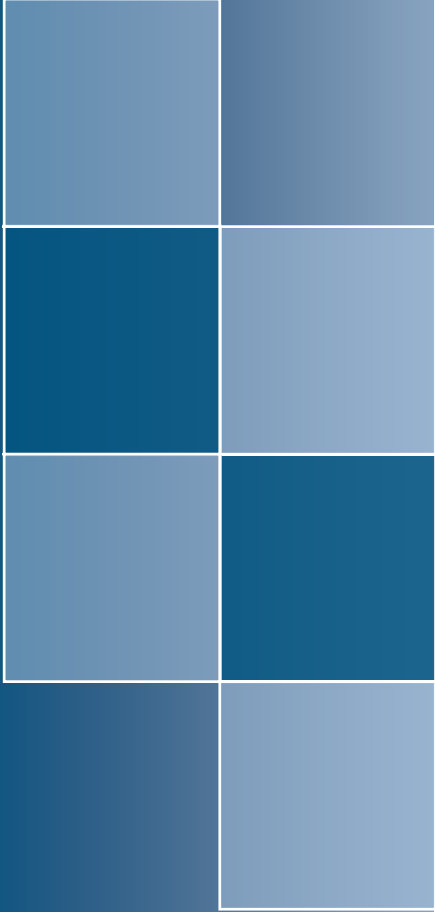


25 May

2013



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP
Premier
Level 40
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier,

I am pleased to submit to you, for presentation to Parliament, my report on the results and administration of the State By-election held on 25 May 2013 for the Legislative Assembly District of Northern Tablelands.

Yours sincerely



Colin Barry
Electoral Commissioner
1 November 2013

The New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC)

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Contents

Foreword	2
Overview	3
By-election Outcome	3
By-election Summary	3
By-election Important Dates	3
Innovations at the Northern Tablelands By-election	4
Background to the By-election	8
Northern Tablelands Profile	8
Services to Electors	10
Maximising Participation in the Northern Tablelands By-election	10
Services to Candidates and Registered Political Parties	17
Candidate Information Seminar	17
Nominations	17
'How-to-Vote' Material	17
Postal Vote Applications	17
Electoral Material	17
Conduct of the Northern Tablelands By-election	18
Returning Officer Arrangements	18
Logistical and Other Support	18
Waste Management	19
Election Costs	20
Results	21
Declaration of the Poll	21
Enforcement of Compulsory Voting	22
Failure to Vote	22
Analysis	23
Comparison to 2011 NSW State Election and other State by-elections	23
Availability of results of counting	24
Appendices	25
List of Appendices	25
References	45

List of Tables

Table 1: iVote Users by Eligibility Criteria, Registration Method, Voting Method	8
Table 2: Voting Methods 2013 By-election and the 2011 and 2007 State General Elections, First Preference Votes	14
Table 3: Final Results Northern Tablelands By-election held 25 May 2013	22
Table 4: Penalty Notices, frequency and percentages	24
Table 5: By-election Results Provision and Targets, 25 May 2013	25

List of Graphs

Graph 1: Northern Tablelands By-election Usage of the NSWEC Website for Poll Results, 25 October 2013	11
Graph 2: Lapse times in declaration of the poll for NSW by-elections (days)	25

Foreword

This Report provides information on the conduct, administration and results of the by-election held in the Northern Tablelands on 25 May 2013 following the resignation of the Honourable Richard Torbay MP on 20 March 2013.

The conduct of a State by-election poses different challenges from a State General Election. NSW State elections have a known fixed four year timetable with a completely different scale and complexity.

State by-elections can arise unexpectedly over the term of a Government. While a by-election is a smaller scale event than a State General election, typically there is less preparation time. The Writ for the calling of the Northern Tablelands By-election was issued on Monday, 22 April 2013. This gave the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) just under five weeks to recruit staff, hire venues and make all necessary preparations.

The conduct of the election proceeded smoothly. Once again,

iVote was provided as an early voting option and was used by 4.2% of electors who chose to vote before election day.

The participation and informality rates for the Northern Tablelands By-election were 85.7% and 2.9% respectively. The participation rate was higher than other recent State by-elections.

The NSWEC provided the first preference count by 10.30pm on election night and declared the poll at 3pm on Tuesday 28 May 2013, three days after the election. This was within the range for earlier State by-elections.

Delivering efficient, accurate and trusted elections according to electoral legislation relies heavily upon the capability of the NSWEC's staff. I thank my staff and the NSWEC's suppliers and contractors for their contribution and commitment to the successful conduct of the Northern Tablelands By-election.

Colin Barry
Electoral Commissioner



Overview

By-election Outcome

The candidate elected at the Northern Tablelands By-election on 25 May 2013 was Mr Adam Marshall (National Party) with 27,276 votes.

By-election Summary

Enrolment	
Total Electors	51,802
Electors enrolled or re-enrolled via SmartRoll	1,923
Polling Booths	
Pre-poll voting centres	5
Polling Places	44
Election Officials	90
Voter participation	
Formal votes	43,089
Informal votes	1,304
Total votes	44,393
Voter participation	85.7%
Formality rate	97.1%
Non-voting penalty notices issued	6,308
Penalty notices issued as % of Roll	12.2%
Voting options used by Electors	
Ordinary	29,170
Postal/iVote	3,170
Pre-poll/Declared Institution	11,672
Enrol and vote	335
Candidates	
Total candidates	7
Female candidates	3
Male candidates	4
Cost of By-election	\$0.303m
Cost per elector	\$5.86

By-election Important Dates

22 April 2013	Issue of Writ
22 April 2013	Candidate nominations open
22 April 2013	Issue of Authorised Roll
1 May 2013	Candidate Seminar
1 May 2013	iVote registration opened
9 May 2013	Close of Nominations for Registered Political Parties lodging forms with NSWEC Head Office (12.00 noon)
9 May 2013	Close of Nominations for candidates lodging forms with Returning Officer (12.00 noon).
9 May 2013	Registration of Electoral Material (how-to-vote) opened
13 May 2013	Pre-poll and iVote voting opened
17 May 2013	Close applications to register Electoral Material (how-to-vote) (5.00pm)
20 May 2013	Close of receipt Overseas Postal Vote applications (6.00pm)
22 May 2013	Close of receipt of within Australia Postal Vote applications (6.00pm)
25 May 2013	Election Day (8.00am-6.00pm)
29 May 2013	Close receipt of Postal Vote declarations (6.00pm)
28 May 2013	Declaration of Poll
28 May 2013	Return of Writ
1 July to 23 September 2013	Disclosures of political donations and electoral expenditure due 30 June 2013

Innovations at the Northern Tablelands By-election



1. Internet and Telephone Voting (iVote) in Parliamentary By-elections

The amendments to the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* in December 2010 to provide iVote at State General elections also enabled internet and telephone voting (iVote) to be used in Parliamentary by-elections. The Northern Tablelands By-election was the fourth by-election where iVote was offered.

The iVote service was offered at the State Election in March 2011, the 2011 Clarence By-election and the 2012 Heffron and Sydney By-elections. It was provided for the Northern Tablelands By-election with minor modifications based upon the experience of earlier by-elections and the feedback received.

Both online and telephone voting were provided, although the State Election demonstrated that of the two, online voting was the preferred and most utilised form. This was also reflected in usage in the Northern Tablelands By-election.

The criteria applied to electors seeking to use iVote were the same as those applied previously, that is, electors were allowed to use iVote if they:

- had a visual impairment;
- had another disability or disabilities;
- were 20 kilometres or more from a polling place; or
- were outside NSW on election day.

iVote is used as a means of early voting, therefore, it was not available on election day. For many electors who need to vote before election day, it is preferred to organising a postal vote.

