	N/A	N/A	
Menai	49,541	N/A	N/A	
Miranda	47,586	54,856	7,270	1.21
Monaro	50,062	53,048	2,986	-2.13
Mount Druitt	48,234	53,635	5,401	-1.04
Mulgoa	49,371	54,148	4,777	-0.10
Murray	45,860	55,087	9,227	1.64
Murrumbidgee	47,640	N/A	N/A	
Myall Lakes	50,469	54,796	4,327	1.10
Newcastle	48,787	55,337	6,550	2.10
Newtown	N/A	53,871	N/A	-0.61
North Shore	51,518	53,510	1,992	-1.27
Northern Tablelands	50,353	54,851	4,498	1.20
Oatley	48,982	53,558	4,576	-1.19
Orange	49,305	54,880	5,575	1.25
Oxley	48,810	53,981	5,171	-0.41
Parramatta	51,328	55,173	3,845	1.79
Penrith	47,194	54,184	6,990	-0.03
Pittwater	49,380	54,255	4,875	0.10
Port Macquarie	49,413	55,355	5,942	2.13
Port Stephens	49,514	52,678	3,164	-2.81
Prospect	N/A	54,271	N/A	0.13
Riverstone	57,408	52,137	-5,271	-3.81
Rockdale	49,466	53,787	4,321	-0.76

District	Enrolment 2011 SGE	Enrolment 2015 SGE	Change	Variance from 2011 Average %
Ryde	48,148	54,536	6,388	0.62
Seven Hills	N/A	54,258	N/A	0.11
Shellharbour	49,206	58,131	8,925	7.25
Smithfield	51,761	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Coast	50,762	52,393	1,631	-3.34
Strathfield	49,084	53,028	3,944	-2.16
Summer Hill	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.05
Swansea	50,148	54,432	4,284	0.43
Sydney	56,786	53,109	-3,677	-2.01
Tamworth	49,246	54,412	5,166	0.39
Terrigal	48,647	55,474	6,827	2.35
The Entrance	49,942	55,059	5,117	1.58
Toongabbie	49,193	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tweed	48,888	53,491	4,603	-1.31
Upper Hunter	49,334	53,484	4,150	-1.32
Vaucluse	50,561	55,542	4,981	2.47
Wagga Wagga	50,492	53,358	2,866	-1.55
Wakehurst	50,629	54,183	3,554	-0.03
Wallsend	48,093	56,496	8,403	4.23
Willoughby	49,873	53,655	3,782	-1.01
Wollondilly	50,340	52,778	2,438	-2.62
Wollongong	50,519	58,190	7,671	7.36
Wyong	50,348	53,066	2,718	-2.09

Appendix B: Participation in 2011 and 2015 State General Elections (NSW Electoral Districts)

District	Participation % 2011 SGE	Participation % 2015 SGE	Change	Variance from 2011 Average %
NSW	92.57	90.49	-2.08	
Albury	89.97	87.90	-2.07	-2.59
Auburn	90.89	87.01	-3.88	-3.48
Ballina	89.01	88.43	-0.58	-2.06
Balmain	90.17	88.33	-1.84	-2.16
Bankstown	91.48	86.98	-4.50	-3.51
Barwon	91.26	87.62	-3.64	-2.87
Bathurst	94.71	92.34	-2.37	1.85
Baulkham Hills	94.82	93.80	-1.02	3.31
Bega	92.02	90.07	-1.95	-0.42
Blacktown	93.39	89.05	-4.34	-1.44
Blue Mountains	94.00	93.30	-0.70	2.81
Burrinjuck	93.82	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cabramatta	92.97	90.68	-2.29	0.19
Camden	94.84	93.11	-1.73	2.62
Campbelltown	92.99	89.79	-3.20	-0.70
Canterbury	91.89	89.68	-2.21	-0.81
Castle Hill	93.69	93.13	-0.56	2.64
Cessnock	94.24	91.36	-2.88	0.87
Charlestown	94.40	92.95	-1.45	2.46
Clarence	92.77	89.69	-3.08	-0.80
Coffs Harbour	91.27	88.88	-2.39	-1.61
Coogee	89.44	87.33	-2.11	-3.16
Cootamundra	93.26	91.83	-1.43	1.34
Cronulla	92.88	92.97	0.09	2.48
Davidson	93.50	92.47	-1.03	1.98
Drummoyne	94.40	91.58	-2.82	1.09
Dubbo	93.83	90.89	-2.94	0.40
East Hills	93.11	92.09	-1.02	1.60
Epping	91.61	93.09	1.48	2.60
Fairfield	93.23	89.11	-4.12	-1.38
Gosford	93.23	90.61	-2.62	0.12
Goulburn	93.65	92.75	-0.90	2.26
Granville	91.94	89.17	-2.77	-1.32
Hawkesbury	95.07	92.21	-2.86	1.72
Heathcote	94.21	94.24	0.03	3.75
Heffron	88.70	87.18	-1.52	-3.31

District	Participation % 2011 SGE	Participation % 2015 SGE	Change	Variance from 2011 Average %
Holsworthy	N/A	91.29	N/A	0.80
Hornsby	94.54	93.38	-1.16	2.89
Keira	94.04	91.58	-2.46	1.09
Kiama	94.56	92.36	-2.20	1.87
Kogarah	93.16	90.52	-2.64	0.03
Ku-Ring-Gai	92.74	92.76	0.02	2.27
Lake Macquarie	93.38	90.99	-2.39	0.50
Lakemba	90.83	86.92	-3.91	-3.57
Lane Cove	92.52	91.66	-0.86	1.17
Lismore	90.81	89.79	-1.02	-0.70
Liverpool	92.27	87.95	-4.32	-2.54
Londonderry	93.21	88.98	-4.23	-1.51
Macquarie Fields	92.04	89.65	-2.39	-0.84
Maitland	94.49	92.58	-1.91	2.09
Manly	91.18	89.72	-1.46	-0.77
Maroubra	92.64	89.96	-2.68	-0.53
Marrickville	90.21	N/A	N/A	N/A
Menai	94.30	N/A	N/A	N/A
Miranda	94.83	93.26	-1.57	2.77
Monaro	91.80	89.43	-2.37	-1.06
Mount Druitt	91.42	88.48	-2.94	-2.01
Mulgoa	94.58	93.06	-1.52	2.57
Murray	87.53	87.50	-0.03	-2.99
Murrumbidgee	92.05	N/A	N/A	N/A
Myall Lakes	93.52	90.75	-2.77	0.26
Newcastle	92.42	90.33	-2.09	-0.16
Newtown	N/A	86.46	N/A	-4.03
North Shore	89.52	88.17	-1.35	-2.32
Northern Tablelands	93.24	90.12	-3.12	-0.37
Oatley	93.69	92.88	-0.81	2.39
Orange	94.24	91.52	-2.72	1.03
Oxley	92.20	89.12	-3.08	-1.37
Parramatta	90.65	89.32	-1.33	-1.17
Penrith	93.91	91.49	-2.42	1.00
Pittwater	92.79	91.32	-1.47	0.83
Port Macquarie	93.84	91.52	-2.32	1.03
Port Stephens	93.41	92.35	-1.06	1.86
Prospect	N/A	91.42	N/A	0.93
Riverstone	93.64	93.03	-0.61	2.54

District	Participation % 2011 SGE	Participation % 2015 SGE	Change	Variance from 2011 Average %
Rockdale	92.69	90.01	-2.68	-0.48
Ryde	92.72	91.33	-1.39	0.84
Seven Hills	N/A	91.80	91.80	1.31
Shellharbour	93.41	91.80	-1.61	1.31
Smithfield	94.52	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Coast	92.89	90.19	-2.70	-0.30
Strathfield	91.75	90.68	-1.07	0.19
Summer Hill	N/A	89.90	89.90	-0.59
Swansea	94.27	91.98	-2.29	1.49
Sydney	83.93	82.46	-1.47	-8.03
Tamworth	94.57	92.20	-2.37	1.71
Terrigal	92.66	91.04	-1.62	0.55
The Entrance	93.37	90.47	-2.90	-0.02
Toongabbie	93.91	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tweed	86.59	85.55	-1.04	-4.94
Upper Hunter	93.65	91.25	-2.40	0.76
Vaucluse	87.80	85.16	-2.64	-5.33
Wagga Wagga	92.27	90.26	-2.01	-0.23
Wakehurst	92.87	91.55	-1.32	1.06
Wallsend	94.14	91.57	-2.57	1.08
Willoughby	90.74	90.38	-0.36	-0.11
Wollondilly	94.46	92.89	-1.57	2.40
Wollongong	92.68	89.09	-3.59	-1.40
Wyong	93.12	90.74	-2.38	0.25

Appendix C: Political Parties Registered and Nominations for Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, 2015 State General Election

Party	Legislative Assembly		Legislative Council	
	Candidates Nominated	Elected	Candidates Nominated	Elected
Animal Justice Party	5	0	16	1
Australian Cyclists Party	6	0	15	0
Australian Democrats (NSW Division)	0	0	15	0
Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	67	31	16	6
Australian Motorist Party	0	0	17	0
Building Australia Party	0	0	17	0
Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	93	0	20	1
Country Labor Party	26	3	5	1
Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	74	37	11	6
National Party of Australia - NSW	19	17	5	3
No Land Tax Campaign	93	0	16	0
No Parking Meters Party	0	0	21	0
Outdoor Recreation Party	2	0	15	0
Shooters and Fishers Party	0	0	21	1
Socialist Alliance	2	0	16	0
The Fishing Party	0	0	20	0
The Greens	93	3	21	2
Unity Party	1	0	0	0
Voluntary Euthanasia Party	0	0	15	0
Independents	46	2	0	0
No Affiliation	13	0	112	0
TOTALS	540	93	394	21

Appendix D: Number of Legislative Assembly Nominations by Electoral District, 2015 State General Election

Electoral District	No	Electoral District	No	Electoral District	No
Albury	5	Kiama	5	Strathfield	5
Auburn	6	Kogarah	6	Summer Hill	7
Ballina	7	Ku-ring-gai	5	Swansea	8
Balmain	7	Lake Macquarie	7	Sydney	8
Bankstown	6	Lakemba	5	Tamworth	7
Barwon	6	Lane Cove	6	Terrigal	5
Bathurst	5	Lismore	6	The Entrance	5
Baulkham Hills	5	Liverpool	5	Tweed	5
Bega	5	Londonderry	5	Upper Hunter	6
Blacktown	5	Macquarie Fields	7	Vaucluse	5
Blue Mountains	6	Maitland	6	Wagga Wagga	6
Cabramatta	5	Manly	5	Wakehurst	6
Camden	5	Maroubra	5	Wallsend	5
Campbelltown	5	Miranda	6	Willoughby	6
Canterbury	5	Monaro	5	Wollondilly	6
Castle Hill	5	Mount Druitt	5	Wollongong	7
Cessnock	5	Mulgoa	5	Wyong	7
Charlestown	7	Murray	8	Total	540
Clarence	8	Myall Lakes	6		
Coffs Harbour	5	Newcastle	7		
Coogee	5	Newtown	7		
Cootamundra	5	North Shore	7		
Cronulla	5	Northern Tablelands	6		
Davidson	5	Oatley	5		
Drummoyne	6	Orange	5		
Dubbo	7	Oxley	5		
East Hills	5	Parramatta	7		
Epping	6	Penrith	8		
Fairfield	5	Pittwater	5		
Gosford	6	Port Macquarie	5		
Goulburn	6	Port Stephens	5		
Granville	6	Prospect	5		
Hawkesbury	8	Riverstone	5		
Heathcote	6	Rockdale	6		
Heffron	5	Ryde	5		
Holsworthy	6	Seven Hills	7		
Hornsby	6	Shellharbour	7		
Keira	5	South Coast	5		

Appendix E: Candidates Nominated for Legislative Assembly, 015 State General Election

