

Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 local government by-election

24 November 2018

Report on the conduct of the election



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Election timetable

Activity	Date
Registration for candidates, third-party campaigners and official agents opened	Monday, 27 August 2018
Local government expenditure period commenced	Tuesday, 9 October 2018
Close of rolls*	Monday, 15 October 2018, 6pm
Close of nominations	Wednesday, 24 October 2018, 12noon
Registration of electoral material commenced	Wednesday, 24 October 2018
Close of registration of candidates	Wednesday, 24 October 2018
Pre-poll voting commenced	Monday, 12 November 2018
Registration of electoral material closed	Friday, 16 November 2018, 5pm
Close of registration of third-party campaigners	Friday, 16 November 2018
Postal voting applications closed	Monday, 19 November 2018, 5pm
Declared institution voting commenced	Monday, 19 November 2018
Pre-poll voting finished	Friday, 23 November 2018, 6pm
Declared institution voting concluded	Friday, 23 November 2018
Election day	Saturday, 24 November 2018
Local government expenditure period ended	Saturday, 24 November 2018
Return of postal votes closed	Monday, 26 November 2018, 6pm
Declaration of the poll	Thursday, 29 November 2018, 3pm
By-election report published	Friday, 31 May, 2019

* For nominations and roll printing purposes.

Foreword

I am pleased to present the NSW Electoral Commission's report on the conduct of the Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 local government by-election held on Saturday, 24 November 2018, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Chris Connor.

Councillor Ann Martin (Labor) was declared elected on 3pm, Thursday, 29 November 2018.

I am grateful to the staff, suppliers and contractors who contributed to the successful conduct of this by-election.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Schmidt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

John Schmidt

Electoral Commissioner

Overview

By-election outcome

The candidate elected at the Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 by-election on Saturday, 24 November 2018 was Ann Martin (Labor) with 17,545 votes, 49.6 per cent of first preference votes.

Candidates standing for election

Candidate name	Party affiliation
Ami BECK	Independent
Ann MARTIN	Labor
Jamie DIXON	The Greens
John MULLAN	Independent

Cost data

Cost of by-election	\$282,574
Cost per elector	\$5.98

By-election summary

Enrolment	
Total electors	47,287
Voting venues	
Pre-poll venues	2
Polling places	20
Declared Institutions	3
Voter turnout	
Formal votes	35,376
Informal votes	2,235
Total votes	37,611
Voter turnout rate	79.54%
Formality rate	94.06%
Non-voting penalty notices issued	7,635 ¹
Penalty notices issued as % of roll	16.15%
Voting options used by electors	
Ordinary	26,390
Postal	1,225
Pre-poll	9,640
Declared Institution	77
Enrolment	240
Provisional/Silent	39
Candidates	
Total candidates	4

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

Wollongong City Council - Ward 3



Conduct of the election

Background

Wollongong City Council is a council divided into three wards with 12 councillors. There was one vacancy to be filled for this by-election following the resignation of Councillor Chris Connor.

Performance

The service standards in the Election Service Charter 2017 – 2020 were applied to the Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 by-election. In summary, the NSW Electoral Commission undertakes to:

- foster participation in the democratic process
- provide seamless service delivery
- be customer focussed and commercially minded
- be innovative and fast adaptors.

The Election Service Charter can be found at Appendix A.

Comparison with 2016 local government elections

Comparative data on key indicators for the Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 Council in the 2018 by-election and the 2017 local government elections.

Voter participation		
	2017 election	2018 by-election
Total electors	46,953	47,287
Formal votes	36,246	35,376
Informal votes	3,441	2,235
Total votes	39,687	37,611
Voter turnout	84.52%	79.54%
Informality	8.67%	5.94%
Election officials	463 (All wards)	97
Cost per elector	\$6.41	\$5.98

Communications

Advertising

The 2018 local government by-election advertising campaign for Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 consisted of council-specific statutory advertisements and non-statutory advertising. These advertisements are shown at Appendix B to D. Non-statutory advertising included information about registering as a third-party campaigner or candidate under the *Election Funding Act 2018* (EF Act).

Election reminder service

People enrolled to vote in New South Wales can sign up to the NSW Electoral Commission's election reminder service. Subscribers to this service receive an email and/or SMS reminder of an upcoming State election and any local government elections relevant to their enrolled address.