The key dates for iVote in the Northern Tablelands By-election were:

- registration opened Wednesday 1 May 2013;
- registration closed 6pm Wednesday, 22 May 2013;
- iVoting opened 8am Monday, 13 May 2013, and closed 6pm Friday, 24 May.

The popularity of iVote and acceptance of it as a reliable and secure form of voting were observed again by the NSWEC. The actual quantum of votes taken using iVote has increased over recent by-elections.



The NSWEC provided an online survey to ascertain electors' satisfaction with using iVote at the by-election. The responses were very positive with around three quarters of respondents (74.5%) saying that they were "very satisfied" with the iVote service. 94.4% reported that they did not experience any technical difficulties during voting.

94.1% reported that they would recommend iVote if it was made available to all electors in future elections. Some of the benefits of iVote cited by electors were that it saved them having to travel considerable distances (well over the threshold of 20 kilometres from a polling place), avoidance of queues and political campaigners, and they were able to search quickly and easily for candidate information online.

Electors with a disability noted that the service reduced potential pain and stress. One voter stated that his or her disability "Makes it very stressful to walk any distance. Voting at home is relaxed."

There was an overwhelming response suggesting that iVote should be made available to more voters, with 88.5% of respondents reporting that those who were "Outside their electoral district on election day" should be eligible to use iVote. Full-time carers were also considered suitable for iVote by just over two-thirds of respondents (68.4%).

This sentiment was also reflected in many comments made to the survey. One participant stated that, "All people should be allowed to vote online." Another elector noted that, "It makes more sense in this digital era to offer iVote online."

Electors' positive response to iVote has remained high since its introduction in the 2011 election.

Letters from the NSWEC appeared to be successful in alerting electors to the availability of iVote, as was word of mouth. Interestingly, advertising did not appear to attract as many voters. These observations were similar to the comments received.

Some criticisms of the system were that electors could not find the registration page while searching online, that the 24 hour delay from registration to voting was inconvenient and that personal details needed to be an exact match to the electoral roll in order for the registration to proceed.

In addition to informing the NSWEC of electors' views, the results of the survey will be shared with other electoral jurisdictions.

Analysis of the data found a preference for voting using the internet facility rather than voting using the telephone. The table on the next page provides more detail.



Why Electors used iVote?

The majority of electors who used iVote were out of NSW on election day. The second largest group of eligible users were those who complied with the criteria of being 20 or more kilometres from a polling place. Those electors with a disability comprised 6.3% of total users.

The overwhelming majority of electors registered for iVote over the internet (74.7%) and of these, 99.4% voted using the internet (74.2% of the total number of registrants). Even electors who used the telephone to register for iVote preferred to vote over the internet (59.0% of phone registrants).

In total 1,859 electors, regardless of the method they used to register for iVote, voted using the internet.

The table following shows the incidence of iVote users by eligibility criteria, by method of registration as well as by method of voting.

As on previous occasions, a number of electors registered for iVote but did not vote using iVote. The number is very small; just 130 electors. It is not known whether these electors used other forms of voting or why they did not use iVote.

Table 1: Northern Tablelands By-election - iVote Users by Eligibility Criteria, by Registration Method and by Voting Method, 25 May 2013*

	Distance to Polling Place	Other Disability	Outside NSW	Reading Disability	Total
Registered by Web	506	46	822	14	1388
Voted by Phone	3	-	5	-	8
Voted by Web	503	46	817	14	1380
Registered by Phone	155	53	258	5	471
Voted by Phone	39	37	112	5	193
Voted by Web	116	16	146	-	278
Total	661	99	1080	19	1859

Note: * Data includes those who voted using iVote and excludes those who registered to use the system but did not vote using iVote.



2. Automatic Enrolment and Re-enrolment

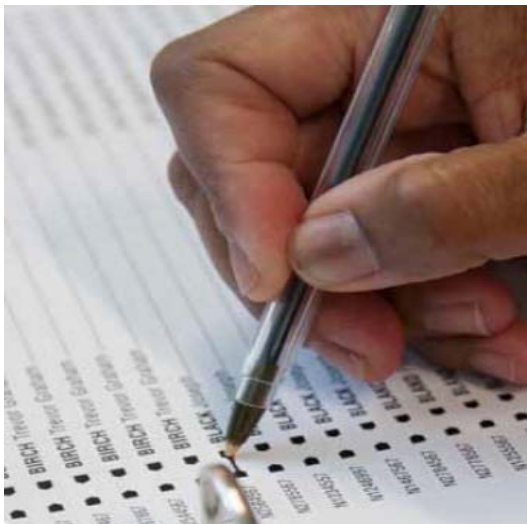
The NSWEC has led the way nationally in increasing elector enrolment through automatic enrolment, change of enrolment and re-enrolment using data held by other NSW public sector agencies such as licensing authorities and the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The impact of the use of automatic enrolment and re-enrolment processes were tested at the Penrith By-election in June 2010. Following this successful implementation, SmartRoll was implemented for the March 2011 NSW State Election.

The NSWEC's aim was to ensure an accurate electoral roll possible for the Northern Tablelands By-election.

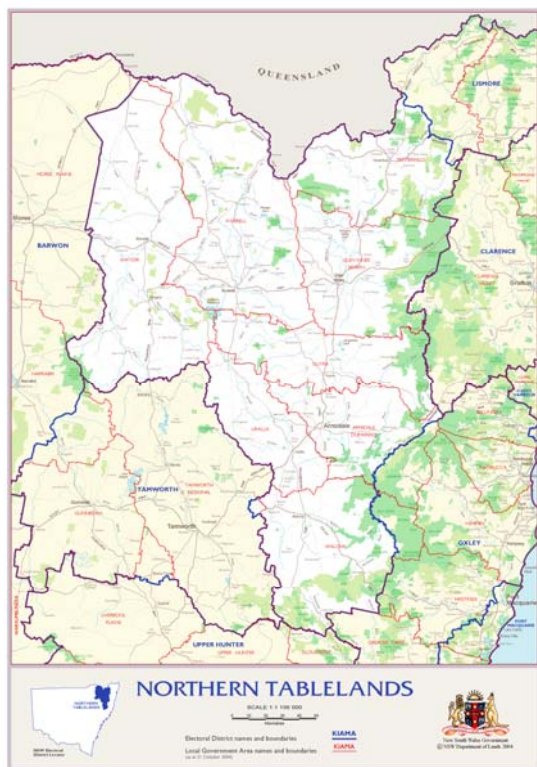
The Northern Tablelands By-election required a specific focus on those electors eligible to be, but not currently on the roll for the Northern Tablelands or who were incorrectly enrolled. As a result those electors who had moved into, out of, or within the district were targeted for checking of their place of enrolment.

Data from the NSW Roads and Maritime Services was supplemented with data from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and additionally citizenship information. This action led to 1,923 newly enrolled or correctly re-enrolled electors for the Northern Tablelands, or 3.7% of total electors in the Northern Tablelands.



Background to the By-election

Northern Tablelands Profile



The State Electoral District of Northern Tablelands includes the geographical area from the Queensland border in the north to Nowendoc National Park in the south; and from Mount Kaputar National Park in the west to Gibraltar Range National Park in the east.

Area

44,674 square kilometres.

Postcodes

2347, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354,
2355, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2365,
2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2390, 2399,
2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2408,
2409, 2410, 2411, 2440, 2453, 2469.