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
ABDULLA Violet	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	East Hills
ACKERMAN Steve	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Hornsby
ADDAE Elaine	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Sydney
ADDISON Jasmin	No Land Tax Campaign	Newcastle
AGLAND Joshua	Animal Justice Party	Swansea
AHMED Kays	No Land Tax Campaign	Auburn
AITCHISON Jenny	Country Labor Party	Maitland
ALBERTS Victor	No Land Tax Campaign	Hawkesbury
ALICK Justin	The Greens	Ryde
ALLEN Darryl	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Epping
ALLEN Mick	Independent	Macquarie Fields
ANDERSON Kevin	National Party of Australia - NSW	Tamworth
APLIN Greg	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Albury
ARBEAU Shawn	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Heffron
ARCHARD Clyde	No Land Tax Campaign	Bega
ARCHER John	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Ku-ring-gai
ARDUCA Frank	No Land Tax Campaign	Parramatta
ARDUCA Joe	No Land Tax Campaign	Londonderry
ARDUCA Rebecca	No Land Tax Campaign	Pittwater
ARENA Peter	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Port Stephens
ARMITAGE Fran	Country Labor Party	Oxley
ARMS Luke	Independent	Charlestown
ARMSTRONG David	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Ku-ring-gai
ARONEY Nick	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Kogarah
ASH Kieren	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Pittwater
ASHBY Craig	Country Labor Party	Barwon
ASHTON Wal	Outdoor Recreation Party	Goulburn
ATALLA Edmond	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Mount Druitt
ATANASIOUS James	The Greens	Granville
ATELJ Adrian	No Land Tax Campaign	Holsworthy
ATKINSON Leanne	Country Labor Party	Bega
ATTIA Matt	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Liverpool
ATTKINS Steve	Independent	Myall Lakes
AVASALU Rhonda	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Balmain
AYRES Stuart	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Penrith

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
BAIRD Mike	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Manly
BAKSS Anastasia	No Land Tax Campaign	Heffron
BALFOUR Anna	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Maitland
BALLANTINE Stephen	The Greens	Myall Lakes
BARILARO John	National Party of Australia - NSW	Monaro
BARR Clayton	Country Labor Party	Cessnock
BARRATT Terry	The Greens	Kiama
BARSI Ned	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Wakehurst
BATE David	The Greens	Blacktown
BATTISTA Gianpiero	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Lismore
BEAVIS Kris	National Party of Australia - NSW	Ballina
BEECHAM Holly	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Northern Tablelands
BELGRAVE Leon	Outdoor Recreation Party	Drummoyne
BELLSTEDT Michael	The Greens	Castle Hill
BENJAMIN Susai	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Seven Hills
BENNETT Ursula	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Bega
BEREJKLIAN Gladys	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Willoughby
BEVAN Kate	No Land Tax Campaign	Davidson
BHALLA Raman	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Blacktown
BHUIYAN Rashid	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Lakemba
BICKNELL Janelle	The Greens	Orange
BOEHM Rohan	Independent	Barwon
BOSCH Andre	The Greens	Liverpool
BOUTROS Kamal	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Parramatta
BRADLEY Phil	The Greens	Parramatta
BRATUSA Bernard	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Londonderry
BRENTIN Chris	The Greens	Sydney
BRESSER Mitchell	The Greens	Wollongong
BRETT John	Independent	Miranda
BROADBRIDGE Colin	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Camden
BROMHEAD Stephen	National Party of Australia - NSW	Myall Lakes
BROOK David	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Strathfield
BROOKES Glenn	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	East Hills
BROWN Gordon	No Land Tax Campaign	Balmain
BROWN John	The Greens	Maitland

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
BROWN Leonard	Independent	Seven Hills
BROWNLEE Mary	The Greens	Macquarie Fields
BULJUBASIC Max	Country Labor Party	Murray
BURNEY Linda	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Canterbury
BYRNE Michael		Holsworthy
BYRNES Murray	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Terrigal
CACCIOTTI Elio	No Land Tax Campaign	Cootamundra
CACCIOTTI Joe	No Land Tax Campaign	Ryde
CACCIOTTI Julia	No Land Tax Campaign	Blacktown
CACCIOTTI Karen	No Land Tax Campaign	Riverstone
CAGNEY Cindy	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Camden
CAINE Milton	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Newcastle
CALVERT Barry	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Hawkesbury
CANTO Eddie	No Land Tax Campaign	Cabramatta
CANTO Tania	No Land Tax Campaign	Mulgoa
CAPIS George	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Cronulla
CAR Prue	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Londonderry
CARNEY Todd	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Mulgoa
CAROLAN Joseph	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Keira
CARPENTER Tracey	The Greens	Bathurst
CASHMAN Bill	The Greens	Cabramatta
CASSAR Jake	Independent	Gosford
CASUSCELLI Charles	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Strathfield
CATLEY Yasmin	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Swansea
CAVANAGH Peter	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Willoughby
CAVANAUGH Janet	The Greens	Clarence
CECCELE Romeo	Independent	Shellharbour
CHANTHIVONG Anoulack	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Macquarie Fields
CHECCHIN Louisa	No Land Tax Campaign	Upper Hunter
CHEHAB Stephen	No Land Tax Campaign	Strathfield
CHEHAB Yahya	No Land Tax Campaign	Lakemba
CHESTERFIELD-EVANS Arthur	The Greens	North Shore
CHOKER Sam	No Land Tax Campaign	Rockdale
CHRISTIE Craig	The Greens	Coffs Harbour
CHURCH Andrew	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Gosford
CLARK Philippa	The Greens	Oatley
CLEARY Melissa	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Lake Macquarie
CLIFFORD Philip	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales	Keira

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
	Division	
CODEMO Garry	No Land Tax Campaign	Murray
COGAN James		Summer Hill
COLEMAN Cass	Country Labor Party	Bathurst
COLLARD Daniel	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Lake Macquarie
COLLINS Kerrie	No Land Tax Campaign	Tweed
COLONELLI Noreen	No Land Tax Campaign	Wollongong
COLSELL Peter	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Lane Cove
CONOLLY Kevin	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Riverstone
CONSTANCE Andrew	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Bega
CONSTANTINO Georgia	No Land Tax Campaign	Maroubra
CORONEO Andrew	No Land Tax Campaign	Lake Macquarie
COSTA Joe	No Land Tax Campaign	Oxley
COTTON Damien	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Wallsend
COURE Mark	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Oatley
CRAKANTHROP Tim	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Newcastle
CRIPPS Tom	No Land Tax Campaign	Bathurst
CROUCH Adam	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Terrigal
CRUZ James	The Greens	Maroubra
CUBIS Luke	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Swansea
CURCIC Zoran	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Pittwater
da COSTA Kate	The Greens	Gosford
DALE Lance	The Greens	Strathfield
DALEY Michael	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Maroubra
DALTON Helen	Independent	Murray
DAOUD Jamal	Independent	Rockdale
DARLEY-JONES Patrick	The Greens	Wollondilly
DAVIES Tanya	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Mulgoa
DAVIS Felicity	The Greens	Pittwater
DEVI Indira	Independent	Seven Hills
DI COSMO Mary	No Land Tax Campaign	Hornsby
DI COSMO Pat	No Land Tax Campaign	Drummoyne
DI COSMO Robert	No Land Tax Campaign	Wakehurst
DI COSMO Tony	No Land Tax Campaign	Wallsend
DI SANTO Aldo	No Land Tax Campaign	Willoughby

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
DI SANTO Irma	No Land Tax Campaign	Lane Cove
DIB Jihad	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Lakemba
DIEP Maria	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Cabramatta
DIMOND Vicki	The Greens	Wyong
DINHAM Dale	No Land Tax Campaign	Newtown
DINHAM Leslie	No Land Tax Campaign	Monaro
DINKHA Linda	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Coogee
DOMINELLO Victor	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Ryde
DOUGHTY Paul	No Land Tax Campaign	Swansea
DOYLE Bryan	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Campbelltown
DOYLE Trish	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Blue Mountains
DRAGOJEVIC Stevan	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Wyong
DRAPER Peter	Independent	Tamworth
EADES Dean	No Land Tax Campaign	Oatley
EDWARDS Garry	Independent	Swansea
EISLER Linda	The Greens	Canterbury
ELAWAAD Ahmed	No Land Tax Campaign	Heathcote
EL-DAGHL Lena	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Rockdale
EL-DAHR George	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Lakemba
ELDER David	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Murray
ELLIOTT David	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Baulkham Hills
ERVIN Hadden	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	The Entrance
ESPOSITO Angelo	No Land Tax Campaign	Prospect
ESPOSITO Tania	No Land Tax Campaign	Maitland
EVANS Lee	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Heathcote
EVES Hannah	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Wallsend
FALANGA Mark	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Miranda
FALANGA Ula	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Heathcote
FARMER Pat	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Macquarie Fields
FARUQI Osman	The Greens	Heffron
FERNANDEZ Juan	No Land Tax Campaign	Orange
FINDLEY Amanda	The Greens	South Coast
FINN Julia	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Granville
FIRTH Verity	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Balmain
FITZPATRICK Stephen	No Land Tax Campaign	Goulburn

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
FITZSIMON Bernard	Country Labor Party	Orange
FLOOD Rochelle	The Greens	Port Stephens
FLOWERS John	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Rockdale
FOGARTY Patrick	Australian Cyclists Party	Balmain
FOIA Maria	No Land Tax Campaign	Wollondilly
FOLEY Luke	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Auburn
FOX Kerry	Independent	Epping
FRASER Andrew	National Party of Australia - NSW	Coffs Harbour
FRASER Caroline	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Hawkesbury
FRENCH Kylie	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Summer Hill
FUNNELL Paul	Independent	Wagga Wagga
FYFE Iain	The Greens	Goulburn
GALLAGHER Mick	Independent	Hornsby
GANNON Lyndon	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Balmain
GARRARD Michelle	Independent	Parramatta
GARRARD Paul	Independent	Auburn
GARVIN Chris	The Greens	Lakemba
GAY Trevor	No Land Tax Campaign	Northern Tablelands
GEE Andrew	National Party of Australia - NSW	Orange
GEORGE Thomas	National Party of Australia - NSW	Lismore
GEORGIS Sam	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Prospect
GERVAY Len	No Land Tax Campaign	Ku-ring-gai
GERVAY Susanne	No Land Tax Campaign	Vaucluse
GERVAY-RUBEN Victoria	No Land Tax Campaign	Coogee
GIBBONS Melanie	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Holsworthy
GILBERT John	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Orange
GILBERT Trent	Country Labor Party	Clarence
GIROTTO Maurice	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Londonderry
GLASSMAN Jordanna	The Greens	Murray
GOLDSTEIN Mercurius	The Greens	Northern Tablelands
GOODMAN Ron	Country Labor Party	Tweed
GORMAN Shane	The Greens	Londonderry
GOUSKOS Giovina	No Land Tax Campaign	Myall Lakes
GOWARD Pru	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Goulburn
GRANT Troy	National Party of Australia - NSW	Dubbo

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
GRASSO Paul	No Land Tax Campaign	Port Macquarie
GREEN Allan	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Riverstone
GREEN Josh	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Mount Druitt
GREENWICH Alex	Independent	Sydney
GRENFELL Oscar		Bankstown
GRITTEN Kim	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Lake Macquarie
GUERRY Annette	No Land Tax Campaign	Coffs Harbour
GUISE Adam	The Greens	Lismore
GULAPTIS Chris	National Party of Australia - NSW	Clarence
HADID Mazhar	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Liverpool
HAINES Alison	The Greens	Willoughby
HAMILTON Colin	Independent	Dubbo
HAMILTON Robyn	No Land Tax Campaign	Mount Druitt
HANCOCK Shelley	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	South Coast
HANNA Meena	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Blacktown
HARLANDER Ralph	Independent	Hawkesbury
HARRIS Conny	Independent	Wakehurst
HARRIS David	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Wyong
HARRISON Jodie	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Charlestown
HARRISON Mark	Independent	Blue Mountains
HARTLEY Matthew	Independent	Ballina
HAVYATT David	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Epping
HAY Noreen	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Wollongong
HAYES Dan	Country Labor Party	Wagga Wagga
HAYLEN Jo	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Summer Hill
HAZZARD Brad	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Wakehurst
HEBER Brent	The Greens	Kogarah
HENSKENS Alister	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Ku-ring-gai
HEUSTON Stan		Tamworth
HEYDE Emma	The Greens	Epping
HILLARD Joe	Country Labor Party	Tamworth
HO Melody	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Willoughby
HODGKINSON Katrina	National Party of Australia - NSW	Cootamundra
HOENIG Ron	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Heffron
HOLDEN Neil	No Land Tax Campaign	Baulkham Hills
HOLLAND Greg	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Miranda
HOLSTEIN Chris	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Gosford