For the City of Wollongong – Ward 3 by-election, we trialled an expansion of the reminder service to all enrolled voters in the ward who had provided email and/or mobile details as part of their enrolment information (17,884 electors, 37.90 per cent of total electors), not just those people who had signed up for the reminder service (880 electors, 5.33 per cent of total electors).

Election reminder service subscribers	Reach of expanded reminder service trial		
	Welcome message	Early reminders sent	Final reminders sent
Email	12,547	12,542	11,528
Mobile	16,505	16,494	15,195
Unique* (*received email or SMS or both)	17,884	17,877	17,062
As a percentage of electoral roll (47,287)	37.90%	37.80%	36.08%

Statutory campaign

Prior to the election the NSW Electoral Commission consulted with Wollongong City Council to determine in which local newspapers the statutory advertisements, required under the legislation, were to be placed and the frequency of those placements.

Items covered in the statutory advertisements included:

- enrolment on residential and non-residential rolls
- nomination information
- candidates and polling place information

- election results.

Reproductions of these advertisements, and details of their placement in newspapers, can be viewed at Appendices B to D.

Social media

The NSW Electoral Commission utilised social media to raise awareness of the election, promote voter participation, and communicate the responsibilities of political participants.

There were five Facebook posts and four tweets published for the by-election covering the topics of:

- nominations and registrations
- the announcement of candidates
- pre-poll and postal voting details
- election campaign finance rules.

The Facebook posts and tweets reached a total of 11,124 users.

The top performing tweet and Facebook post are shown on the following page.



NSW Electoral Commission ✓
@NSWElectoralCom

There's still time to cast your pre-poll vote in the @Wollongong_City Ward 3 by-election this weekend if you are unable to vote on Saturday. Voting is compulsory if you are enrolled in the area. More information bit.ly/2Drt8MS #Wollongong #Illawarra

8:09 AM - 22 Nov 2018

3 Retweets



NSW Electoral Commission

Published by Teresa Mullan [?] · 21 November 2018 ·

Hi, are you enrolled for the Wollongong City Council Ward 3 by-election? Voting is compulsory. <https://bit.ly/2TsCqNc>



MIRAGENEWS.COM

Are you enrolled for the Ward 3 by-election?

Do you know if you need to vote in the Wollongong City Council Ward 3...

Direct communications with political participants

Candidates, third-party campaigners and official agents were communicated with via email and direct mail on the topics of:

- confirmation of candidate and third-party campaigner registrations
- advice to nominated candidates about the requirements to appoint an official agent
- confirmation of official agent registrations

- advice to official agents about the rules for managing the election campaign finances of candidates and third-party campaigners.

Website

A NSW Electoral Commission website was specifically set up for the by-election for stakeholders to source information on:

- the election timetable
- election employment opportunities
- enrolment requirements and online enrolment confirmation
- methods for voting
- political parties
- nomination and registration of candidates, third-party campaigners and donors
- political donations
- list of nominated candidates
- polling place lookup facility
- election results.

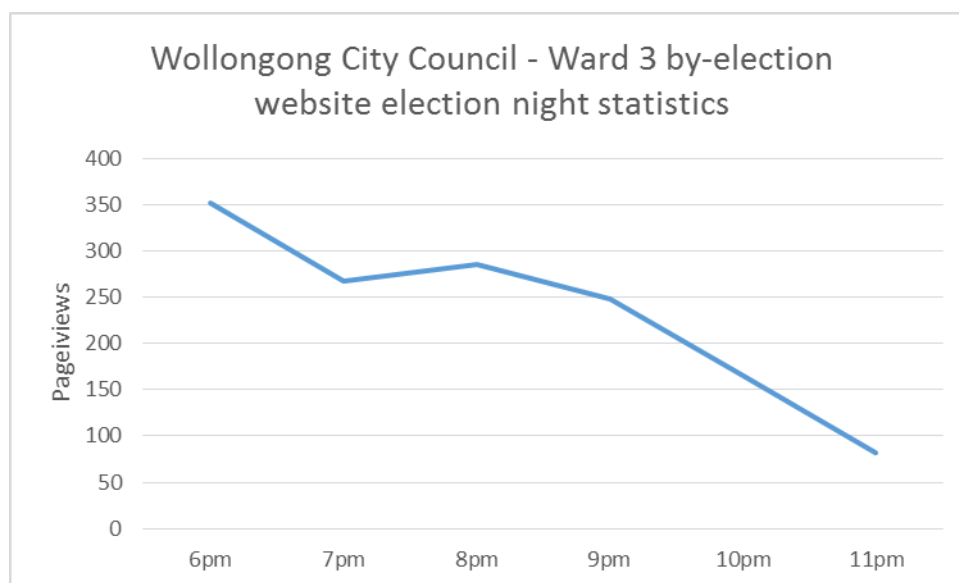
An enrolment search facility on the NSW Electoral Commission website was available to assist electors to verify their enrolment information.