Local Government Areas within district

Glen Innes Severn, Guyra, Gwydir, Inverell, Uralla and parts of Armidale Dumaresq, Tamworth Regional, Tenterfield and Walcha.

Localities

This list is indicative only as the following suburbs may or may not be wholly included in the Northern Tablelands District:

Aberfoyle, Armidale, Ashford, Backwater, Bald Nob, Bannockburn, Ben Lomond, Bingara, Black Mountain, Black Swamp, Boonoo Boonoo, Brackendale, Bukkulla, Bundarra, Bungulla, Brushgrove, Caroda, Cherry Tree Hill, Cobbadah, Coolatai, Corner Camp, Crooble, Croppa Creek, Deepwater, Delungra, Dinoga, Dinton Vale, Dumaresq, Dundee, Ebor, Elsmore, Emmaville, Enmore, Furracabac, Gilgai, Glencoe, Glen Elgin, Glen Innes, Glen Morrison, Gravesend, Graman, Guyra, Hillgrove, Inverell, Jeogla, Keera, Kentucky, Kentucky South, Kingstown, Koloona, Leechs Gully, Little Plain, Llangothlin, Matheson, Mount Russell, Mungle, North Star, Nowendoc, Nullamanna, Oakwood, Red Range, Rocky River, Saddle Camp, Sandy Flat, Sapphire, Shannon Vale, Stanborough, Stannifer, Stannum, Steinbrook, Stonehenge, Strathbogie, Sunnyside, Tenterfield, Tent Hill, Tia, Tilbuster, Tingha, Torrington, Upper Bingara, Upper Horton, Uralla, Walcha, Walcha Road, Wallangra, Wandera, Wandsworth, Wards Mistake, Warialda, Wellingrove,



Wollun, Woolbrook, Wollomombi, Yagobe, Yarrowitch, Yarrowyck, Yetman.

Demographic Profile

The 2011 census revealed that the Northern Tablelands had 72,392 residents (excluding overseas visitors) of which 51.1% were female (36,962) and 48.9% were male (35,430). 6.3% (4,542) were Indigenous people.

The median age was 41 years, compared with 37 years in Australia overall. Close to one fifth of the population were aged 65 or over (18.2%) and 27% were aged under 19.

86.8% of people were born in Australia. The most common countries of birth after Australia were England (1.9%), New Zealand (0.8%), the United States of America (0.4%), China (excluding the Special Administrative Region and Taiwan) (0.4%) and Germany (0.3%).

English was the only language spoken at home by the vast majority of

people (92.2%), though two or more languages were spoken at home in 4.1% of households.

The most common languages spoken at home, other than English, were:

Arabic	0.3%
Mandarin	0.3%
German	0.3%
Italian	0.2%
Cantonese	0.1%

Historical Electoral Representation

Previous State representation for the Northern Tablelands has been:

Tenure	Name	Party
1999 – 2013	Richard Torbay	Independent
1987 – 1999	Raymond Chappell	National Party
1981 – 1987	William McCarthy	Australian Labor Party

Services to Electors

Maximising Participation in the Northern Tablelands By-election

The NSWEC undertook an advertising and communication campaign to raise awareness of the Northern Tablelands By-election and provide necessary information to electors and candidates. The major aspects of this strategy involved advertisements placed in State and local newspapers, some internet and radio advertising of iVote and provision of information via the NSWEC website and the Returning Officer.

In addition to advertising, the NSWEC used an elector brochure and email/SMS notifications sent to registered electors to increase participation in the Northern Tablelands By-election.

Elector Brochure

An elector brochure was sent to enrolled electors in the Northern Tablelands district. The brochure provided information on date of the election, the opening hours, locations and the accessibility of polling places, the mandatory nature of participation in the by-election, voting options if unable to vote on election day, and how to get assistance for electors not confident in written English or unable to read the brochure for other reasons.

The brochures were provided at a cost of \$37,247.39, excluding postage. A copy of the brochure is provided at Appendix A.

Advertising

The *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* prescribes that certain advertising must occur. The advertising strategy for the Northern Tablelands By-election comprised seven separate components:

- Enrol to vote
- Issue of Writ
- Candidate information seminar
- Register electoral material
- Pre-poll and postal voting
- Candidates and polling places
- Results

In addition, the Election Funding Authority placed a 'registration of candidates' advertisement. State-wide 'political donations' advertisements were placed in June.

The schedule of advertising is provided in Appendix B and copies of the advertisements at Appendix C.

NSWEC Website

The NSWEC's website provided information that stakeholders generally, not just electors, needed in order to participate in the by-election. It provided information on the election timetable, employment opportunities, enrolment, polling places, candidate requirements, names of candidates and poll results.



Use of the NSWEC’s website is typically greatest on election night when users seek information on results. On election night, the Northern Tablelands By-election results page had 3,432 unique views.

The following graph provides a picture of usage over the period from close of polling to midnight on election night for the Northern Tablelands By-election.

Graph 1: Northern Tablelands By-election Usage of the NSWEC Website for Poll Results, 25 May 2013

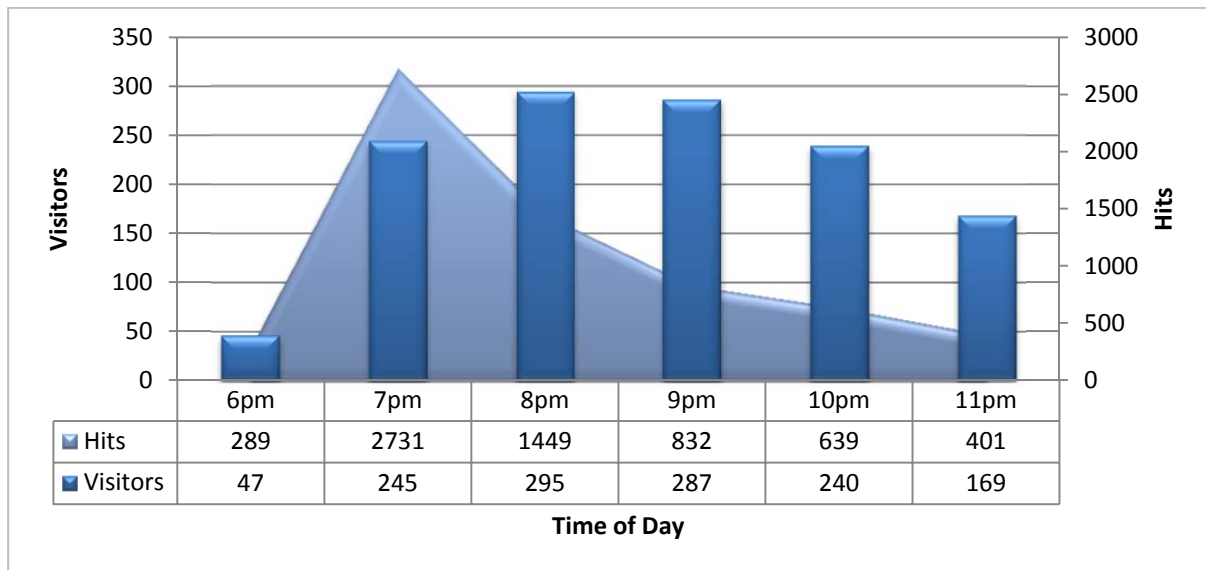


Table 2: Voting Methods for the Northern Tablelands District 2013 By-election and the 2011 and 2007 State General Elections, First Preference Votes.