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
HOLT Noel		Wyong
HORNERY Sonia	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Wallsend
HORTON Joy	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Monaro
HOWARD Karen	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Newcastle
HUMPHRIES Kevin	National Party of Australia - NSW	Barwon
HUNT Nathan	The Greens	Cronulla
HUSAR Emma	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Penrith
HUTCHINSON Ian	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Barwon
IMLAH Cherie	Animal Justice Party	Lismore
ISSA Tony	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Canterbury
ISSA Tony	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Granville
JACKSON Ross	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Albury
JAMIESON Rod	No Land Tax Campaign	Manly
JARY Jennifer	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Manly
JOHNSEN Michael	National Party of Australia - NSW	Upper Hunter
JOHNSON Jeff	Independent	Ballina
JOHNSON Julie	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Cessnock
JONES Alan	No Land Tax Campaign	Lismore
JONES Cameron	The Greens	Barwon
JONES Mark	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Shellharbour
JORDAN Ken	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Port Stephens
KADWELL John	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Shellharbour
KALIYANDA Charishma	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Holsworthy
KAMPER Steve	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Rockdale
KAYE John	The Greens	Upper Hunter
KEAN Matt	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Hornsby
KEEGAN David	Country Labor Party	Myall Lakes
KELLY Jackie		Penrith
KENNETT Carolyn		Penrith
KERR Sandra	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Wyong
KERTESZ Moya	No Land Tax Campaign	North Shore
KHOURY Jason	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Drummoyne
KING Jonathan	The Greens	Wakehurst
KING Niloufer	The Greens	Albury
KLOSE John	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Oxley
KOLOMEITZ Glenn	Country Labor Party	Kiama

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
KONG Sophia	No Land Tax Campaign	Epping
KOUTSOUKIS John	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Heffron
KUNIANSKY Joanne		Parramatta
LALICH Nick	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Cabramatta
LANGFIELD Philip	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Cootamundra
LATZ Phil	Australian Cyclists Party	Wollongong
LAWRANCE Jeremy	No Land Tax Campaign	Bankstown
LAWRENCE Stephen	Country Labor Party	Dubbo
LAWRENCE Wayne	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Oatley
LAXALE Jerome	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Ryde
LAZAR James	No Land Tax Campaign	Fairfield
LEE Geoff	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Parramatta
LEONG Jenny	The Greens	Newtown
LETO Jason	No Land Tax Campaign	Keira
LIN David	No Land Tax Campaign	Kogarah
LIU Kingsley	The Greens	Mulgoa
LLOYD Edwina	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Sydney
LLOYD Olivia	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Mount Druitt
LOPEZ Steven	Independent	Granville
LOPREIATO Domenic	No Land Tax Campaign	Cessnock
LOPREIATO Joe	No Land Tax Campaign	Clarence
LOPREIATO Nella	No Land Tax Campaign	Barwon
LOPREIATO Sonia	No Land Tax Campaign	The Entrance
LYNCH Paul	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Liverpool
MACFADYEN Ivan	The Greens	Lake Macquarie
MACKANESS Kate	Independent	Hawkesbury
MAGUIRE Daryl	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Wagga Wagga
MAILLER David	Independent	Northern Tablelands
MAIORANA Gianna	No Land Tax Campaign	Blue Mountains
MAIORANA Tony	No Land Tax Campaign	Canterbury
MAKA Tony	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Holsworthy
MALLIA Licio	No Land Tax Campaign	South Coast
MANTEL Alice	The Greens	Drummoyne
MARONEY Matthew	No Land Tax Campaign	Gosford
MARRA Antonetta	No Land Tax Campaign	Macquarie Fields
MARRA John	No Land Tax Campaign	Albury

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
MARRA Mario	No Land Tax Campaign	Granville
MARSHALL Adam	National Party of Australia - NSW	Northern Tablelands
MARSHALL Peter	The Greens	Monaro
MARTIN Arjay	Independent	Charlestown
MARTINEZ Elena	The Greens	Keira
MASSE Pierre	The Greens	Lane Cove
McDERMOTT Hugh	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Prospect
McEWIN Megan	The Greens	Vaucluse
McFARLANE Noel	Australian Cyclists Party	Newtown
MCGEECHAN Annie	No Land Tax Campaign	Wyong
McINNES Pippa	The Greens	Ku-ring-gai
McKAY Jodi	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Strathfield
MEAD Clinton		Macquarie Fields
MEGGET Drusi	The Greens	Port Macquarie
MEHAN David	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	The Entrance
MICHELS Malikeh	The Greens	Auburn
MIHAILUK Tania	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Bankstown
MILLS Brian	Independent	Murray
MINNS Chris	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Kogarah
MISRA Atul	Independent	Murray
MODARELLI Don	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Cabramatta
MORAN Peter	The Greens	Shellharbour
MORONEY Ben	The Greens	Campbelltown
MORRISON Ian	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Riverstone
MORTIMER Christie	No Land Tax Campaign	Cronulla
MORVILLO Hugo	No Land Tax Campaign	Shellharbour
MORVILLO Tania	No Land Tax Campaign	Charlestown
MURPHY Cameron	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	East Hills
NAIRN Mick	The Greens	Miranda
NARANAPATTI Balaji	The Greens	Seven Hills
NASR Juliat	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Bankstown
NERO Silvana	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Wakehurst
NICHOLSON Andrew	The Greens	Fairfield
NICOL Gloria	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Vaucluse
NIELSEN Michelle	Animal Justice Party	Balmain
NOCK Richard	No Land Tax Campaign	Tamworth
NORWICK Alex		Wyong
NOTLEY-SMITH Bruce	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Coogee
NOVAK Debrah	Independent	Clarence

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
OAKLEY Jane	The Greens	Charlestown
O'BRIEN Ciaran	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Wollondilly
O'BRIEN Debra	Country Labor Party	Northern Tablelands
O'BRIEN Steve	Socialist Alliance	Newcastle
O'DEA Jonathan	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Davidson
O'NEILL Astrid	The Greens	East Hills
ORDISH Carol	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Clarence
OSBORNE Chris	Independent	Swansea
OSBORNE Michael	The Greens	Newcastle
O'SULLIVAN Mark	The Greens	Penrith
OUEIK Ronney	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Auburn
PANAYIOTAKIS Nomiky	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Canterbury
PANDELEOS Patrice	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Sydney
PARK Ryan	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Keira
PARKER Jamie	The Greens	Balmain
PARMETER Matt	The Greens	Dubbo
PARSONS Phillipa	The Greens	Swansea
PASSAS Julie	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Summer Hill
PATTERSON Chris	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Camden
PAULING Jason	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Charlestown
PAVEY Melinda	National Party of Australia - NSW	Oxley
PEARCE Paul	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Coogee
PECH Keith	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Wagga Wagga
PELLEGRINI Carmel	No Land Tax Campaign	Kiama
PELZMAN David	No Land Tax Campaign	Sydney
PENFOLD Philip	Independent	Maitland
PERGER Margaret	The Greens	Bega
PERROTTET Dominic	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Hawkesbury
PETINOS Eleni	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Miranda
PETTY Greg	Independent	Heathcote
PEZZANO Angelo	No Land Tax Campaign	Penrith
PEZZANO Mick	No Land Tax Campaign	Liverpool

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
PHILLIPS Fiona	Country Labor Party	South Coast
PHILLIPS Max	The Greens	Summer Hill
PICCOLI Adrian	National Party of Australia - NSW	Murray
PINSUTI Susan	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Wollondilly
PIPER Greg	Independent	Lake Macquarie
PIPER Tony	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Blue Mountains
POLISZCUK Luke	The Greens	Bankstown
POYNTER Kevin	The Greens	Wagga Wagga
PRATT Clarrie	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Wollongong
PRENTICE Brendon	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Seven Hills
PRICE Susan	Socialist Alliance	Summer Hill
PRICE-PURNELL Jessica	National Party of Australia - NSW	Cessnock
PRINABLE Ashley	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Port Macquarie
PROVEST Geoff	National Party of Australia - NSW	Tweed
PRYOR Rod	Independent	Dubbo
QUILL Kristy	Country Labor Party	Port Macquarie
QUINN Wayne	Independent	Shellharbour
RAMSAY John	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Macquarie Fields
RAMSAY Sarah	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Campbelltown
RE Edward	Australian Cyclists Party	Willoughby
REICH Sam	Australian Cyclists Party	Newcastle
RICKARD Scott	The Greens	The Entrance
RIGBY Narelle	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Bathurst
RITCHIE Matt	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Castle Hill
ROBERTS Anthony	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Lane Cove
ROBERTS Brendan	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Maroubra
ROBERTSON Brent	The Greens	Mount Druitt
ROBERTSON John	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Blacktown
ROBINS Bryan	Independent	Clarence
ROBINSON Christine	Independent	Clarence
ROHAN Andrew	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Prospect
ROLLINSON Tania		Hawkesbury
RORRIS Arthur	Independent	Wollongong
ROSE Matt	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	South Coast
ROTIROTI Giuseppe	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	North Shore
ROWELL Jai	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Wollondilly
ROYAL Edward	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Fairfield

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
RUBEN Nadia	No Land Tax Campaign	Terrigal
RUFF Stephen	Independent	North Shore
RUSH Martin	Country Labor Party	Upper Hunter
RUSSELL Jean	No Land Tax Campaign	East Hills
RYAN Michelle	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Tamworth
RYAN Steve	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Kiama
RZETELSKI Joanna		Sydney
SAGE Roza	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Blue Mountains
SAJN Danica	The Greens	Camden
SALAMA Mariam	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Davidson
SALIBA Charbel	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Fairfield
SANDERSON Jim	Independent	Lane Cove
SCAYSBROOK Peter	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Cronulla
SCHERER Peter	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Dubbo
SCHOLFIELD Jennifer	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Mulgoa
SCHUBERT Karl	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Newtown
SCHULTZ Pat	The Greens	Tamworth
SELVENTHIRAN Sujana	The Greens	Prospect
SENTINELLA David	The Greens	Davidson
SHARPE Michael	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	The Entrance
SHARPE Penny	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Newtown
SHAW James	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Parramatta
SHEAHAN Charlie	Country Labor Party	Cootamundra
SHEAHAN Jennifer	No Land Tax Campaign	Seven Hills
SHEPHERD Ben	No Land Tax Campaign	Dubbo
SHIHA Jacquie	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Maroubra
SHIRLEY Joe	No Land Tax Campaign	Port Stephens
SHUREY Lindsay	The Greens	Coogee
SICHEL Michael	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Tweed
SIDOTI Joe	No Land Tax Campaign	Wagga Wagga
SIDOTI John	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Drummoyne
SKINNER Jillian	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	North Shore
SMITH Isaac	Country Labor Party	Lismore
SMITH June	Country Labor Party	Coffs Harbour
SMITH Kathy	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Gosford
SMITH O'Bray	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Oatley
SMITH Tamara	The Greens	Ballina

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
SNOWDON Madeleine	The Greens	Rockdale
SPEAKMAN Mark	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Cronulla
SPENCER May	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Penrith
SPOONER Paul	Country Labor Party	Ballina
ST QUINTIN Douglas	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Davidson
STEPHANDELLIS Chris	No Land Tax Campaign	Campbelltown
STEPHENS Ursula	Country Labor Party	Goulburn
STEVIS Anna	No Land Tax Campaign	Castle Hill
STOKES Rob	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Pittwater
STOREY John	The Greens	Hornsby
STOTT Vyvyan	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Ballina
STRAIN Susan	Animal Justice Party	Lake Macquarie
STRETTON Richard	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Upper Hunter
STUART Maryanne	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Heathcote
STYLES Lynette	Independent	Wollondilly
SULTANA Muriel	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Castle Hill
SUNDSTROM Jeff	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Terrigal
SUSILO Sonny	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Kogarah
SUTHERLAND Ian	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Coffs Harbour
SUTTIE Alice	The Greens	Baulkham Hills
SWEGEN Aleona	The Greens	Wallsend
TABONE Mario	No Land Tax Campaign	Camden
TAFFA Victor	Independent	Sydney
TANG Annie	Unity Party	Kogarah
TAOUK SLEIMAN Lara	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Granville
TASIRE Alandra	The Greens	Blue Mountains
TAURIELLO Don	No Land Tax Campaign	Summer Hill
TAYLOR Mark	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Seven Hills
THERKELSEN Rod	The Greens	Cootamundra
THEW Leighton	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Hornsby
THOMAS Beresford	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Vaucluse
THOMSON Steve	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Maitland
THORPE Kaia	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Baulkham Hills
TOOLE Paul	National Party of Australia - NSW	Bathurst
TRACEY Ryan	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Baulkham Hills
TRAN Andrew	No Land Tax Campaign	Miranda
TUCKER Brian	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Charlestown
TUDEHOPE Damien	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales	Epping