Polling place information provided on the website included accessibility information for electors with a disability.

Wollongong City Council provided a link on its website to the NSW Electoral Commission site. The NSW Electoral Commission's website experienced 51,279 unique page views in the month leading up to the election.

Use of the NSW Electoral Commission's website is typically greatest on election night when users seek information on results. The following graph provides a picture of usage over the period from close of polling to midnight on election night for the by-election. A total of 12,730 page views were recorded on election day.

Graph 1: Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 by-election – Usage of the NSW Electoral Commission website for poll results, 24 November 2018



Registrations

Registration of candidates closed on Wednesday, 24 October 2018. Registration of third-party campaigners closed on Friday, 16 November 2018.

Four candidates were registered under the EF Act for the by-election.

There were no third-party campaigners registered for the by-election. Following the declaration of the polls, we advised the elected candidate of their obligations under the EF Act as an elected member. The elected member was designated by the NSW Electoral Commission as their own official agent (as an elected member) and has an obligation to disclose on an annual basis (during their term as a councillor) any political donations made or received and electoral expenditure incurred.

Nominations

Nominations closed at noon on Wednesday, 24 October 2018.

A total of four nominations were received by close of nominations.

The draw for ballot paper position, held at 2pm on 24 October 2018, was conducted by the Returning Officer at the Returning Officer's office.

For a nomination to be accepted by the Returning Officer, candidates were required to complete a nomination form and a Candidate Information Sheet. Candidates were also required to pay a nomination deposit of \$125 to the Returning Officer.

The nomination deposit is refunded to candidates if:

- a candidate is elected or receives at least four per cent of the total first preference votes
- in a group, any one of the group is elected or receives at least four per cent of the total first preference votes, or
- the election is uncontested.

Rolls

Residential roll

In New South Wales, enrolment and voting are compulsory at all federal, state and local government elections. The New South Wales electoral roll is managed by the NSW Electoral Commission in conjunction with the Australian Electoral Commission.

Legislation provides that for local government elections the electoral roll closes on the 40th day before the day of the election. Any person who was on the roll when it closed at 6pm on Monday, 15 October 2018 was required to vote. Rolls are closed to allow sufficient time to print and distribute the authorised rolls and for nomination purposes. Eligible citizens can enrol and vote on election day.

There were 47,287 electors on the residential electoral roll for Wollongong City Council - Ward 3. This was an increase of 334 electors from the number on the roll for the local government elections in September 2017.

Non-residential roll

The non-residential roll is comprised of non-residential electors and occupiers and rate-paying lessees. The non-residential roll lapses after each election. Inclusion on the non-residential roll of electors is available to electors who pay rates to the council on property they own but do not occupy, as well as people who occupy or lease property. Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, the council's General Manager is responsible for compiling and maintaining the non-residential roll of electors.

There was one elector on the non-residential roll for Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 for the 2018 by-election.

Voting

Method of voting

Section 285 *Local Government Act 1993* prescribes that the voting system in a contested election of a councillor or councillors is to be:

- optional preferential if the number of councillors to be elected is one; or
- proportional representation if the number of councillors to be elected is two or more.

For this by-election, optional preferential was the method used. A reproduction of the ballot paper is shown at Appendix E.

Absent voting

Unlike state and federal elections, absent voting is not available at NSW local government elections for electors who are outside their council area or ward on election day.