Vote Type	2013 Northern Tablelands By-election		2011 NSW State Election, (Northern Tablelands District)		2011 NSW State Election, All Electoral Districts		2007 NSW State Election, (Northern Tablelands District)		2007 NSW State Election, All Electoral Districts	
	No.	% Total	No.	% Total	No.	% Total	No.	% Total	No.	% Total
Ordinary	29,170	65.71	32,636	69.26	3,188,142	74.30	36,098	79.73	3,285,087	81.07
Postal	1,311	2.95	3,548	7.52	245,411	5.71	2,706	5.98	223,951	5.52
iVote	1,859	4.20	incl with Postal	n/a	46,862	1.09	(a)	n/a	(a)	n/a
Pre-poll	11,672	26.29	7,316	15.54	352,741	8.22	3,818	8.43	223,266	5.50
Declared Institutions	incl with Pre-poll	n/a	322	0.68	14,880	0.34	242	0.54	15,970	0.39
Provisional votes	incl with Provisional votes	n/a	150	0.32	20,960	0.48	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Silent/ Section	46	0.10	incl with Provisional votes	n/a	12,564	0.29	35	0.07	5,714	0.14
Enrolment	335	0.75	213	0.45	20,960	0.48	(a)	n/a	(a)	n/a
Absent	n/a	n/a	2,934	6.23	409,035	9.53	2,378	5.25	298,135	7.35
TOTAL (b)	44,393	100.0	47,119	100.0	4,290,595	100.0	45,277	100.0	4,052,123	100.0

Notes:

- (a) This voting option was not available for this election.
- (b) May not add to exactly 100.0% due to rounding.



Voter Reminder Service

This reminder service provided electors the opportunity to request to be kept informed of electoral activities and information by SMS messaging or email. This service commenced with the Penrith By-election in 2010 and has been maintained since then. This service was also in place for the NSW State Election in 2011.

In the Northern Tablelands By-election, notifications were sent by email to 77 electors and by SMS to 73 electors. These electors had subscribed to the notification service and provided preferred contact details.

Service Standards

The NSWEC seeks to meet the expectations of electors about its electoral services and to this end has developed a Service Charter to outline the NSWEC's election service standards. The 2011 NSW State Election Service Commitments Charter was maintained as the overall service standard for this by-election.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Electors

The Northern Tablelands is not considered to be a high culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) district, so materials were not produced in languages other than English.

Electors with Disabilities and Access to Polling Places

The NSWEC sought to provide the most accessible and appropriately sited polling places possible for the Northern Tablelands By-election. Detailed information was provided, allowing

electors with mobility issues or other disabilities to locate the most suitable polling place. This access material was provided on the NSWEC's website, in the elector brochure and by the NSWEC's staff.

For this by-election the NSWEC again used the Assisted Access rating system. This system rated the accessibility of each of the polling places in the Northern Tablelands District, indicating any restrictions. The Assisted Access rating system allows people to make more informed choices about which polling place to use. The information was made available in the elector brochure.

Appendix D provides the list of all polling places plus the Assisted Access rating.

Arrangements for Voting before Election Day

Electors unable to vote on election day had the opportunity to vote early using iVote, postal or pre-poll voting. Early voting included voting in Declared Institutions.

A total of 11,672 electors voted early, representing over a quarter of total votes. This high volume is in line with a general trend of early voting across NSW and other jurisdictions.

Table 2, on the previous page sets out the usage of the different types of voting in the Northern Tablelands during the recent by-election and in the 2011 and 2007 NSW State Elections (Northern Tablelands District). The overall NSW picture is provided as well.



Postal Voting

Electors unable to attend a polling place on election day were able to apply for a postal vote. Postal vote application forms were available from the Returning Officer and the NSWEC's website. All postal votes were scrutinised by the Returning Officer prior to the return date.

Electors registered as 'General Postal Voters' did not have to re-apply and received vote material sent by post to their address.

The closing dates for receipt of postal voting applications were 6pm 22 May 2013 for those within Australia and 6pm 20 May 2013 for those applying from overseas. Completed postal votes had to be returned by 6pm 29 May 2013.

A combined total of 3,170 postal votes and iVotes were included in the count of formal votes. This was a slight decrease over the 3,548 of the same type of votes taken in this electoral district during the NSW State Election of March 2011. Proportionally, however, the figures were the same. Of the 2013 total votes, 1,859 were iVotes, representing 4.2% of the total votes.

Pre-poll Voting

Pre-poll voting was provided at the Returning Officer's office in Armidale, the Glen Innes Town Hall, the Inverell Masonic Hall, the Tenterfield and District Fallen Soldiers Memorial Hall and the NSWEC's office in the Sydney CBD.

Pre-polling was not provided overseas or at interstate Electoral Commissions as electors could vote using iVote. There were no complaints regarding this arrangement.

The pre-poll locations were listed in the elector brochure and on the NSWEC website.

Within NSW, pre-poll voting occurred from Monday, 13 May 2013 until Friday, 24 May 2013 as follows:

Pre-poll Glen Innes

Glen Innes Town Hall
265 Grey Street, Glenn Innes

Access: full wheelchair access.

Wednesday, 22 May – 8am to 6pm
Thursday, 23 May – 8am to 8pm
Friday, 24 May – 8am to 6pm

Pre-poll Inverell

Inverell Masonic Hall
166 Otho St, Inverell

Access: full wheelchair access.

Monday, 20 May to Wednesday, 22 May – 8am to 6pm
Thursday, 23 May – 8am to 8pm
Friday, 24 May – 8am to 6pm

Pre-poll Tenterfield

Tenterfield and District Fallen Soldiers Memorial Hall
96 Molesworth St, Tenterfield

Access: full wheelchair access.

Wednesday, 22 May – 8am to 6pm
Thursday, 23 May – 8am to 8pm
Friday, 24 May – 8am to 6pm

Pre-poll Sydney

NSW Electoral Commission
Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney

Access: does not meet accessibility requirements.

Monday, 13 May to Friday, 17 May – 9am to 5pm

Monday, 20 May to Friday, 24 May – 9am to 5pm

Pre-poll Returning Officer's Office 2/206 Beardy Street Armidale

Access: full wheelchair access.

Monday, 13 May to Friday, 17 May – 8am to 6pm

Saturday, 18 May – 9am to 5pm

Monday, 20 May to Wednesday, 22 May – 8am to 6pm

Thursday, 23 May – 8am to 8pm

Friday, 24 May – 8am to 6pm

Polling Places

Securing appropriate premises for polling places and the Returning Officer's office can be a difficult task. The NSWEC does not own facilities within electoral districts and therefore has to lease venues. The pool of available premises is limited by the short-term nature of the lease as well as the requirements of the NSWEC's space, accessibility and location criteria. These criteria are applied to meet electors' expectations and requirements such as workplace health and safety.

There were 44 polling places established for the Northern Tablelands By-election. The NSWEC was able to source venues known to the community as polling places in the majority of cases.

Hospitals and Declared Institutions

The *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* allows hospitals or similar institutions to be appointed by the Electoral Commissioner as polling places for election day. Similarly the Electoral Commissioner has the power to appoint nursing homes, retirement

villages and like facilities as Declared Institutions from which votes can be taken by election officials on the Monday to Friday in the week preceding the election.

Using hospital facilities as polling places raises challenges due to their design, possible issues of infection control and the operational considerations of a working hospital.

There are also challenges identifying all facilities in a district and then liaising with the individual facility managers to allow visits by election officials.

In the conduct of the Northern Tablelands By-election, fourteen Declared Institutions were visited during the week of Monday 20 May to Friday, 24 May 2013.

Analysis and Evaluation

The NSWEC has an online feedback facility and also registers complaints received via written correspondence. In total there were two formal complaints received regarding the Northern Tablelands By-election.