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
	Division	
UIDAM Johanna	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Swansea
UPTON Gabrielle	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Vaucluse
VAIL Rob	The Greens	Riverstone
VAN DER BYL Adrian	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Goulburn
VERNON Carol	The Greens	Oxley
VICE Pip	Australian Cyclists Party	North Shore
VICKERS Andrea	The Greens	Tweed
WADE Kym	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Albury
WALKER Raema	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Auburn
WALSH Michael	Animal Justice Party	Newtown
WALTERS Cameron	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Wollongong
WARD Gareth	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Kiama
WARREN Greg	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Campbelltown
WASHINGTON Kate	Country Labor Party	Port Stephens
WATERSON Victor		Penrith
WATSON Anna	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Shellharbour
WATSON Natasha	The Greens	Heathcote
WATTS Lee	Independent	Upper Hunter
WEATHERSTONE Andrew	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Myall Lakes
WESTERBERG Signe	The Greens	Holsworthy
WHAN Steve	Country Labor Party	Monaro
WHELDON James	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	North Shore
WHEELER Danielle	The Greens	Hawkesbury
WHELDALL Rachael	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Newtown
WILLIAMS Leslie	National Party of Australia - NSW	Port Macquarie
WILLIAMS Lindy	The Greens	Cessnock
WILLIAMS Ray	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales Division	Castle Hill
WILLIAMS ROLDAN Clara	The Greens	Manly
WILLIAMSON Doug	The Greens	Terrigal
WORSLEY Julie	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Ryde
WRIGHT Annie	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Manly
ZAFIRIAN Isabelle	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Drummoyne
ZAKHIA George	Liberal Party of Australia New South Wales	Bankstown

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	District
	Division	
ZANGARI Guy	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Fairfield
ZBIK Andrew	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	Lane Cove
ZYLBER Greg	No Land Tax Campaign	Ballina

Appendix F: Candidates Nominated for Legislative Council, State General Election 2015

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	Group
ACKERMAN Jared		M
ADAMSON Gary	NO LAND TAX	A
AITKEN Bruce		H
AJAKA John	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
AKKANEN Laurie	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
ALAFACI Frank	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
ALLAN Margaret	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
AMATO Louis	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
AMBROSE Jamie		D
AMJAD Aisha	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
ARMER Jezza	NO LAND TAX	A
ASH David		
ATKINS Gregory	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
ATKINS Nikki	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
ATKINS Scott	THE FISHING PARTY	R
AUSTIN James	NO LAND TAX	A
BAANSTRA Stuart		
BAKER Arthur	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
BALDWIN Aaron		
BARBAR Daniel	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
BARCA Thomas	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
BARRON Kevin	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
BARTON Alan		V
BAYLEY Donald	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
BEAUMONT OWLES Brian	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
BELL S	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
BELLENGER Carol	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
BENEDEK Paul	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
BENNETT Frank	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
BENNETT Tony		
BEREGSZASZI Janos	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
BERNER Richard	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
BILL Cory		M
BINGLE Stephen	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
BISARO Susan	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
BLANCH Neil	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
BLATCHFORD Penny	THE GREENS	S
BLOCH Barbara	THE GREENS	S

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	Group
BOLAND Helen	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
BOLLING Kay	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
BOLLING Roger	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
BONICH Nick	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
BORSAK Robert	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
BRENNAN Peter		D
BRIDGE Ross	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
BRIERLEY NEWTON De	THE GREENS	S
BRITT Joshua	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
BRIX-NIELSEN Alain		
BROOKING Victor	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
BROOKS Melissa	THE GREENS	S
BROWN Ray	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
BUTTEL Christopher		D
BYRNE Christine		H
BYRNES Howard	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
BYRT T		M
CACCIOTTI Emma	NO LAND TAX	A
CALLAGHAN Adrian	THE FISHING PARTY	R
CAMPEY Ron		P
CANNULI Sam	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
CARBONE Pat	NO LAND TAX	A
CARPENTER Jennifer	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
CHEN David		
CHEUNG Lam Chong		J
CHIRCOP Joe	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
CHUNG Craig	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
CIURPITA Roman	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
CLAPHAM Jennifer	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
CLARK Brent		H
CLIFFORD Ross	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
COLEFAX Stan	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
COLEMAN John	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
COLLINS PJ		
CONNOLLY Matthew	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
COOK Dave	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	Group
COOK Patria	NO LAND TAX	A
COOLEY Tucky		U
COSTIGAN Simon	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
COTSIS Sophie	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
COVER Myles		M
COX Geoff		
COX Mithra	THE GREENS	S
CRAIG Anthony		
CRAIG Geoff	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
CRANFIELD Kevin	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
CRISP Gordon		
CROCKFORD Mike	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
DALEY Judith	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
DALRYMPLE Garry	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
DAVIDSON Ross		V
DAVIS Jan	THE GREENS	S
DAVISON Douglas	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
DAWSON R W	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
DE LIMA Joaquim	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
DEAN Paul	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
DENTON David	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
DENTON Stephen	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
DERRICK Paul	THE FISHING PARTY	R
DERWENT Luke		H
DI MEGLIO Paul	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
DIORIO Phillip	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
DILWORTH Pamela		H
DINGLE WALL Sally	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
DONALD Janet		H
DONAYRE Christine	THE GREENS	S
DOWNEY John	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
DOYLE Therese	THE GREENS	S
DRISCOLL Patricia	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
DRISCOLL Peter		H
DUNCAN Darelle	THE GREENS	S
EGAN John		V
ELLIOTT-HALLS Samantha	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
ELLIS Mark	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
ELLSMORE Sylvie	THE GREENS	S
EMRICH Eva	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
ERICKSEN Joanna	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	Group
ERICKSEN Wayne	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
ERICOLI Chris	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
ERWIN Warwick		W
EVANS Rachel	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
FAIRFAX Kathryn	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
FARLOW Scott	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
FARUQI Mehreen	THE GREENS	S
FIELD Justin	THE GREENS	S
FINNO Andrea		M
FISHER-WEBSTER Mark		D
FITZPATRICK Sharon	NO LAND TAX	A
FOSTER Terry	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
FOUNTAIN Cerelia		J
FRANKLIN Ben	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
FRANZONE Frank	NO LAND TAX	A
FROST Adam	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
GARDINER Dave	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
GAREMYN Keith	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
GARLICK Rosemary	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
GARNETT Michael	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
GEORGE Andrew		D
GESLING Bernie	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
GESLING Leeanne	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
GIBSON Tonja		H
GOHIL Hasmukhlal	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
GOLDSMITH Pam		P
GOODBAR Chris	THE FISHING PARTY	R
GORDON Thomas		M
GREEN Andrew	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
GREENTREE Darrel		D
GRIFFITHS Philip	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
GUO Xiao Yi		J
HAGGERTY James		M
HARKER-MORTLOCK James		V
HARKER-SMITH Angus	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
HARWIN Don	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
HARWOOD Ross	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
HATCHER S		H

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	Group
HEARN Bob	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
HESLOP Benjamin		P
HICKSON Barbara	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
HIGSON Shayne	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
HILL Peter		P
HILL Rusan		P
HINMAN Pip	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
HOGAN Anthony	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
HONEYBROOK Bob	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
HOOD Alan		
HOPPER Brian		V
HOUSEMAN Karl	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
HOUSSOS Courtney	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
HOWARD Mark		D
HOY Allan		H
HUANG Kun	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
HUGHES Hollie	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
HUTCHINSON John		H
IMSIES Philip		D
JANSSON James		M
JARNASON Susan	THE GREENS	S
JETHI Reena	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
JING Wei		J
JOHNS Vicki	THE FISHING PARTY	R
JOHNSON Deirdre	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
JOHNSON Kevin	THE FISHING PARTY	R
JOHNSON Peter	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
JOHNSON W		H
JONES Adam		H
JONES Neville	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
JONES Peter	NO LAND TAX	A
JUSTICE John		
KAYE John	THE GREENS	S
KEENAN Tracey	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
KENNEDY Anne		P
KHALIFA Omar	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
KHAN Trevor	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
KHOURY Simon	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
KING Bill	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
KING David	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	Group
KOHLER Ben	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
KOLHATKAR Vinay	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
KONTELLIS Marika	THE GREENS	S
KWON Soon-Hyung	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
KYLE Lindy	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
LAM Floris	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
LAW Bradley		D
LAY Jill	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
LEE Steve	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
LEROY-DYER Sharlene	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
LESAGE Jason	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
LIANG Jie		J
LIU James		J
LOPREIATO Joe	NO LAND TAX	A
LOVELL Simon	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
LUXFORD Glenn	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
LYNCH Kate	NO LAND TAX	A
MA Yingxi		J
MACKAY Ted	THE FISHING PARTY	R
MACKENZIE John	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
MACLAREN Ulysses	NO LAND TAX	A
MACRI Gus	NO LAND TAX	A
MAILLER Pete		V
MAKER Rosemary	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
MALLARD Shayne	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
MANICKAM Saritha		M
MARSHALL Sonya		P
MASON Chloe	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
MASON-COX Matthew	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
MATERAZZO Mayo	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
MATTHEWS Carol	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
MATTHEWS Charles	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
McCARTNEY Craig	THE FISHING PARTY	R
McCARTNEY Dave	THE FISHING PARTY	R
McFARLANE Gregory	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
McGREGOR Nicole	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
McKENNA Lucille	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
McLACHLAN Ellemarie		V
McMANUS Tony	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
MELLAND Julia	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	Group
MEYER Ken	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
MILLER Lynette		D
MILLS Richard	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
MOOKHEY Daniel	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
MOONEY Blake	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
MOORE A	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
MORRIS Robert	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
MORRISEY Jo-Anne	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
MORRISEY Louise	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
MORRISEY Michael	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
MORRISEY Michelle	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
MOSELMANE Shaoquett	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
MOUAFI Lorraine		V
MULHALL Natasha	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
MUNN Brendon	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
MURRAY Christine	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
MUSGRAVE Jim	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
NASR Eddie	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
NEVILLE Danielle	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
NEW Anthony	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
NG Lok Long		J
NG Kim Fong		J
NI Feng Yi		J
NICKOLS Graham	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
NILE Fred	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
NO LAND TAX		A
NOTT Jemma	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
NOUJAIM Alain	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
NUTHALL Ramsay		
OATEN Craig	THE FISHING PARTY	R
O'CONNOR Michael	THE FISHING PARTY	R
O'DONNELL Michael	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
OLSEN Sue-Maree	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
O'TOOLE Cathy	NO LAND TAX	A
PAGE Nathan		M
PAINE Neil	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
PALMER L	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
PAN Xue Ming		J
PARKES Ken		H

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	Group
PATCHETT Linda	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
PATERSON Kate	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
PATERSON Stewart	THE FISHING PARTY	R
PAXINOS George	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
PAXINOS Yvette	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
PEARSON Mark	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
PEEBLES Robyn	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
PENNEFATHER James	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
PETERSEN Terje	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
PFISTER Markus		M
PIEROTTI Paul		V
PIKE Julie		V
PIKE Ron		V
POWELL Daniel		M
PRIEST Annette	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
PUNDPAL Mahesh		
PURCELL Adrian	THE FISHING PARTY	R
QUINANE Christopher	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
QUINANE Eileen	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
QUINCE David		P
RAINFORD John	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
RALPH Ingrid	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
RASHBROOK Jan		H
RENSHAW Nicholas		D
RICHARDS Peter	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
RIDINGS Chris	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
RISELEY Julia	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
ROBERTSON Ellie	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
ROBINSON Mark		P
ROBINSON Ray		W
ROCKOFF Todd		M
RODEN Duncan	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
ROSTIROLLA John	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
ROUSELL Joshua		D
ROUSELL Thomas		D
RUAN Hua Mei		J
RUBEN James	NO LAND TAX	A
RYAN James	THE GREENS	S
SANDERS Mia	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
SARKIS Nadrra	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	Group
SAYLE Jeff	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
SCEVOLA Sal		
SCHILLING Kath	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
SCHWAGER Bill		P
SCHWAGER Kate		P
SEARLE Adam	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
SECORD Walt	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
SHAW Bob	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
SHEN Victor	THE FISHING PARTY	R
SHEPHERD Deanne	THE FISHING PARTY	R
SHEPHERD Miranda	THE FISHING PARTY	R
SHEPPARD Elwyn	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
SIMMER Colin		M
SIMMONS Drew		P
SINGH Ranbir	NO PARKING METERS PARTY	I
SLAVICH Eve		M
SMALL Matt	THE FISHING PARTY	R
SMITH Beth	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
SMITH Bob	THE FISHING PARTY	R
SNAIDERO Paul		V
SPEARS Daniel	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
SPREADBOROUGH Robert		
STEEL Craig	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
STEEP Sandi	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
STEFANAC Jennifer		U
STOCK Sue	THE GREENS	S
STOCKER Liz	THE FISHING PARTY	R
STONER Lynda	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
STRATTON Sean		D
STRONG Kristy		D
SUTHERLAND Christine	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
SWIFT Harriett	THE GREENS	S
TADROS Peter	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
TARELA-MOYES Valerie	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
TAYLOR Bronnie	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
TAYLOR Theresa	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
THALER Alisa		P