Early voting

Pre-poll voting

Pre-poll voting opened at 8am on Monday, 12 November 2018 and closed on Friday, 23 November 2018. The pre-poll locations were:

- Dapto early voting centre – 93-109 Princes Highway, Dapto NSW 2530
- Wollongong RO Office – Unit 2/73 King Street Warrawong NSW 2502

Postal voting

Electors who are registered as a Registered General Postal Voter for NSW State elections are not required to register again for local government elections and were therefore automatically sent postal vote ballot papers.

Applications for postal voters opened on nomination day with electors able to obtain applications from the NSW Electoral Commission website, the NSW Electoral Commission head office or the Returning Officer's office. Applications for postal voting closed on Monday, 19 November 2018.

In order to be admitted to the count postal votes needed to be received by the Returning Officer by 6pm on Monday, 26 November 2018. Of 1,571 postal votes issued, 1,226 were accepted, 157 were rejected and 188 were not scrutinised because they were either returned too late or not returned at all.

Declared institutions

The Electoral Commissioner has the authority to appoint hospitals, nursing homes, retirement villages and like facilities as declared institutions, to assist the residents and/or patients of these facilities who are unable to attend a polling place on election day.

Election officials visited declared institutions from the Monday until Wednesday before election day.

A total of three institutions were visited:

- St Marys Retirement Village – 211 Northcliff Drive, Berkeley NSW 2506
- St Lukes Village – Lindsay Evans Place, Dapto NSW 2530
- Port Kembla Hospital – 89-91 Cowper Street, Warrawong NSW 2502

Election day voting

Polling places

Securing appropriate premises for polling places can be difficult. The NSW Electoral Commission does not own facilities within council areas. The pool of available rental premises is limited by the short-term nature of the lease and the NSW Electoral Commission's space, accessibility, location and workplace health and safety requirements.

The NSW Electoral Commission provided council with a draft list of proposed polling places to be used at this election. Feedback from the council was taken into consideration prior to the final selection of polling places.

As far as practically possible, the NSW Electoral Commission aimed to provide accessible and appropriately sited polling places for the by-election. Information was provided to assist electors with mobility issues or other disabilities to locate the most suitable polling place. This access information was provided on the NSW Electoral Commission's website and by NSW Electoral Commission staff.

There were 20 polling places for the Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 area on election day:

- Dapto Public - 66 Sierra Drive, Horsley NSW 2530
- Hayes Park Public - Kanahooka Road, Kanahooka NSW 2530
- Horsley Comm. Cntr - 82 Bong Bong Road, Horsley NSW 2530
- Illawarra Sports High - Gura Street, Berkeley NSW 2506
- Koonawarra Comm. Hall - 36 Fowlers Road, Koonawarra NSW 2530
- Lakelands Public - Parkside Drive, Dapto NSW 2530
- Mt Brown Public - Mount Brown Road, Dapto NSW 2530
- Port Kembla Public - 18 Gloucester Boulevard, Port Kembla NSW 2505
- Primbee Public - Illowra Crescent, Primbee NSW 2502
- St Lukes Dapto - Prince Edward Drive, Dapto NSW 2530

- Warrawong Public - Cowper Street, Warrawong NSW 2502
- Windang Public - Oakland Avenue, Windang NSW 2528
- Warrawong Hall - Greene Street, Warrawong NSW 2502
- Port Kembla Snr Ctzns Cntr - Allan Street, Port Kembla NSW 2505
- Lake Hghts Public - 302 Northcliffe Drive, Lake Heights NSW 2502
- Figtree High - Gibsons Road, Figtree NSW 2525
- Dapto Ribbonwood Cntr - 93 Princes Highway, Dapto NSW 2530
- Cringila Hall - 32-40 Lake Avenue, Cringila NSW 2502
- Berkeley W Public - 43 Nolan Street, Berkeley NSW 2506
- Berkeley Comm. Centre - Winnima Way, Berkeley NSW 2506

Four polling places were fully accessible, 14 polling places were accessible with assistance and two were not accessible. Polling places were open to electors from 8am to 6pm on election day.

Counting the votes

On election night all polling places conducted an initial sort and count of first preference votes. At the Returning Officer's office, declaration (ie, postal, pre-poll and declared institution) votes are opened, sorted and first preferences are counted. The count results were updated on the NSW Electoral Commission website on election night from 6pm onwards.