The complaints concerned being unable to register for iVote. Both complaints raised were followed up by the NSWEC.



Services to Candidates and Registered Political Parties

Candidate Information Seminar

A Candidate Information Seminar was held 1 May 2013 and all intending candidates were invited to attend. The seven attendees were given information on a wide range of topics including the election timetable, nomination, election advertising and how-to-vote material, voting and formality, scrutineering, vote counting, registration and appointment of candidates and official agents, campaign accounts, political donations, campaign expenditure and disclosure obligations.

Nominations

While nomination forms were available from the NSWEC website prior to lodgement, nomination forms could not be lodged before the issue of the Writ on 22 May 2013. The Writ set 8 May 2013 as close of nominations day for political parties lodging forms with the NSWEC's head office and 9 May 2013 for candidates lodging forms with the Returning Officer.

Registered Officers (or Deputy Registered Officers) of registered political parties could nominate candidates at the NSWEC's office in the city or at the Returning Officer's office in Armidale. Independent candidates could only nominate at the Returning Officer's office.

There were seven nominated candidates. Following the close of nominations the Returning Officer

conducted a draw to determine the order of candidates on the ballot paper.

'How-to-Vote' Material

Registration of 'How-to-Vote' material was handled at the NSWEC rather than in the Returning Officer's office. Any 'How-to-Vote' material for distribution on election day could be registered with the NSWEC prior to printing. Registration of this material opened on 9 May 2013.

Six applications were received and were registered on the same day that they were submitted.

Close of applications to register 'How-to-Vote' materials was 5.00pm, 17 May 2013.

Postal Vote Applications

Registered Political Parties planning to send Postal Vote Applications to electors were requested to submit these forms to the NSWEC prior to distribution.

Electoral Material

In the Northern Tablelands By-election, there were no reported incidents of electoral material displayed or distributed on election day not complying with the legislative requirements.

Conduct of the Northern Tablelands By-election

Returning Officer Arrangements

Mr Peter Dooley was the Returning Officer for the Northern Tablelands By-election. The Returning Officer's office was situated at 2/206 Beardy Street, Armidale, and was open from Monday, 22 April 2013 from 8am to 6pm each day.

Returning Officer's duties include:

- set up and decommissioning of the (temporary) office;
- training of office staff and polling place managers;
- arranging voting at polling places and Declared Institutions;
- issuing and processing postal and pre-poll votes;
- dealing with enquiries from candidates and electors and other feedback;
- processing candidate nominations and how-to-vote material; and
- counting votes and declaring the results of the election.

A Returning Officer Support Officer was appointed in the NSWEC's head office to provide support on electoral matters and procedures. This officer was experienced in the Returning Officer role and had worked also in the head office of the NSWEC over many elections.

Logistical and Other Support

Staffing

The majority of staff were employed to work on election day in polling places as Polling Place Managers or Election Officials. In addition casual staff were employed in the Returning Officer's office to pack materials for each polling place, operate pre-poll voting, visit Declared Institutions, count votes and pack up materials following the election.

Ninety Election Officials and 28 Office Assistants were employed for the Northern Tablelands By-election. The Polling Place Managers, their Deputies and Declaration Vote Issuing Officers all received online training. All Election Officials were issued a manual to study and to use on election day for reference if required. Recruitment for Office Assistants and Election Officials commenced on the 29 April 2013, with final offers being made up to election day as notifications of inability to work were received from those who had accepted prior employment offers.

The NSWEC website was used again to provide online registration of prospective staff. The entire employment process is undertaken online including the provision of bank, tax and superannuation details and is a very efficient and effective mechanism for the employment of election staff.



Supplies

The ballot papers were printed by the NSWEC's preferred security printer with ballot papers having a security background. 63,300 ballot papers were printed. A copy of the ballot paper is at Appendix E.

As in every election, considerable quantities of materials need to be printed. Some printing was done in house and some by commercial printers. In general, printing not undertaken by the NSWEC itself, concerned documents to be used by external stakeholders, such as postal voters. In addition, more specialised printing such as declaration envelopes was undertaken externally.

Providing the right type and quantity of supplies to the right location is comparatively easy in a by-election compared to a State Election. Even so, to adequately supply all 44 polling places and the Returning Officer's office as well as provide materials to candidates and registered political parties, approximately 23,399 items of election material were distributed over almost two weeks.

Waste Management

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

All ballot papers are printed in the most efficient way to minimise cost and paper wastage.

In the Northern Tablelands By-election, standard cardboard materials were used in polling places. These included voting screens, wheelchair screens, ballot boxes, caution signs and recycle bins.

Additionally, some new cardboard materials were trialled in the Northern Tablelands By-election. These were privacy partitions, polling place issuing desks, Returning Officer's office clerical desks and shelves.

After the election, the materials were taken to the nearest council recycling facility.



IT Support

For the Northern Tablelands By-election the Election Management Application was utilised. An internet based application for the use of Returning Officers, office assistants and head office staff, it consists of a suite of software modules to assist with managing election processes such as enquiries, election day staffing, candidate nominations, the distribution and return of declaration votes, results and non-voter administration.

In addition, IT equipment is provided to the Returning Officer's office and polling places. On 23 April 2013, 24 separate pieces of equipment were distributed to support the conduct of the election.

Election Costs

The expenditure on the Northern Tablelands By-election was \$302,620. The cost per elector was \$5.86. (The expenditure figures are inclusive of iVote expenditure.)

The key cost drivers for the Northern Tablelands By-election were:

- election official wages, including the Returning Officer;
- iVote;
- hire of premises;
- elector brochure;
- information and technology support;
- advertising;
- printed materials such as ballot papers; and
- cardboard and other materials for polling places.





Results

On election nights, the NSWEC provides figures showing the result of counts conducted at each polling place for the first preference vote for each candidate, and the result of the notional count for the two candidates considered most likely to receive the greatest number of votes.

The results are shown on election night from 6.30pm and progressively updated.

On the day after polling day, all the ballot papers from every polling place are recounted to ensure the election night count is accurate (the Check Count).

Declaration votes are added progressively over the next few days with postal votes accepted up to Wednesday afternoon after election day. At this point, the final distribution of preferences is conducted to determine who is to be elected.

The iVote process is fully encrypted and safeguarded. At close of poll, iVotes are unlocked by a group of officials who print and count these votes.

Scrutineers appointed by candidates are welcome to attend all counts. The poll was declared on Tuesday, 28 May 2013.

Table 3: Final Results Northern Tablelands By-election held 25 May 2013

Candidates	Votes	
MARSHALL, Adam	27,276	ELECTED
MAHER, Jim	5,814	
BEYERSDORF, Herman	4,190	
NICHOLSON, Katherine	1,845	
KOOPS, Dora	1,782	
BUSH, Bill	1,270	
NERO, Silvana	912	
Total Formal Votes	43,089	
Total Informal Votes	1,304	
Total Votes	44,393	

More detailed information of the election night and other counts is available on the NSWEC's website www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Declaration of the Poll

On Tuesday, 28 May 2013, the Returning Officer declared Mr Adam Marshall elected. A reproduction of the declaration of the poll is at Appendix F.

Enforcement of Compulsory Voting

Failure to Vote

Under electoral legislation, the NSWEC is required to issue 'failure to vote' notices to those electors whose names were not marked off the electoral roll as having voted or recorded as providing a valid excuse. The penalty for not voting in a State by-election is \$55. The funds generated from penalty notices are not collected or retained by the NSWEC but directed to the consolidated fund held by NSW Treasury.

All electoral rolls marked at polling places or in the Returning Officer's office were scanned after election day to create a list of non-voters for the Northern Tablelands.