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	Group
THALER Andrew		P
THEW Diana	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
THOMPSON Ken	AUSTRALIAN CYCLISTS PARTY	X
THOMPSON Matthew	THE GREENS	S
TOMASUMS Debbie	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
TURNER Kylie	THE GREENS	S
VAN DER NEUT Dane	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N
VEITCH Mick	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
VELLENGA John	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
VILLAVER RONALDO	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
VITNELL Luke	THE FISHING PARTY	R
VOLTZ Lynda	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
WADDELL Elwynne	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
WADDELL Graham	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	Q
WAGNER Rendall	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
WALFORD Denis	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
WALFORD Grant	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
WALFORD Nicole	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
WALKER Dawn	THE GREENS	S
WALLACE Andrew	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
WALSH Cameron		M
WALTER David	BUILDING AUSTRALIA PARTY	G
WARD Jane		
WARD Kath	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
WARD Robert	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
WARD Wes	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
WARDLE John	AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	F
WESTWOOD Helen	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
WHELAN James	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
WHELAN Peter	OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTY	B
WIGGIN John	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	T
WILLIAMS Geoffrey	VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA PARTY	L
WILLIAMS John	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
WILLIAMS Keith	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	K
WILLS Jenny		V
WILSON Ron	NO LAND TAX	A
WILSON Venecia		P
WOOD Jacqui	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	N

Ballot Paper Name	Affiliation	Group
WOODS Carmen		V
WOOLFE Marcel	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	C
WYNTER Coral	SOCIALIST ALLIANCE	O
XIAN Bao Ming		J
YANG Steve	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	E
YIN Nan		J
ZAMMIT Simon		D
ZHOU Xiao Fang		J

Appendix G: Informality at 2011 and 2015 State General Elections (NSW Electoral Districts)

District	Informal % SGE 2011	Informal % SGE 2015	Change	Variance from 2011 Average %
NSW Average	3.20	3.44		
Albury	3.73	3.50	-0.23	1.74
Auburn	5.00	5.52	0.52	60.47
Ballina	2.06	2.35	0.29	-31.69
Balmain	2.46	2.08	-0.38	-39.53
Bankstown	6.40	6.10	-0.30	77.33
Barwon	2.19	3.38	1.19	-1.74
Bathurst	2.10	2.63	0.53	-23.55
Baulkham Hills	2.75	2.74	-0.01	-20.35
Bega	3.12	2.91	-0.21	-15.41
Blacktown	4.49	4.66	0.17	35.47
Blue Mountains	2.46	2.51	0.05	-27.03
Burrinjuck	2.24	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cabramatta	3.95	4.49	0.54	30.52
Camden	3.59	3.60	0.01	4.65
Campbelltown	4.39	4.25	-0.14	23.55
Canterbury	4.08	4.79	0.71	39.24
Castle Hill	2.90	2.65	-0.25	-22.97
Cessnock	4.66	4.40	-0.26	27.91
Charlestown	3.49	3.93	0.44	14.24
Clarence	2.06	3.12	1.06	-9.30
Coffs Harbour	2.47	3.22	0.75	-6.40
Coogee	2.36	2.35	-0.01	-31.69
Cootamundra	N/A	2.69	N/A	-21.80
Cronulla	2.78	2.99	0.21	-13.08
Davidson	2.05	2.22	0.17	-35.47
Drummoyne	2.54	2.50	-0.04	-27.33
Dubbo	1.94	3.28	1.34	-4.65
East Hills	3.96	4.28	0.32	24.42
Epping	2.50	2.46	-0.04	-28.49
Fairfield	6.52	5.43	-1.09	57.85
Gosford	3.36	3.16	-0.20	-8.14
Goulburn	3.22	2.74	-0.48	-20.35
Granville	4.39	4.69	0.30	36.34
Hawkesbury	2.66	4.22	1.56	22.67
Heathcote	3.12	3.13	0.01	-9.01
Heffron	3.27	3.25	-0.02	-5.52

District	Informal % SGE 2011	Informal % SGE 2015	Change	Variance from 2011 Average %
Holsworthy	N/A	4.92	N/A	43.02
Hornsby	2.54	2.28	-0.26	-33.72
Keira	3.15	2.88	-0.27	-16.28
Kiama	2.28	2.82	0.54	-18.02
Kogarah	3.99	4.57	0.58	32.85
Ku-Ring-Gai	1.72	2.39	0.67	-30.52
Lake Macquarie	3.00	3.24	0.24	-5.81
Lakemba	5.16	5.54	0.38	61.05
Lane Cove	2.64	2.64	0.00	-23.26
Lismore	2.02	2.22	0.20	-35.47
Liverpool	6.14	5.36	-0.78	55.81
Londonderry	3.95	5.37	1.42	56.10
Macquarie Fields	4.95	4.25	-0.70	23.55
Maitland	3.10	3.42	0.32	-0.58
Manly	2.31	2.13	-0.18	-38.08
Maroubra	2.92	2.87	-0.05	-16.57
Marrickville	2.93	N/A	N/A	N/A
Menai	3.17	N/A	N/A	N/A
Miranda	2.70	3.33	0.63	-3.20
Monaro	2.36	2.61	0.25	-24.13
Mount Druitt	5.39	5.29	-0.10	53.78
Mulgoa	4.06	4.23	0.17	22.97
Murray	2.67	3.74	1.07	8.72
Murrumbidgee	2.44	2.97	0.53	-13.66
Myall Lakes	2.61	3.68	1.07	6.98
Newcastle	2.80	2.53	-0.27	-26.45
North Shore	1.96	1.96	0.00	-43.02
Northern Tablelands	1.16	2.19	1.03	-36.34
Oatley	3.21	3.25	0.04	-5.52
Orange	2.53	2.87	0.34	-16.57
Oxley	2.31	3.30	0.99	-4.07
Parramatta	3.77	3.68	-0.09	6.98
Penrith	3.59	4.02	0.43	16.86
Pittwater	2.29	2.43	0.14	-29.36
Port Macquarie	1.92	2.81	0.89	-18.31
Port Stephens	2.92	3.31	0.39	-3.78
Prospect	N/A	4.82	N/A	40.12
Riverstone	3.96	3.19	-0.77	-7.27
Rockdale	3.83	4.40	0.57	27.91

District	Informal % SGE 2011	Informal % SGE 2015	Change	Variance from 2011 Average %
Ryde	2.77	3.04	0.27	-11.63
Seven Hills	N/A	3.87	N/A	12.50
Shellharbour	4.70	4.43	-0.27	28.78
Smithfield	5.44	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Coast	2.97	3.09	0.12	-10.17
Strathfield	2.68	3.17	0.49	-7.85
Summer Hill		3.34	3.34	-2.91
Swansea	3.12	3.70	0.58	7.56
Sydney	2.18	2.39	0.21	-30.52
Tamworth	1.50	2.30	0.80	-33.14
Terrigal	2.71	3.22	0.51	-6.40
The Entrance	3.50	3.71	0.21	7.85
Toongabbie	3.62	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tweed	3.30	3.43	0.13	-0.29
Upper Hunter	2.76	3.09	0.33	-10.17
Vaucluse	2.55	2.44	-0.11	-29.07
Wagga Wagga	2.21	3.21	1.00	-6.69
Wakehurst	3.12	3.45	0.33	0.29
Wallsend	3.58	3.93	0.35	14.24
Willoughby	2.45	2.45	0.00	-28.78
Wollondilly	4.59	3.76	-0.83	9.30
Wollongong	3.74	4.10	0.36	19.19
Wyong	3.95	4.32	0.37	25.58

Appendix H: Votes taken by Vote Types and Population vs Enrolment Growth State General Elections 1995 to 2015

NSW Population and Enrolment Numbers and Growth, 1995-2015

Year	Population	Enrolment	Population Growth	Enrolment growth
1995	6,097,600	3,837,102		
1999	6,397,200	4,115,059	4.91%	7.24%
2003	6,691,800	4,272,104	4.61%	3.82%
2007	6,875,700	4,374,029	2.75%	2.39%
2011	7,287,600	4,635,810	5.99%	5.98%
2015	7,565,500*	5,040,662	3.81%	8.73%

* 2015 figure as at December 2014, all others as at June of that year.

Vote Type	1995	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015	% Change from 2011 to 2015
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	%
iVote®	-	-	-	-	46,862	283,669	505.3
Postal	64,283	123,797	163,108	223,951	245,411	203,625	-17.0
Pre-poll	82,513	144,540	134,465	223,266	352,741	641,910	82.0
Declared Institution	N/A	14,841	12,816	15,970	14,880	14,278	-4.0
Early Voting Totals	146,796	283,178	310,389	463,187	659,894	1,143,482	73.3
Ordinary	3,153,665	3,241,656	3,282,424	3,285,087	3,188,142	3,073,064	-3.6
On the day voting totals	3,153,665	3,241,656	3,282,424	3,285,087	3,188,142	3,073,064	-3.6
Section/Silent	N/A	4,089	6,451	5,714	12,564	13,930	10.9
Enrolment New	-	-	-	-	20,960	41,978	100.3
Absent	275,321	303,200	325,412	298,135	409,035	288,780	29.4
Other voting methods totals	275,321	307,289	331,863	303,849	442,559	344,688	-22.11
Totals	3,575,782	3,832,123	3,924,676	4,052,123	4,290,595	4,561,234	6.31

Appendix I: Election Funding and Disclosure Branch Advertising Campaign, 2015 State General Election

	Type of Media	Campaign Timing
Candidate Seminar Presentations	Print – State-wide	Week Commencing 13 July 2014
Third Party Campaigner Obligations - Registration of Third-party Campaigners / Capped Expenditure Period	Print – State-wide	Week Commencing 7 September 2014
Candidate and group obligations	Print – State-wide	Week Commencing 7 September 2014
Political Donations in NSW	Print – State-wide	Week Commencing 7 September 2014
Political Donations in NSW	Print – State-wide	Week Commencing 21 September 2014
Third Party Campaigner Obligations	Print – State-wide	Week Commencing 18 January 2015
Candidate and group obligations	Print – State-wide	Week Commencing 8 February 2015
Additional disclosure requirements	Radio – State-wide	Week Commencing 8 February 2015
Additional disclosure requirements	Radio – State-wide	Week Commencing 15 February 2015
Additional disclosure requirements	Print – State-wide	Week Commencing 15 February 2015
Additional disclosure requirements	Radio – State-wide	Week Commencing 22 February 2015

Appendix J: Copies of Advertisements, 2015 State General Election

Online Advertisements

Enrolment



NSW STATE ELECTION IS ON SAT 28 MARCH.

ARE YOU CORRECTLY ENROLLED?

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

**VOTE SAT
28 MARCH.**

Check your details now ▶

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NSW STATE ELECTION IS ON SAT 28 MARCH.

ARE YOU CORRECTLY ENROLLED?

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VOTE SAT 28 MARCH.

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ARE YOU CORRECTLY ENROLLED?

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VOTE SAT 28 MARCH.

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iVote®

IF YOU'RE OUT OF NSW ON SAT 28 MARCH.

iVOTE® LETS YOU VOTE ONLINE.

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

**NSW STATE ELECTION
SAT 28 MARCH.**

**Apply for
iVote® now ▶**




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ON SAT 28 MARCH.** 

iVOTE® LETS YOU VOTE ONLINE. 

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**YOUR STATE.
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YOUR VOTE.**

**NSW STATE
ELECTION
SAT 28 MARCH.**

Apply for iVote® now ▶



Postal and Pre-poll stage



IF YOU'RE AWAY ON SAT 28 MARCH

YOU CAN VOTE EARLY BY PRE-POLL, POST OR ONLINE.

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

**NSW STATE ELECTION
SAT 28 MARCH.**

[Click here for early voting info](#) ▶

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IF YOU'RE AWAY ON SAT 28 MARCH

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IF YOU'RE AWAY ON SAT 28 MARCH



**YOU CAN VOTE EARLY BY PRE-POLL,
POST OR ONLINE.**



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How to vote and Remember to Vote Stage



**YOUR STATE.
YOUR LIFE.
YOUR VOTE.
SAT 28 MARCH.**

[Find voting
locations](#)



REMEMBER TO VOTE THIS SATURDAY.

VOTE FOR WHAT MATTERS TO YOU IN NSW.

NSW STATE ELECTION

YOUR STATE. YOUR LIFE. YOUR VOTE.

SAT 28 MARCH.

[Find voting locations >](#)

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NSW STATE ELECTION IS THIS SATURDAY.