The successful candidate was declared elected by the Returning Officer at 3pm on Thursday, 29 November 2018, following the statutory 24-hour period required for any recount requests.

Once the declaration of the election result had been signed by the Returning Officer, copies of the declaration were provided to the Electoral Commissioner, the Council's General Manager and the Chief Executives of both the Office of Local Government and Local Government NSW. In addition, the Returning Officer advised all candidates by phone, email or SMS that the election results were available on the NSW Electoral Commission website. Election results were also published in local newspapers.

Non-voters

Failure to vote

Under electoral legislation, the NSW Electoral Commission is required to issue 'failure to vote' notices to those electors whose names were not marked off the electoral roll as having voted or as having provided a valid reason.

All electoral rolls marked at polling places and in the Returning Officer's office were scanned after election day to create a list of non-voters. The penalty for failing to vote without a valid reason at a local government election is \$55.00.

For this election, 7,635 penalty notices were issued within the three-month period after election day.²

Services to candidates and political parties

Candidate information

A candidate information presentation was available on the NSW Electoral Commission website to assist prospective candidates in their preparation for the election.

The presentation provided prospective candidates with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the candidate process. Major topics covered in the presentation include:

- the election timetable
- candidate eligibility criteria and how to nominate
- campaigning (election advertising, 'how-to-vote' material and public scrutiny of candidates)
- complaints handling by NSW Electoral Commission
- voting and counting ballot papers
- scrutineers
- election funding obligations.

The NSW Electoral Commission *Handbook for Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers*, which outlines relevant electoral processes and procedures for local government elections, was also made available to stakeholders.

Information about election processes and election campaign finance rules was also provided to candidates, political parties and others who made telephone or email enquiries.

A fact sheet for local government by-elections was published on the website to support candidates and other political participants understand the requirements for managing political donations and electoral expenditure.

How-to-vote material

All electoral material to be distributed by candidates or their representatives on election day must be registered with the NSW Electoral Commission. Registration does not apply to posters, whether they are displayed before or on election day, nor is it required for material to be distributed before election day.

² A penalty notice is withdrawn if an elector provides a valid excuse for not voting. At the date of this report the enforcement process for failure-to-vote penalty notices for this by-election had not yet been completed.

Candidates are required to provide an application form and a copy of each item to be registered. The NSW Electoral Commission provided candidates with guidelines to assist them to meet the registration requirements. A candidate help line was also set up by the NSW Electoral Commission to aid candidates.

Electoral staffing

Returning Officer

The Returning Officer had a number of responsibilities central to the running of the election, including:

- set up and decommissioning of a temporary office
- training of office staff and polling place managers
- making arrangements for voting at polling places and declared institutions
- issuing and processing postal and pre-poll votes
- dealing with enquiries and complaints from candidates and the public
- processing candidate nominations
- counting of votes and declaring the result of the election.

The Returning Officer's office for the Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 by-election was located at Wollongong RO Office - Unit 2/73 King Street, Warrawong NSW 2502

Returning Officer Support Officer

A Returning Officer Support Officer was appointed in order to provide support to the Returning Officer on electoral matters and procedures in the conduct of the election.

Election day staffing

Staffing is a significant cost for elections and, as such, the NSW Electoral Commission recognises the importance of accurately predicting the number of required staff while taking into consideration the associated costs without compromising the level of service to electors.

The level of staffing required for the by-election varied during the different phases of the election. Staff were employed to undertake a variety of tasks including:

- office set-up
- packing materials for each polling place
- registration, distribution and receipt of postal votes
- operation of pre-poll voting
- visits to declared institutions
- counting of the votes
- office pack-up.

All polling places have a minimum of two staff, one of whom is the polling place manager.

Election costs

Councils are required to meet the costs of conducting their elections. While the NSW Government does not provide direct funding for local government elections, some NSW Electoral Commission services required for local government elections, such as enrolment and non-voting services, are provided by the NSW Electoral Commission at no cost. It should also be noted that services provided to candidates, political parties and others regarding the requirements of the EF Act are provided by the NSW Electoral Commission at no cost.

Key cost drivers for the election included:

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

The final cost of NSW Electoral Commission conducting the election was \$282,574 (GST exclusive).