The number of electors who were issued with penalty notices was 6,308 (12.2%). As at 23 July 2013, 768 had been excused from voting, 38 had paid the fine and no excuses have been rejected to date. Over one third (36.9%) of those that have been excused were absent from the district on polling day (but not from the State and therefore not eligible to iVote).

Higher rates of non-voting tend to be a feature of by-elections as compared to State General elections.

To assist electors avoid this penalty in future elections, the penalty notice advises non-voters of the availability of the 'Voter Reminder Service'.





Analysis

Comparison to 2011 NSW State Election and other State by-elections

Participation and informality rates

For the 2011 NSW State Election in the Northern Tablelands District there were five candidates. The number of electors enrolled was 50,535, the voter turnout figure was 93.2% and the informality rate was 1.2%.

At the May 2013 by-election, there were seven candidates and the enrolment figure had increased to 51,802. The participation and informality rates were 85.7% and 2.9%. Traditionally, participation rates tend to be lower in by-elections than general elections and informality rates higher, however, this by-election saw relatively high participation rates.

Another means of assessing the conduct of the election is to compare it to other recent State by-elections. The participation rate for the Northern Tablelands By-election was high (85.7%) and the informality was mid-range (2.9%) compared to other recent State by-elections.

The range of participation rates for the four State by-elections held in 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012 was 62.6% to 88.2%. The range of informality rates for these same by-elections was 1.8% to 5.2%.

Non-voters and penalty notices

The rate of penalty notices (PNs) issued for the Northern Tablelands By-election was 6,308 or 12.2% of those on the electoral roll. This is markedly lower than the Heffron and Sydney By-elections as the following table shows. (Note that from the Heffron By-election a different policy was implemented whereby those non-voters who had been 'SmartRolled' were issued a penalty notice. This had not occurred in elections prior to the Heffron By-election.)

The rate of non-voting tends to be lower in non-metropolitan districts.

Table 4: Penalty Notices, Northern Tablelands By-election May 2013 frequency and percentages

By-election	No. Roll	PNs issued	No. PN as % Roll
Northern Tablelands	51,802	6,308	12.2
Sydney	61,428	20,468	33.3
Heffron	55,712	16,176	29.0
Clarence	52,171	6,577	12.6
Penrith	46,304	4,295	9.3
Cabramatta	50,383	4,422	8.8
Port Macquarie	48,198	3,250	6.7
Ryde	48,002	4,726	9.9
Lakemba	51,288	6,700	13.1

Availability of results of counting

The Northern Tablelands election night notional results set out the first preference vote for each candidate. These were posted progressively on the NSWEC's website from 6.30pm on the day of the poll.

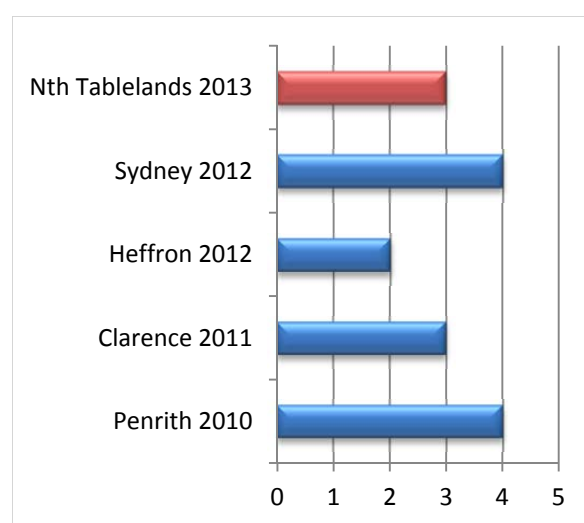
Table 5: Northern Tablelands By-election Results Provision and Targets, 25 May 2013

Polling Places (44)	TARGET		ACTUAL	
	First Preference	Two Candidate Preferred	First Preference	Two Candidate Preferred
8:00pm	80%	N/A	80%	N/A
9:00pm	90%	N/A	100%	N/A
10:30pm	-	N/A	-	N/A
11:00pm	-	N/A	-	N/A

The Northern Tablelands By-election poll was declared on Tuesday 28 May 2013. This was an elapsed time of three days from polling day. The equivalent lapse for by-elections held in 2012 was two to four days, in 2011 it was three days, and in 2010 it was four days.

See chart below for a representation of the elapsed times.

Graph 2: Elapsed times in declaration of the poll for NSW by-elections (days)





Appendices

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Northern Tablelands By-election May 2013 Elector Brochure	26
Appendix B: Northern Tablelands By-election May 2013 Schedule of Advertising.....	27
Appendix C: Northern Tablelands By-election May 2013 Copies of Advertisements..	28
Appendix D: Northern Tablelands By-election May 2013 Polling Places and Disability Access	40
Appendix E: Northern Tablelands By-election May 2013 Ballot Paper.....	43
Appendix F: Northern Tablelands By-election May 2013 Declaration of Poll	44

Appendix A: Northern Tablelands By-election May 2013 Elector Brochure

Election Day Polling Places		
Locality	Venue and Address	Accessibility
Gravesend	Gravesend Public School Gwydir Street	
Guyra	Guyra Central School Marme Street	4
Inverell	Inverell Masonic Hall 166 Ocho Street	
Inverell	Inverell Public School Ross Street	
Inverell	Ross Hill Public School Andrew Street	
Kentucky	Kentucky Memorial Hall Noalimba Avenue	4,5
Kingstown	Kingstown Community Hall Kingstown Road	4,5
Mingoola	Mingoola Public School Brouner Highway	+
North Star	North Star Public School Edward Street	+
Nowendoc	Nowendoc Memorial Hall Brackendale Road	+
Red Range	Red Range Public School Parkes Street	
Rocky River	Rocky River Public School Bundarra Road	+
Tenterfield	Tenterfield & District Soldiers Memorial Hall 96 Molesworth Street	
Tingha	Tingha Public School 54 Ruby Street	+
Upper Horton	Upper Horton Hall Cobbadah Street	+
Uralla	Uralla Anglican Church Hall Park Street	
Walcha	Walcha Anglican Church Hall South Street	+
Warialda	Warialda Public School Geddes Street	
Wollomombi	Chandler Public School Grafton Road	+
Woolbrook	Woolbrook Public School Church Street	+
Yetman	Yetman Memorial Hall Warialda Street	1,4

Legend	Assisted Access
+	Does not meet accessibility requirements
1	Path of travel from car park may be difficult
2	Access ramp does not meet standards
3	Building has lips and/or steps
4	No designated disabled parking spot
5	No disabled toilet
6	May have limited circulation space in voting area
7	Door width is between 760 - 800mm
	Full Wheelchair Access

1. Information correct as at 30 April 2013.

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

Legislative Assembly By-election
Saturday, 25 May 2013

Your guide to voting in

Northern Tablelands

Your vote is your voice.
Be heard.

Northern Tablelands By-election Saturday, 25 May 2013

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

This brochure contains important information about the election. It's particularly important to remember:

- Polling places will be open from 8am to 6pm on Saturday, 25 May 2013;
- Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors in the electoral district of Northern Tablelands; and
- The penalty for not voting at the by-election is \$55.

Do I need to vote?
You have received this brochure because you are enrolled in the Legislative Assembly District of Northern Tablelands. Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors.

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

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

What if I can't get to a polling place on election day?
Vote via internet or telephone
People who are blind, vision impaired or who have another disability, people who live more than 20km from a polling place or who will be outside NSW on election day, can apply to use the iVote system to cast their vote over the internet.
To apply visit iVote.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 2 iVote (1300 24 86 83) or from outside Australia call +612 9290 5287. Applications close 6:00pm EST on Wednesday, 22 May 2013.