VOTE FOR WHAT MATTERS TO YOU IN NSW.



YOUR STATE. YOUR LIFE. YOUR VOTE.

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Press Advertisements

Enrolment Stage



**VOTE FOR YOU.
MAKE SURE YOU'RE
READY ON 28 MARCH.**

The New South Wales State Election is on Saturday, 28 March.

It's your chance to vote for what's important to you in New South Wales. But to be heard, you must be correctly enrolled. If you've changed address, you'll need to update your enrolment. Or if you've turned 18, you'll need to enrol to vote for the first time.

REMEMBER VOTING IS COMPULSORY.

To check your enrolment, update your address details or enrol, visit www.votensw.info or call **1300 135 736**.
For enquiries in languages other than English, call our interpreting service on **13 14 50**.
For hearing or speech impaired enquiries call us via the National Relay Service on **13 36 77**.

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YOUR VOTE.**



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

Nominations Advertisement

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN.

The NSW State Election is on Saturday, 28 March 2015.

HOW TO NOMINATE:

Legislative Assembly Nominations

Candidates who are not endorsed by a registered political party must nominate with the Returning Officer for the Electoral District they wish to contest. Contact details of Returning Officers are available from the website or by calling us. The deadline for lodging nominations is 12 noon, Thursday, 12 March.

Registered political parties may nominate candidates in the manner outlined above or lodge their nominations with the NSW Electoral Commission, Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney. The deadline for party nominations lodged at the NSW Electoral Commission is 12 noon, Wednesday, 11 March (24 hours prior to the close of nominations with the Returning Officer).

Legislative Council Nominations

Candidates, groups and registered political parties must lodge their nominations with the NSW Electoral Commission, Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney. The deadline for lodging Legislative Council nominations is 12 noon, Thursday, 12 March.

Information about nominations is available in the Handbook for Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers available from our website. Late nominations will not be accepted. A deposit applies to all nominations.

For nominations enquires call **1300 135 736**.
For information visit www.votensw.info or call **1300 135 736**.

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

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Issue of the Writ Advertisement

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE ELECTION 2015

I have received Writs from His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC (Retd), Governor of New South Wales, issued on 7 March 2015, for the election of 93 members of the Legislative Assembly and 21 members of the Legislative Council.

The Writs specify the following dates for the elections:

Close of nominations: **12 noon, Thursday, 12 March 2015**

Election day: **Saturday, 28 March 2015**

Return of the Writs: **Thursday, 7 May 2015**

REMEMBER, VOTING IS COMPULSORY.

For information visit www.votensw.info or call **1300 135 736**.

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

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Candidates Advertisement



VOTE FOR YOU. KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES.

At the State Election on Saturday, 28 March, you will vote for one Legislative Assembly Member who will represent your electoral district, and for 21 Legislative Council Members who will represent the state as a whole.

Nominations closed at noon Thursday, 12 March, and you can see the full list of candidates on our website.

Where to vote.

On election day you can vote at any polling place in NSW. To check for your nearest polling place or to explore your early voting options visit the website or call us.

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

For information visit www.votensw.info or call **1300 135 736**.

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

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Register Material Advertisement

REGISTER YOUR ELECTORAL MATERIAL.

The NSW State Election is on Saturday, 28 March 2015.

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

Information on registering electoral material is available in the Handbook for Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers on the NSW Electoral Commission website.

Applications can be made until 5pm Friday, 20 March 2015. Material received after the deadline will not be considered.

Applications should be lodged via the online registration system on the NSWEC website www.votensw.info.

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

For information visit www.votensw.info or call **1300 135 736**.

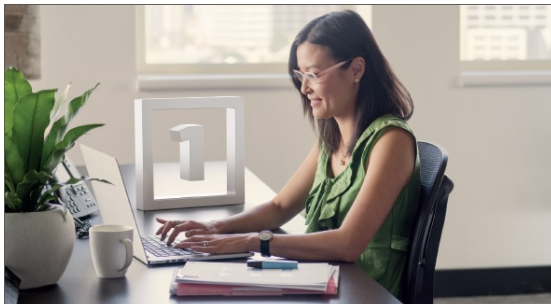
For enquiries in languages other than English, call our interpreting service on **13 14 50**. For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on **13 36 77**.

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Postal and Pre-poll Stage



VOTE FOR YOU. HAVE YOUR SAY EARLY IF YOU'RE AWAY.

The NSW State Election is on Saturday, 28 March 2015.

If you'll be away from home on election day, you can vote at any polling place in the state. If you can't get to a polling place, or you're out of the state on election day, you can still vote.

Vote early

You can vote early between Monday, 16 March and Friday, 27 March. For pre-poll voting locations, visit our website or call us.

iVote®

The iVote® system is available to people who are blind or visually impaired, have a disability or literacy needs, who live more than 20km from a polling place, or who will be outside NSW on election day. Eligible electors can cast their vote using the internet or over the telephone.

To learn more about the iVote® system visit www.iVote.nsw.gov.au or call **1300 2 iVote (1300 24 86 83)**.

By post

You can vote by post by lodging a postal vote application by Monday, 23 March if you're overseas, or Wednesday, 25 March if you're in Australia. You can apply for a postal vote online or request one by calling us.

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

For information visit www.votensw.info or call **1300 135 736**.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service on **13 14 50**.

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

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VOTE FOR YOU. INTERNET AND TELEPHONE VOTING.

The NSW State Election is on Saturday, 28 March 2015.

If you can't get to a polling place, don't worry. In some circumstances, it's now possible to cast your vote using the internet or over the telephone. The iVote® system is available to people enrolled in NSW:

- who are blind or have low vision
- who have a disability or literacy needs
- who live more than 20km from a polling place
- who are outside NSW on election day

To register now, visit www.iVote.nsw.gov.au or call **1300 2iVote (1300 24 86 83)**.

For more information on your voting options visit www.votensw.info or call **1300 135 736**.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service on **13 14 50**.

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

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Redistribution Advertisement



VOTE FOR YOU. KNOW YOUR ELECTORAL DISTRICT.

The NSW State Election is on Saturday, 28 March.

State electoral boundaries have changed, so you may now be enrolled in a new electoral district, or the name of your district may have changed.

But don't worry. On election day, just vote at your usual polling place, or vote early at any pre-poll voting centre. We're employing extra staff in affected areas to deal with any confusion caused by the boundary changes.

You can check your enrolment details by visiting the website or calling us.

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

For information visit www.votensw.info or call **1300 135 736**.

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

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Interstate and Overseas Advertisement

DON'T MISS VOTING BECAUSE YOU'RE TRAVELLING.

The NSW State Election is on Saturday, 28 March 2015.

If you're going to be out of NSW on election day, you can vote before you leave or while you're away.

Internet Voting (iVote®): If you're out of NSW on election day, you can register to use the iVote® system to cast your vote over the telephone or using the internet. Registrations open Thursday, 12 February. Voting opens Monday, 16 March and closes 6pm EDST Saturday, 28 March, election day. For information visit www.ivote.nsw.gov.au or call **1300 2iVote** or **+61 2 9290 5287** (outside Australia).

Overseas: Australian consulates overseas are no longer voting venues. The iVote® system is the recommended option.

Interstate: Interstate electoral offices will have iVote® terminals available for use, or alternatively you can vote via your own computer or phone. For interstate locations visit the website or call us. Voting at interstate locations is during business hours Monday, 16 March, to Friday, 27 March.

Sydney Airport: Airports are no longer voting venues. The iVote® system is the recommended option.

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

For information visit www.votensw.info or call **1300 135 736**. For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service on **13 14 50**. For hearing or speech impaired enquiries call us via the National Relay Service on **13 36 77**.

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How to vote and Remember to Vote Stage

IT'S YOUR VOTE. MAKE IT COUNT ON 28 MARCH.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BALLOT PAPER
Small ballot paper

Directions

Place a '1' next to the person you want to vote for.

Remember the boxes for more than 1 candidate.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BALLOT PAPER
Large ballot paper - You can vote above or below the line.

Ask if you need help

Above The Line: Place a '1' next to the group you want to vote for or number the boxes for at least 3 groups.

Below The Line: Number at least 15 squares.

The NSW State Election is on Saturday, 28 March. It's your chance to vote for what's important for you and for New South Wales.

Polling places are open from 8am to 6pm.

Once your name is marked off the electoral roll, you'll be given two ballot papers. For your vote to count, you need to fill in both ballot papers correctly.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BALLOT PAPERS

- You can just place a number '1' next to the person you want to vote for.
- If you want to vote for more than one person, you can place a number '2' next to the person who is your next choice.
- You can vote for as many people as you like - 2, 3, 4 and so on.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BALLOT PAPERS

There are 2 ways you can vote for the Legislative Council.

1. Above The Line

- You can just place a number '1' next to the group you want to vote for.
- If you want to vote for more than one group, you can place a number '2' next to the group that is your next choice.
- You can vote for as many groups as you like - 2, 3, 4 and so on.

2. Below The Line

- You must number 15 squares if you are voting below the line.
- You can vote for more people if you want by writing numbers in the other squares, starting with 15.
- You can vote for as many people as you like - 16, 17, 18 and so on.

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

For information visit www.votensw.info 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 us via the National Relay Service on **13 36 77**.

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VOTE FOR YOU. REMEMBER TO VOTE THIS SATURDAY.

Saturday, 28 March is election day.

It's your chance to vote for what's important for New South Wales and for you.

Polling places are open from 8am to 6pm.

On Saturday you should vote at your local polling place but if you are away from home you can vote at any polling place in the state.

If you can't vote on Saturday you can vote early until 6pm this Friday, 27 March.

For pre-poll and election day voting locations and everything you need to know about the election visit the website or call us.

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

For information visit www.votensw.info or call **1300 135 736**.

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

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Election Funding Advertising

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE ELECTION 2015

Third-party Campaigner Obligations

Important changes to the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* came into effect on 28 October 2014.

If you are, or are intending to be, a third-party campaigner you have obligations and responsibilities under the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981*.

Third Party Campaigner

Includes any entity or other person (not being a registered party, elected member, group or candidate) who incurs electoral communication expenditure during a capped expenditure period that exceeds \$2,000 in total. It is necessary to be registered and have appointed an official agent.

Registration and Official Agents

A third-party campaigner must register with the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC), and appoint an official agent, before making payments for electoral communication expenditure incurred during a capped expenditure period, or accepting political donations for the purposes of incurring that expenditure.

Registration forms are available from the NSWEC's website www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Capped Expenditure Period

The capped expenditure period for the State election is from 1 October 2014 to the end of election day on 28 March 2015.

Caps on Electoral Expenditure

A cap on electoral communication expenditure incurred during the capped period applies for the State election.

The cap for a third-party campaigner who was registered prior to 1 October 2014 is \$1,050,000.

The cap for a third-party campaigner who was not registered prior to 1 October 2014 is \$525,000.

Visit www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 022 011 for more information.

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.



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

201729

NSW STATE ELECTION 2015

Political Donations in NSW

Important changes to the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* came into effect on 28 October 2014

A political donation is a gift made to or for the benefit of a candidate, a group of candidates, a political party, an elected member (being a member of the NSW State Parliament or a Local Government councillor) or a third-party campaigner.

Who can make a political donation?

Political donations in NSW can be made by individuals who are on the electoral roll for federal, state and local government elections OR by an entity that has a relevant business number (i.e. an ABN or any other number allocated or recognised by ASIC for the purposes of identifying the entity).

Where an individual is not enrolled or an entity does not have a relevant business number, application must first be made to the Electoral Commissioner before a donation can be made.

Restrictions on donations that can be accepted (Prohibited Donors)

Prohibited donors are property developers, tobacco industry business entities, liquor and gambling industry business entities as well as their close associates.

It is unlawful for a prohibited donor to make a political donation or for a person to make a political donation on behalf of a prohibited donor.

Caps on Political Donations in NSW for State Elections

Political donations for NSW State elections are subject to caps.

The applicable donation caps for the 2015 State Election for donations made between 28 October 2014 to 30 June 2015 are:

- \$2,000 for political donations to or for the benefit of a candidate;
- \$5,000 for political donations to or for the benefit of a registered political party;
- \$2,000 for political donations to or for the benefit of a party that is not registered;
- \$5,000 for political donations to or for the benefit of a group;
- \$2,000 for political donations to or for the benefit of an elected member; and
- \$2,000 for political donations to or for the benefit of a third-party campaigner.

Disclosure of Political Donations

All donations with a value of or exceeding \$1,000 are reportable political donations.

A donor who makes a reportable donation must disclose to the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) all reportable political donations made. The disclosure is made following the end of the financial year in which the donation was made.