This was made up of election staffing \$152,858; venues \$31,805; logistics \$25,306; ballot papers and electoral rolls \$3,517; other miscellaneous items \$35,970 and election management fee \$33,118. The cost per elector was \$5.98.

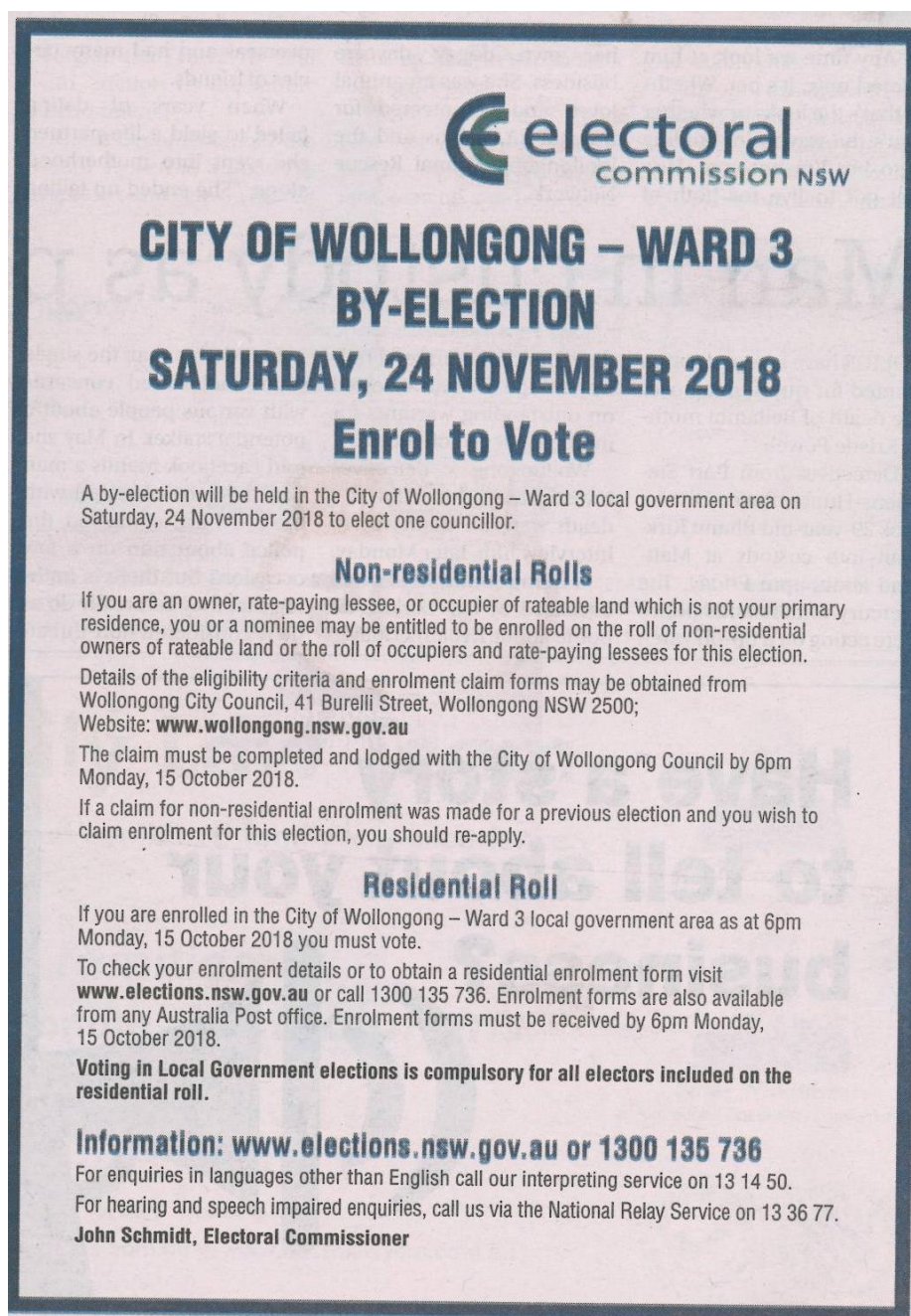
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Appendix A: Election Service Charter 2017 - 2020

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

Appendix B: Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 by-election – enrol to vote advertisement




**CITY OF WOLLONGONG – WARD 3
BY-ELECTION
SATURDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2018
Enrol to Vote**

A by-election will be held in the City of Wollongong – Ward 3 local government area on Saturday, 24 November 2018 to elect one councillor.