Vote early in person
You may be eligible to cast a pre-poll vote. Pre-poll voting is available at the following locations and times:

RO office
2/206 Beardy Street Armidale
Monday, 13 May to Friday, 17 May - 8am to 6pm
Saturday, 18 May - 9am to 5pm
Monday, 20 May to Wednesday, 22 May - 8am to 6pm
Thursday, 23 May - 8am to 8pm
Friday, 24 May - 8am to 6pm

Glen Innes
Glen Innes Town Hall, 265 Grey St, Glen Innes
Wednesday, 22 May - 8am to 6pm
Thursday, 23 May - 8am to 8pm
Friday, 24 May - 8am to 6pm

Inverell
Inverell Masonic Hall, 166 Ocho St, Inverell
Monday, 20 May to Wednesday, 22 May - 8am to 6pm
Thursday, 23 May - 8am to 8pm
Friday, 24 May - 8am to 6pm

Tenterfield
Tenterfield & District Soldiers Memorial Hall,
96 Molesworth St, Tenterfield
Wednesday, 22 May - 8am to 6pm
Thursday, 23 May - 8am to 8pm
Friday, 24 May - 8am to 6pm

Sydney
NSW Electoral Commission, Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney
Monday, 13 May to Friday, 17 May - 9am to 5pm
Monday, 20 May to Friday, 24 May - 9am to 5pm

Vote by post
Postal voting is also available for eligible voters. Application forms are available from www.elections.nsw.gov.au or by contacting the returning officer. Applications must be received by the returning officer by 6.00pm Wednesday, 22 May 2013 if sent within Australia. If sent from overseas must be received by returning officer by 6pm Monday, 20 May 2013.
Electors who are general postal voters will automatically be sent their ballot papers without further application

Election Day Polling Places		
Locality	Venue and Address	Accessibility
Arding	Arding Uniting Church Hall Hawthorne Drive	1,4,5
Armidale	Armidale City Public School 142-152 Faulkner Street	3,5
Armidale	Armidale Town Hall Rusden Street	
Armidale	Ben Venue Public School Erskine Street	
Armidale	Drummond Memorial Public School Rusden Street	
Armidale	Newling Public School 80 Chapel Street	1,5
Ashford	Ashford Central School- Memorial Hall 51 Martyr Street	+
Ben Lomond	Ben Lomond Public School 588 Inn Road	4
Bingara	Roxy Theatre Bingara Masland Street	+
Black Mountain	Black Mountain Public School 815 Black Mountain Road	+
Bundarra	Bundarra Central School Bowline Street	4,5
Coolatai	Coolatai Hall Wallangra Road	
Croppa Creek	Croppa Creek Public School Apsley Crescent	+
Dangarsleigh	Kelly's Plains/Dangarsleigh CWA Hall Dangarsleigh Road	+
Deepwater	Deepwater Public School 15-25 Young Street	+
Delangra	Delangra Community Hall Railway Street	4
Drake	Drake Community Hall Tabulam Street	1,4
Ebor	Ebor Public School Waterfall Way	4,5
Emmaville	Emmaville Central School 20 - 28 Park Road	4,5
Glen Innes	Cameron Memorial Hall Macquarie Street	
Glen Innes	Glen Innes Hospital 94 Taylor Street	
Glen Innes	Glen Innes Public School Church Street	5
Glencoe	Glencoe Community Hall New England Highway	1,4,6

See accessibility legend over

ELECTORAL COMMISSION NSW
Continued over

For assistance in a language other than English please call 13 14 50.



Appendix B: Northern Tablelands By-election May 2013 Schedule of Advertising

Message/Publication	Advertisement Date
Enrol / Candidate seminar / EOI	
Armidale Express	Friday, 19 April 2013
Glenn Innes Examiner	Thursday, 18 April 2013
Inverell Times	Friday, 19 April 2013
Issue of Writ / Nominations / Candidate Seminar	
Daily Telegraph	Monday, 22 April 2013
Armidale Express Extra	Wednesday, 24 April 2013
Bingara advocate	Wednesday, 24 April 2013
Glenn Innes Examiner	Thursday, 25 April 2013
Guyra Argus	Thursday, 25 April 2013
Inverell Times	Tuesday, 23 April 2013
Tenterfield Star	Wednesday, 24 April 2013
Walcha News	Thursday, 25 April 2013
Warrialda Standard	Wednesday, 24 April 2013
Early Voting and Register Electoral Material	
Armidale Express Extra	Wednesday, 8 May 2013
Bingara Advocate	Wednesday, 8 May 2013
Glenn Innes Examiner	Tuesday, 7 May 2013
Guyra Argus	Thursday, 9 May 2013
Inverell Times	Tuesday, 7 May 2013
Tenterfield Star	Wednesday, 8 May 2013
Walcha News	Thursday, 9 May 2013
Warrialda Standard	Wednesday, 8 May 2013
Early Voting (Repeat)	
Armidale Independent	Wednesday, 15 May 2013
Bingara Advocate	Wednesday, 15 May 2013
Glenn Innes Examiner	Tuesday, 14 May 2013
Guyra Argus	Thursday, 16 May 2013
Inverell Times	Tuesday, 14 May 2013
Tenterfield Star	Wednesday, 15 May 2013
Walcha News	Thursday, 16 May 2013
Warrialda Standard	Wednesday, 15 May 2013
Remember to Vote	
Armidale Independent	Wednesday, 22 May 2013
Bingara Advocate	Tuesday, 21 May 2013
Glenn Innes Examiner	Monday, 20 May 2013
Guyra Argus	Wednesday, 22 May 2013
Inverell Times	Monday, 20 May 2013
Tenterfield Star	Monday, 20 May 2013
Walcha News	Tuesday, 21 May 2013
Warrialda Standard	Tuesday, 21 May 2013
Results	
Armidale Express Extra	Friday, 7 June 2013

Enrol to Vote

**Legislative Assembly
By-election
District of Northern
Tablelands**

Enrol to Vote

To be eligible to vote at the upcoming Northern Tablelands State By-election, you must be correctly enrolled.

If you think your enrolment details may be out of date and you wish to update them, or if you have turned 18, become an Australian citizen recently or you wish to enrol for the first time visit:
www.elections.nsw.gov.au

**For enquiries about your
enrolment visit
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

**Your vote is your voice.
Be heard.** 

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



Issue of Writ

Legislative Assembly By-election District of Northern Tablelands Saturday, 25 May 2013

On Monday, 22 April 2013, I received from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, The Honourable Shelley Hancock MP, a Writ for the election of one Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Northern Tablelands. The Writ sets the following dates:

Close of Nominations: 12 noon, Thursday, 9 May 2013

Election Day: Saturday, 25 May 2013

Colin Barry, Electoral Commissioner

How to Nominate as a Candidate

To nominate you must lodge a nomination form, child-related conduct declaration and a \$250 nomination deposit by 12 noon Thursday, 9 May 2013 with the Returning Officer. Registered Political Parties lodging nominations with NSW Electoral Commission head office must do so by 12 noon Wednesday, 8 May 2013.

Nomination forms and the Handbook for Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers - State By-election are available from the Returning Officer or from the NSW Electoral Commission website www.elections.nsw.gov.au. For nomination enquiries call Greg Copson, Ph: (02) 9290 5904.