Visit www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 022 011 for more information.

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.

201402



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

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Appendix K: Candidate Seminars, 2015 State General Election

Face to Face

Location	Date	Time	Venue Name	Venue Address
Newcastle	29 Nov 2014	10:00 am	City Library Cultural Centre	Laman Street Newcastle
Sydney	2 Dec 2014	5:00 pm	Symantec House, The Portside Centre	Level 5, 207 Kent Street Sydney
Wollongong	6 Dec 2014	10:00 am	Ocean Room, Wollongong Town Hall	Cnr of Kembla & Crown Streets Wollongong
Hurstville	9 Dec 2014	5:00 pm	Kanyana Room, Hurstville City Council	MacMahon Street Hurstville
Blacktown	10 Dec 2014	5:00 pm	Blacktown City Council Library	Cnr of Flushcombe Road and Alpha Streets, Blacktown
Sydney	16 Dec 2014	5:00 pm	Symantec House, The Portside Centre	Level 5, 207 Kent Street Sydney

Webinars

Location	Date and Time
NSW Electoral Commission	2.00pm Wednesday, 3 December 2014
NSW Electoral Commission	10.00am Tuesday, 9 December 2014

Appendix L: Legislative Council Draw and Second Preference Group, 2015 State General Election

Draw Group Letter	Group	Second Preference Group	
		Group Letter	2nd Preference Group
A	No Land Tax	E	Liberal/Nationals
B	Outdoor Recreation Party	R	The Fishing Party
C	Animal Justice Party	T	Australian Democrats
D		S	The Greens
E	Liberal/Nationals	Q	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
F	Australian Motorist Party	T	Australian Democrats
G	Building Australia Party	M	Group M
H		M	Group M
I	No Parking Meters Party	J	Group J
J		I	No Parking Meters Party
K	Labor/Country Labor	S	The Greens
L	Voluntary Euthanasia Party	K	Labor/Country Labor
M		G	Building Australia Party
N	Shooters and Fishers	Q	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
O	Socialist Alliance	S	The Greens
P		I	No Parking Meters Party
Q	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	E	Liberal/Nationals
R	The Fishing Party	B	Outdoor Recreation Party
S	The Greens	K	Labor/Country Labor
T	Australian Democrats	C	Animal Justice Party
U	not applicable		
V	not applicable		
W	not applicable		
X	Australian Cyclists Party	S	The Greens

Appendix M: Legislative Council Elected Candidates, 2015 State General Election

Order Elected	Candidate Name	Group	Group Name	Elected at Count
1	AJAKA John	E	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	1
2	COTSIS Sophie	K	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	1
3	KAYE John	S	THE GREENS	1
4	FRANKLIN Ben	E	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	4
5	SECORD Walt	K	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	4
6	FARUQI Mehreen	S	THE GREENS	4
7	MASON-COX Matthew	E	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	7
8	VOLTZ Lynda	K	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	7
9	HARWIN Don	E	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	9
10	MOSELMANE Shaoquett	K	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	9
11	TAYLOR Bronnie	E	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	11
12	VEITCH Mick	K	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	11
13	AMATO Louis	E	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	13
14	SEARLE Adam	K	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	13
15	MALLARD Shayne	E	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	15
16	KHAN Trevor	E	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	16
17	FARLOW Scott	E	LIBERAL / NATIONALS	17
18	HOUSSOS Courtney	K	LABOR / COUNTRY LABOR	391
19	BORSAK Robert	N	SHOOTERS AND FISHERS	391
20	NILE Fred	Q	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	391
21	PEARSON Mark	C	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	391

Appendix N: Media Campaign, 2015 State General Election

Media release dates and titles

21 January Do you speak English as well as another language?	11 March Nominations close tomorrow for the NSW State Election
2 February Invitation to a background media briefing for the NSW State Election 2015	12 March Early voting options for the NSW State Election
3 February Work at the NSW State Election	13 March Know your candidates for the NSW State Election
16 February Electronically assisted voting for the 2015 NSW State Election	16 March Early voting starts today
18 February The NSW State Election is less than 6 weeks away	19 March Get ready to vote at the NSW State Election
18 February Aboriginal Electoral Officials wanted	21 March Early voting options prove popular
26 February Interstate and overseas voting changes	23 March Get ready to vote at the NSW State Election
3 March Electoral Boundaries have changed	26 March Results information for the 2015 NSW State Election
9 March Nominations are open for the NSW State Election	27 March Where to vote tomorrow
10 March It's not too late to enrol to vote	

Media Interviews

68 interviews were conducted on 30 regional, Sydney metro or state-wide radio and TV stations as below:

Station	Station	Station
2BS	2UE	ABC North Coast
2DU	2WS	ABC Riverina
2EC	949 Power FM	ABC South East NSW
2GB	ABC State-wide	ABC Wollongong
2HD	ABC Coffs Coast	C91.3
2KO	ABC Dubbo	Koori Radio
2MN Upper Hunter	ABC Illawarra	Outback radio
2NUR	ABC Mid North Coast	STAR FM Coffs Port
2SM	ABC New England	Macquarie
2TM Tamworth	ABC Newcastle	PRIME 7 Tamworth
		ABC TV News24

Advertising Campaign Schedule

Message title	Message content	Media	Start	Finish
Brand TV (enrolment)	Get ready for the election. Check your enrolment	TV - State-wide, CALD, Aboriginal	24 February	3 March
		TV - Online	22 February	3 March
Enrolment	Now is time to check and update details or enrol. Website, enquiry centre details etc.	Radio - Regional,	25 March	3 March
		Digital – State-wide,	24 February	3 March
		Press - Aboriginal	25 February	25 February
Redistribution	You may be affected by redistribution Check your enrolment Vote at your usual local voting centre. Extra staff on hand to help. Website, enquiry centre details etc.	Print - Geographically targeted	2 March	7 March
		Radio - Geographically targeted	2 March	8 March
iVote	iVote registrations are now open iVote is available to electors outside NSW	Digital - Targeted to electors overseas or interstate	22 February	27 March

Message title	Message content	Media	Start	Finish
	on election day Website, enquiry centre details etc.	Print – State-wide	7 March	25 March
		Radio – Metro ATN, regional	16 March	27 March
Issue of Writ	Statutory notice including dates of election day, close of nominations and return of writ. Website, enquiry centre details etc.	Print – Sydney metro	8 March	8 March
Call for nominations	Nominations are now open Closing dates and times How to nominate Website, enquiry centre details etc	Print – Sydney metro, Newcastle, Wollongong	8 March	11 March
Register 'How-to-Vote' material	Details of how to register and deadlines Website, enquiry centre details etc	Print – Sydney metro	15 March	15 March
Pre-poll and postal voting	Publicising early voting options of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postal • iVote • Pre-poll Website, enquiry centre details etc	TV - State-wide, CALD, Aboriginal	11 March	22 March
		TV - Online		
		Print - State-wide, CALD, Aboriginal	10 March	16 March
		Radio State-wide, CALD Aboriginal	13 March	19 March
		Digital State-wide, CALD	11 March	21 March
Interstate and overseas voting	No in person voting available at airport or O/S locations as in the past iVote option available instead Website, enquiry centre details etc.	Print – Sydney Metro (SMH, DT), Newcastle, Wollongong,	17 March	17 March
Candidates for Legislative Assembly and	Nominations closed, candidate details now available	Print – Sydney Metro, Newcastle, Wollongong,	16 March	16 March

Message title	Message content	Media	Start	Finish
Legislative Council	Website, enquiry centre details etc.	major regional		
'How to vote' for Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council	How to complete your ballot papers correctly Election day information Website, enquiry centre details etc.	Print – CALD, Aboriginal	19 March	25 March

Social Media

Facebook

NSW State Election Saturday, 28 March
Counting for all Legislative Assembly districts and the Legislative Council is now complete. Results at www.votensw.info
YOUR STATE. YOUR LIFE. YOUR VOTE.
visit www.votensw.info

NSW Elections Government Organisation

4,279 people like this

96 people have been here

3.8 of 5 stars - 16 reviews

ABOUT

The NSW Electoral Commission conducts impartial and fair elections for the Parliament of NSW, NSW Local Government councils, the Aboriginal Land Council...

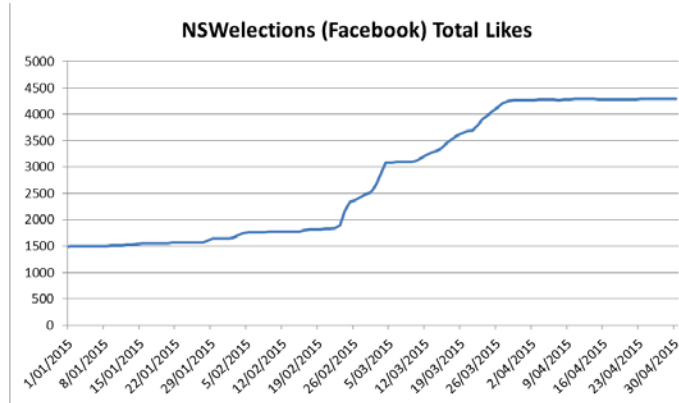
<http://elections.nsw.gov.au/>

NSW Elections
21 May at 09:24 · Edited ·

For the keen election followers among you we now have 2015 Legislative Council First Preference reports by polling place and vote type <http://ow.ly/N7aky>
But that's not all! There is now a Two Candidate Preferred tool that allows all candidate combinations to be published for each Legislative Assembly contest using final count data <http://ow.ly/N7JR1>
For everyone else, please enjoy this mildly amusing election themed meme.

Likes: 31/12/2014: 1,486

30/04/2015: 4,287 (188% increase)



Posts: 40

Post with highest reach:

NSW Elections added 2 new photos.
 Published by Richard Carroll [?] · 24 February · Edited ·

WORK AT A POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY, 28 MARCH
 Working at a polling place at the NSW State election is a great way to earn some money (around \$340 for the day), learn new skills and help your community come together to vote. A selection of casual positions are available from 16 March and on Election Day, 28 March. If you, or someone you know, might be interested, applications are now open. <http://ow.ly/JyhWN>

357,632 people reached Boosted

Unlike · Comment · Share · 778 1,431 941

Total post reach (all posts): 607,742

Advertisements: 38

Advertisements with highest reach:

 **NSW Elections** ✓
Written by Cadreon [?] · 26 February · 🌐

Make sure your enrolment details are correct for the NSW State Election, 28 March. Check them now.



791,040 people reached **Boost Post**

64,790 Views
Like · Comment · Share

Total advertisement reach: 3,607,782

Twitter

electoral
commission nsw

WWW.VOTENSW.INFO

NSW Elections
@NSWElections
Official twitter account for the NSW Electoral Commission, the independent statutory authority established to conduct State parliamentary and other elections

Sydney, New South Wales
votensw.info
Joined January 2011

TWEETS 432 FOLLOWING 163 FOLLOWERS 1,095 FAVORITES 9

Follow

Tweets Tweets & replies Photos & videos

NSW Elections @NSWElections · May 18
2015 Legislative Council First Preference reports by Polling Place and vote type are now available at ow.ly/N7aky

NSW Elections @NSWElections · May 18
Now available: TCP tool allows all candidate combinations to be published for each LA contest using final count data. ow.ly/N7jR1

NSW Elections retweeted
iTnews.com.au @iTnews_au · May 6
NSW Electoral Commission answers iVote critics: CIO continues to lobby for e-voting despite hacking threat. bit.ly/1zzXe9b

NSW Elections retweeted
CSC Australia @CSCAustralia · May 1
Security a priority for NSW #Vote. @CSC helped to secure electronic voting in @NSWElections. bit.ly/1Hh1oCy

Followers: 1,090 as at 30/04/2015 (369 new followers since 31/12/2014)

Tweets (not including replies): 17

Most popular links:

Most Popular Links

Rank	Date	Post	Clicks
1	Mar 20, 2015	http://ow.ly/KzaLL http://www.votensw.info/polling_places/how_to_v... Get match fit for pre-poll or election day by working out with our how-to-vote practice tool: http://ow.ly/KzaLL	119 clicks
2	Apr 17, 2015	http://ow.ly/LIQjM http://vtr.elections.nsw.gov.au/lc-home.htm#lc/... The Legislative Council count is complete. See elected candidates here. http://ow.ly/LIQjM	63 clicks
3	Feb 17, 2015	http://ow.ly/JdYwd http://www.vote.nsw.gov.au/ iVote online voting for NSW State election, 28 March. http://ow.ly/JdYwd for eligibility criteria & register now.	49 clicks