Non-residential Rolls

If you are an owner, rate-paying lessee, or occupier of rateable land which is not your primary residence, you or a nominee may be entitled to be enrolled on the roll of non-residential owners of rateable land or the roll of occupiers and rate-paying lessees for this election.

Details of the eligibility criteria and enrolment claim forms may be obtained from Wollongong City Council, 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong NSW 2500;
Website: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au

The claim must be completed and lodged with the City of Wollongong Council by 6pm Monday, 15 October 2018.

If a claim for non-residential enrolment was made for a previous election and you wish to claim enrolment for this election, you should re-apply.

Residential Roll

If you are enrolled in the City of Wollongong – Ward 3 local government area as at 6pm Monday, 15 October 2018 you must vote.

To check your enrolment details or to obtain a residential enrolment form visit www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736. Enrolment forms are also available from any Australia Post office. Enrolment forms must be received by 6pm Monday, 15 October 2018.

Voting in Local Government elections is compulsory for all electors included on the residential roll.

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

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

Advertising schedule

Illawarra Mercury

Tuesday, 9 October 2018

Appendix C: Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 by-election – enrol and nominations advertisement



CITY OF WOLLONGONG – WARD 3 BY-ELECTION SATURDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2018

Enrol To Vote

A by-election will be held in the City of Wollongong – Ward 3 local government area on Saturday, 24 November 2018 to elect one councillor.

Non-residential Rolls

If you are an owner, rate-paying lessee, or occupier of rateable land which is not your primary residence, you or a nominee may be entitled to be enrolled on the roll of non-residential owners of rateable land or the roll of occupiers and rate-paying lessees for this election.

Details of the eligibility criteria and enrolment claim forms may be obtained from Wollongong City Council, 41 Burelli St, Wollongong, NSW 2500; Website: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au.

The claim must be completed and lodged with the City of Wollongong Council by **6pm Monday, 15 October 2018**.

If a claim for non-residential enrolment was made for a previous election and you wish to claim enrolment for this election, you should re-apply.

Residential Roll

If you are enrolled in the City of Wollongong – Ward 3 local government area as at **6pm Monday, 15 October 2018** you must vote.

To check your enrolment details or to obtain a residential enrolment form visit www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736. Enrolment forms are also available from any Australia Post office. Enrolment forms must be received by **6pm Monday, 15 October 2018**.

Voting in Local Government elections is compulsory for all electors included on the residential roll.

Nominate as a candidate

If you intend to nominate as a candidate, it is important that you read this notice. As a candidate, you have certain obligations and responsibilities under law. Check the website www.elections.nsw.gov.au for further details.

How to nominate

To nominate for councillor, you must lodge a nomination form and \$125 nomination deposit by **12 noon Wednesday, 24 October 2018** with the Returning Officer.

Candidate Information sheets

Every candidate is required to lodge the candidate information sheet which is included in the nomination form.

Where to get a nomination form

Nomination forms and other important nomination and electoral information are available from the Returning Officer or the NSW Electoral Commission website: www.elections.nsw.gov.au.

Where and when to nominate

Your nomination form and deposit must be lodged with the Returning Officer at Unit 2, 73 King Street, Warrawong, NSW 2502 from **Monday, 15 October 2018** to **12 noon Wednesday, 24 October 2018**.

You must also register as a candidate for funding purposes

In addition to being nominated, candidates must be registered before accepting political donations or making payments for electoral expenditure.

The last date for registration is **12 noon, Wednesday, 24 October 2018**. If you registered as a candidate for a previous election, you must reapply to be registered for this by-election.

Nomination forms, and the Handbook for Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers are available from the Returning Officer or from the NSW Electoral Commission website. Nomination enquiries should be directed to the Candidate Helpdesk: 1300 088 942 and registration enquiries to our Client Services team on 1300 022 011.

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

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

John Schmidt, Electoral Commissioner

Advertising schedule

Illawarra Mercury

Wednesday, 10 October 2018

Appendix D: Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 by-election – notice of election advertisement

electoral
commission NSW

CITY OF WOLLONGONG - WARD 3 BY-ELECTION

SATURDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2018

A by-election will be held in the City of Wollongong - Ward 3 local government area on Saturday, 24 November 2018 to elect one councillor.
If you are enrolled in the City of Wollongong - Ward 3 local government area, you must vote. To check your enrolment details, visit www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736.

Voting on election day
Voting will take place on Saturday, 24 November 2018 between the hours of 8am and 6pm.

Polling Places

Venue	Locality	Address
Berkeley Community Centre	Berkeley	Winnima Way, Berkeley
Berkeley West Public School	Berkeley	43 Nolan Street, Berkeley
Cringila Community Hall	Cringila	32-40 Lake Avenue, Cringila
Dapto Public School	Horsley	66 Sierra Drive, Horsley
Dapto Ribbonwood Centre	Dapto	93 Princes Highway, Dapto
Figtree High School	Figtree	Gibsons Road, Figtree
Hayes Park Public School	Kanahooka	Kanahooka Road, Kanahooka
Horsley Community Centre	Horsley	82 Bong Bong Road, Horsley
Illawarra Sports High School	Berkeley	Gura Street, Berkeley
Koonawarra Community Hall	Koonawarra	36 Fowlers Road, Koonawarra
Lake Heights Public School	Lake Heights	302 Northcliffe Drive, Lake Heights
Lakelands Public School	Dapto	Parkside Drive, Dapto
Mount Brown Public School	Dapto	Mount Brown Road, Dapto
Port Kembla Public School	Port Kembla	18 Gloucester Boulevard, Port Kembla
Port Kembla Senior Citizens Centre	Port Kembla	Allan Street, Port Kembla
Primbee Public School	Primbee	Illowra Crescent, Primbee
St Lukes Anglican Church Hall Dapto	Dapto	Prince Edward Drive, Dapto
Warrawong Community Hall	Warrawong	Greene Street, Warrawong
Warrawong Public School	Warrawong	Cowper Street, Warrawong
Windang Public School	Windang	Oakland Avenue, Windang

Voting before election day
You may be entitled to a postal or pre-poll vote. For details, visit www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736.

Pre-poll voting
You can vote early in person from Monday, 12 November 2018 at:

- Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Highway, Dapto NSW 2530, or
- The Returning Officer's Office, Unit 2/73 King Street, Warrawong NSW 2502

Pre-poll voting hours:

- Monday, 12 November - Thursday, 22 November: 8:30am-5:00pm
- Friday, 23 November: 8:30am-6:00pm
- Saturday, 17 November: 9:00am-5:00pm
- Closed Sunday, 18 November

Voting by post
You can apply online for a postal vote from www.elections.nsw.gov.au or by calling 1300 135 736. Your application must be completed and received by the NSW Electoral Commission no later than 5pm Monday, 19 November 2018.
Postal vote applications can be sent via post or email:
By post: **GPO Box 832, Sydney NSW 2001**
By email: **PVA@elections.nsw.gov.au**

Candidates

Name	Party Affiliation
BECK Ami	Independent
MARTIN Ann	LABOR
DIXON Jamie	THE GREENS
MULLAN John	Independent

Candidate Information Sheets
Each candidate's information sheet is available for viewing at www.elections.nsw.gov.au or at the Returning Officer's office or at polling places.

Voting is compulsory
Voting is compulsory for all electors of the City of Wollongong - Ward 3 local government area. The penalty for not voting is \$55.

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

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

Victor Miglionico, Returning Officer.

Authorised by John Schmidt, Electoral Commissioner, Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney, NSW, 2000.

Advertising schedule

Illawarra Mercury

The Advertiser

Wednesday, 31 October 2018

Wednesday, 31 October 2018

Appendix E: Wollongong City Council - Ward 3 by-election – ballot paper

Local government election

Ward 3

City of Wollongong

BALLOT PAPER FOR
ELECTION OF 1 COUNCILLOR

Held on Saturday 24 November 2018

DIRECTIONS FOR VOTING
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Place the number **1** in the square next to the candidate of your choice. If you wish to vote for any more candidates, place consecutive numbers starting with **2** in the squares next to those candidates in order of your preferences for them.

BECK Ami
Independent

MARTIN Ann
LABOR

DIXON Jamie
THE GREENS

MULLAN John
Independent

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