Total tweet impressions: 74,763

Total tweet engagements: 1,454

YouTube

Subscribers: 26 net added; 44 total

Views (all time videos; viewed in this period January - April 2015): 15,583

Videos posted (from 2 December 2014 – 3 March 2015): 14

Most watched videos (all time videos; viewed in this period January-April 2015):

Top 10 Videos [Browse all content](#)

Video	Views	Estimated minutes watched	Likes*
iVote instructional video - Registration	6,226 (40%)	22,768 (40%)	4
iVote instructional video - voting and verification	5,309 (34%)	21,224 (37%)	8
AUSLAN iVote electronic assisted voting instr...	1,083 (6.9%)	2,303 (4.0%)	0
2015 NSW State Election - Online Candidate S...	631 (4.0%)	4,705 (8.3%)	0
How to Vote	615 (3.9%)	2,406 (4.2%)	0
2015 NSW State Election – training: Declaratio...	387 (2.5%)	709 (1.2%)	0
2015 NSW State Election – training: Legislativ...	187 (1.2%)	287 (0.5%)	0
2015 NSW State Election – training: Legislativ...	180 (1.2%)	509 (0.9%)	0
2015 NSW State Election – training: Legislativ...	174 (1.1%)	257 (0.5%)	0
2015 NSW State Election– training: Legislative...	172 (1.1%)	611 (1.1%)	1

Appendix O: Languages of election staff, 2015 State General Election

Afghani	French	Punjabi
African	Gaelic	Romanian
Afrikaans	German	Russian
Akan	Greek	Samoan
Amharic	Gujarati	Serbian
Arabic	Hebrew	Shona
Armenian	Hindi	Sinhalese
Assyrian	Hungarian	Slovak
Azeri	Icelandic	Somali
Bahasa Malay	Igbo	Spanish
Bengali	Indian	Sudanese
Bislama	Indonesian	Susu
Bosnian	Italian	Swahili
Bulgarian	Japanese	Swedish
Burmese	Kannada	Tagalog
Cambodian	Karen	Tamil
Catalan	Kinyarwanda	Telugu
Chaldean	Konkani	Temne
Chinese-Cantonese	Korean	Teo Chew
Chinese-Chiu Chao	Krio	Tetum
Chinese-Hakka	Kurdish	Thai
Chinese-Hokkien	Lao	Tongan
Chinese-Mandarin	Latvian	Turkish
Chinese-Shanghainese	Lebanese	Twi
Creole	Lithuanian	Ukrainian
Croatian	Macedonian	Urdu
Czech	Malay	Vietnamese
Danish	Malayalam	Welsh
Dari	Maltese	Yoruba
Dinka	Marathi	Zulu
Dutch	Melanesian	
Edo	Mende	
Egyptian	Mina	
English	Nepalese	
Estonian	Norwegian	
Ewe	Orimi	
Farsi	Persian	
Fijian	Pidgin	
Filipino	Polish	
Finnish	Portuguese	

Appendix P: List of Findings and Recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters relating to NSW electoral and campaign finance laws

Recommendation 1

That the NSW Government introduce legislation for a new electoral act for NSW which provides for both the conduct of State elections and the regulation of campaign finance and expenditure.

Recommendation 2

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government seek clarity of structure, plain English drafting and include a general objects provision that would assist with judicial interpretation of the Act.

It should also ensure that an appropriate balance is struck between retaining the substance of electoral law in the primary legislation, whilst allowing for certain detailed administrative provisions to be dealt with by way of regulations.

Recommendation 3

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government provide that the conduct of State elections and the regulation of campaign finance and expenditure should be administered by a single statutory corporation.

Recommendation 4

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government provide for a single statutory corporation whose structure supports investigative and enforcement functions, whilst delegating to the Electoral Commissioner the distinctly separate responsibility for the administration of elections.

Recommendation 5

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government repeal the provisions of section 25(a) of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*.

Recommendation 6

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government amend the current provisions of section 120C(6) of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* to provide that, a lack of mental capacity certified by a medical practitioner, is a sufficient reason for the failure of an elector to vote at an election.

Recommendation 7

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government undertake a comprehensive review of the penalties which currently apply for breaches of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*.

The objects of that review should be to ensure that penalties under the new act provide sufficient deterrence to non-compliance and are consistent with those currently applicable under the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981*.

Finding 1

The Committee finds some merit in the idea of holding mandatory pre-hearing process discussions, shortly after an application for a disputed election has been made, as these may provide an efficient and cost effective means of resolving any misunderstandings between parties.

Recommendation 8

That when the Court of Disputed Returns sits, the Supreme Court Rules and the laws of evidence apply, subject to a provision that the Court may dispense with the rules of evidence where the justice of the case applies.

Recommendation 9

That a mandatory pre-hearing process be implemented by the Court of Disputed Returns prior to the hearing of any application for a disputed election.

Recommendation 10

That in drafting a new electoral act, the NSW Government give consideration to repealing Division 5A of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* and consults upon what measures would be effective in preventing child sex offenders from holding Parliamentary office.

Recommendation 11

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government harmonise the arrangements for the oversight of party registration including the requirements for appointing registered officers and party agents and the regulation of unregistered parties.

Recommendation 12

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government amend the provisions of Part 4A of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* and Part 7 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to require that party constitutions provide that information which is required by electoral administrators in order that they may carry out their statutory functions.

Recommendation 13

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government amend the provisions of sections 79(7A) and 81F of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* to allow more flexibility in the payment of nomination deposits, including payment by electronic means.

Recommendation 14

That the NSW Government incorporate consolidated and consistently defined terms in drafting legislation for a new electoral act to assist with comprehension and compliance.

Recommendation 15

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government incorporate a Part in which all offences, including campaign finance related offences, are listed along with their penalty following each offence.

Recommendation 16

That the NSW Government segregate provisions relating to political donations and electoral expenditure into separate sections, one covering State elections and elected Members of Parliament, and the other covering local government elections and elected members of councils, in drafting legislation for a new electoral act.

Recommendation 17

That the NSW Government, in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, confine the provisions that relate to third party campaigners to a specific Part.

Recommendation 18

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government provide that declarations of income and expenditure are consistently exclusive of GST.

Recommendation 19

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government address the need for more streamlined administrative processes for administering campaign finance and expenditure.

Recommendation 20

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government repeal Division 4A of the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981*, which relates to prohibited donors.

Recommendation 21

That the NSW Government consider a review of the types of electoral expenditure that qualify for public funding.

Recommendation 22

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government harmonise the levels of public funding which may be claimed under the separate candidate and party categories.

Recommendation 23

That in drafting legislation for a new electoral act, the NSW Government provide a legislative framework which supports a more streamlined and simplified donor disclosure process, specifically:

- harmonisation with the Federal timeframes for submitting disclosure returns
- forms to enable donors to indicate the purpose for which a donation is made
- a single, all-inclusive disclosure requirement for party-endorsed candidates, and
- provisions in relation to timeframes for claiming public funding and annual financial disclosures being set out in primary legislation.

Glossary

Name/Title	Synopsis
Absent vote	A vote made at a polling place by an elector who is outside his/her own electoral district on election day.
Absolute majority	More than 50% of the total formal vote.
Australian Electoral Commission	The organisation responsible for conducting Federal elections, referenda and maintaining the Commonwealth electoral roll.
Ballot box	The sealed container into which an elector places a completed ballot paper.
Ballot paper	The paper printed for an election which a voter marks to record his/her vote.
By-election	An election held to fill a casual vacancy, usually caused by retirement, death or resignation of the member for that district.
Candidate	A person who nominates for election to Parliament or to a council.
Check count	On the Sunday after election day the ballot papers are checked and counted again at the Returning Officer's office to ensure accuracy of the figures from the election night count.
Compulsory enrolment	Every person who is entitled to have his/her name placed on the electoral roll must complete an enrolment form and send it to the Australian Electoral Commission within 21 days of becoming entitled. A penalty applies for failing to enrol.
Compulsory voting	Once enrolled to vote, voting is compulsory. A penalty applies for failing to vote.
Declaration of Poll	An announcement made by the Returning Officer proclaiming the successful candidate elected as the Member for that district, ward or council. The Electoral Commissioner declares the poll for the Legislative Council.
Declaration vote	A vote cast by an elector when the ballot papers are enclosed in an envelope containing a printed declaration signed by the elector.
Declared Institution	A nursing home, hospital or similar facility is appointed by the Electoral Commissioner and visited by election officials for the purpose of taking votes from residents who are unable to attend a polling place.

Name/Title	Synopsis
Deferred election	A deferred election occurs when the council is unable to conduct an election at the time of Local Government Elections.
Election	Selection by vote of a person or persons to hold political office.
Election Funding Authority	The statutory body responsible for administering the provisions of the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981. It is made up of the Electoral Commissioner as Chair, a member appointed on the nomination of the Premier, and a member appointed on the nomination of the Leader of the Opposition.
Elector	A person who is entitled to vote at an election.
Electoral Commissioner	The statutory officer appointed to manage the conduct of State and other elections.
Electoral district	One of the 93 Legislative Assembly electorates.
Election Management Application	A computer software application consisting of four modules (staffing, candidates, declaration votes and results) to automate many of the routine tasks otherwise performed by election officials.
Electoral roll	The certified list of persons eligible to vote at an election. The rolls are maintained by the Australian Electoral Commission.
Electorate	The population of electors or the region in which electors live. Electorates have clearly defined boundaries which are shown on electoral district maps.
Enrolment	The act of enrolling or having one's name added to the list of electors entitled to vote.
Federal Government	At Federation in 1901, the States handed over certain powers to the central or Federal Government for administration on an Australia wide basis, while reserving other functions for State Government responsibility.
Formal vote	A ballot paper at an election or referendum, which has been correctly marked according to instructions, and contributes to the outcome of the poll.
Independent	A candidate for election to, or a member of, Parliament who is not a member of a political party.
Informal vote	A ballot paper which is either left blank or is incorrectly marked. Those ballot papers are excluded from the count and therefore do not contribute to the election of a candidate.

Name/Title	Synopsis
iVote system	An internet and telephone-based voting system. iVote is a registered trademark of the NSWEC.
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters of the NSW Parliament reviews the administration and conduct of State and Local Government Elections and any other function referred by the Premier.
Legislative Assembly	The Lower House of Parliament in NSW. It consists of 93 members, one elected for each electoral district.
Legislative Council	The Upper House of Parliament in NSW. It has 42 members elected for an 8 year term, half of whom are elected at each NSW State General Election.
Nomination	The process by which a person applies to become a candidate for election.
Opposition	The party or parties which do not hold sufficient seats in Parliament to lead a government.
Ordinary vote	A vote recorded in the normal manner at a polling place on election day.
Parliament	The legislative body, consisting of the elected representatives of the people, which determine the laws governing the nation or state. The candidates or political party holding the majority of seats form the government.
Political party	An organised group with a common political philosophy which seeks to win and retain public office for itself and its leaders. Party organisations support or endorse candidates for elections who, if elected, usually vote as a group for their policies in Parliament. The party with the greatest numbers in Parliament forms the government.
Poll	An election.
Polling place	A building, such as a school, designated as a place to which voters go during an election to cast their votes.
Postal vote	Electors, who are outside their electoral district on election day, or unable to attend a polling place during polling hours, may send a vote by post. Voters must apply for a postal vote prior to election day.
Pre-poll	Electors who cannot vote on election day can apply to vote early at the office of a Returning Officer or at a pre-poll voting centre.
Recount	A second or further count of votes in an election.

Name/Title	Synopsis
Redistribution	Changes in boundaries of electoral districts to take into account population changes. The number of electors enrolled in each district should be equal, give or take ten per cent.
Referendum	Vote taken to allow electors to express their view on a particular subject or issue. Some alterations to the Constitution can only be made after approval in a referendum.
Registrar	Person who has the responsibility of maintaining electoral rolls in NSW.
Returning Officer	The election official responsible for conducting an election for a Legislative Assembly district or the Legislative Council or a council.
Roll	See electoral roll.
Scrutineer	A person appointed by a candidate to ensure that procedures and counting are undertaken in a proper manner.
SmartRoll system	A data system that automatically enrolls and re-enrolls eligible electors adding their correct details to the NSW electoral roll. SmartRoll is a registered trademark of the NSWEC.
Term	The length of time a parliament may sit before having to call an election. NSW has fixed four year terms.
Virtual Tally Room	Where voting figures are collected and provisional results are announced.
Vote	The process of choosing/selecting a candidate for political office.
Ward	Subdivisions with approximately equal numbers of electors, of a Local Government area.

NSW Electoral Commission

Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney Phone 02 9290 5999 Fax 02 9290 5991 www.elections.nsw.gov.au