Returning Officer Details:

Returning Officer: Peter Dooley
Returning Office address: 2/206 Beardy St Armidale NSW 2350
Postal address: PO BOX 2046 Armidale NSW 2350

Candidate Information Seminar

The NSW Electoral Commission, in conjunction with the Election Funding Authority, will be conducting an information seminar for candidates and interested participants.

Attendance at the seminar by candidates, official agents and party agents is highly encouraged to ensure you are aware of your legal responsibilities and obligations. The seminar will cover a wide range of topics including the election timetable, nomination, election advertising and how-to-vote material, voting and formality, scrutineering, vote counting, registration and appointment of candidates and official agents, campaign accounts, political donations, campaign expenditure and disclosure obligations.


The seminar will take place at the Returning Office, 2/206 Beardy St, Armidale from 5pm to 7pm on Wednesday, 1 May 2013. For more information visit the website or call us.

Candidate Registration

Candidates must be registered with the Election Funding Authority prior to receiving political donations or making a payment for electoral expenditure. For more information regarding candidate registration visit www.efa.nsw.gov.au.

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

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Early voting options

Legislative Assembly By-election District of Northern Tablelands

Saturday, 25 May 2013

Early Voting Options

**The Northern Tablelands State By-election is on Saturday, 25 May 2013.
If you can't get to a polling place, or you're out of the State on election day
you may be eligible to vote early.**

You can enrol or update your details when you vote
If you are not on the electoral roll in NSW or you are enrolled at an old address and now live in the Northern Tablelands State electoral district you may be eligible to enrol or update your details when you vote early in person. Just bring your NSW photo driver licence or NSW Photo Card showing your current address in the Northern Tablelands State electoral district, and Australian citizenship details if you were born overseas.
To check your enrolment details go to www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call **1300 135 736**.

Vote via the internet or telephone
People who are blind, vision impaired or who have another disability, people who live more than 20km from a polling place or who will be outside NSW on election day can apply to use the iVote system to cast their vote over the internet or the telephone. To apply visit iVote.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 2 iVote (1300 24 86 83) or from outside Australia call +612 9290 5287. Applications are now open and close 6:00pm EST, Wednesday, 22 May 2013.

Vote by post
You can vote by post by lodging a postal vote application with the Returning Officer by 6pm Monday, 20 May 2013 if you're overseas, or 6pm Wednesday, 22 May 2013 if you're in Australia.
You can apply for a postal vote online at www.elections.nsw.gov.au or request one by calling us.

Vote early in person
Pre-poll voting is available from Monday, 13 May 2013 at the following locations and times:

RO Office – 2/206 Beardy Street Armidale Monday, 13 May to Friday, 17 May - 8am to 6pm Saturday, 18 May - 9am to 5pm Monday, 20 May to Wednesday, 22 May - 8am to 6pm Thursday, 23 May - 8am to 8pm Friday, 24 May - 8am to 6pm	Tenterfield Tenterfield & District Soldiers Memorial Hall, 96 Molesworth St, Tenterfield Wednesday, 22 May - 8am to 6pm Thursday, 23 May - 8am to 8pm Friday, 24 May - 8am to 6pm
Glen Innes Glen Innes Town Hall, 265 Grey St, Glen Innes Wednesday, 22 May - 8am to 6pm Thursday, 23 May - 8am to 8pm Friday, 24 May - 8am to 6pm	Sydney NSW Electoral Commission, Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney Monday, 13 May to Friday, 17 May - 9am to 5pm Monday, 20 May to Friday, 24 May - 9am to 5pm

Inverell
Inverell Masonic Hall, 166 Orcho St, Inverell
Monday, 20 May to Wednesday, 22 May - 8am to 6pm
Thursday, 23 May - 8am to 8pm
Friday, 24 May - 8am to 6pm

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

Register Your Electoral Material

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

Information about electoral material is available in the Handbook for Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers - State By-election available from the NSW Electoral Commission or www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Applications to register electoral material should be forwarded to the NSWEC:

Email – howtovote@elections.nsw.gov.au
Fax - (02) 9290 5488
Deliver in person - Level 25, 201 Kent Sydney 2000

Applications must be received by 5pm Friday, 17 May 2013. Material received after the deadline will not be considered.


Electoral material distributed before election day is not required to be registered but must comply with electoral legislation. Enquiries: **1300 135 736**

Work at the Election

If you are interested in working as an election official and you are on the electoral roll, please register your expression of interest online at www.elections.nsw.gov.au

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

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Legislative Assembly By-election District of Northern Tablelands

Saturday, 25 May 2013

Early Voting Options

The Northern Tablelands State By-election is on Saturday, 25 May 2013. If you can't get to a polling place, or you're out of the State on election day you may be eligible to vote early.

You can enrol or update your details when you vote

If you are not on the electoral roll in NSW or you are enrolled at an old address and now live in the Northern Tablelands State electoral district you may be eligible to enrol or update your details when you vote early in person. Just bring your NSW photo driver licence or NSW Photo Card showing your current address in the Northern Tablelands State electoral district, and Australian citizenship details if you were born overseas.

To check your enrolment details go to www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736.

Vote via the internet or telephone

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Sydney
NSW Electoral Commission, Level 25,
201 Kent Street Sydney
Monday, 13 May to Friday, 17 May - 9am to 5pm
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Applications to register electoral material should be forwarded to the NSWEC:

Email – howtovote@elections.nsw.gov.au

Fax - (02) 9290 5488

Deliver in person - Level 25, 201 Kent Sydney 2000

Applications must be received by 5pm Friday, 17 May 2013. Material received after the deadline will not be considered.

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Work at the Election

If you are interested in working as an election official and you are on the electoral roll, please register your expression of interest online at www.elections.nsw.gov.au

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Legislative Assembly By-election District of Northern Tablelands

Saturday, 25 May 2013

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Internet and Telephone voting for the Northern Tablelands State By-election

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- People who live more than 20km from a polling place, or are outside NSW on election day

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Weather Your 4-day local weather forecast

The Armidale Express

TV Guide What's on the box this afternoon?

Monday May 13, 2013

iVote

Accessible voting by phone or internet for the Northern Tablelands State By-election.

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Byelection ballot order determined

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Play-off agony as Leicester pay the penalty for spot kick miss 51 minutes

The greatest team of all 57 minutes

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Early Voting Options (repeat)

Legislative Assembly By-election District of Northern Tablelands

Saturday, 25 May 2013

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Appendix D: Northern Tablelands By-election May 2013 Polling Places and Disability Access

Polling Place Name	Address	Locality	Accessibility
Arding Uniting Church Hall	Hawthorne Drive	Arding	Assisted Access
Armidale City Public School	142-152 Faulkner Street	Armidale	Assisted Access
Armidale Town Hall	Rusden Street	Armidale	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Ashford Central School-Memorial Hall	51 Martyn Street	Ashford	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Ben Lomond Public School	588 Inn Road	Ben Lomond	Assisted Access
Ben Venue Public School	Erskine Street	Armidale	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Black Mountain Public School	815 Black Mountain Road	Black Mountain	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Bundarra Central School	Bowline Street	Bundarra	Assisted Access
Cameron Memorial Hall	Macquarie Street	Glen Innes	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Chandler Public School	Grafton Road	Wollomombi	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Coolatai Hall	Wallangra Road	Coolatai	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Croppa Creek Public School	Apsley Crescent	Croppa Creek	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Deepwater Public School	15-25 Young Street	Deepwater	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Delungra Community Hall	Railway Street	Delungra	Assisted Access
Drake Community Hall	Tabulam Street	Drake	Assisted Access
Drummond Memorial Public School	Rusden Street	Armidale	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Ebor Public School	Waterfall Way	Ebor	Assisted Access
Emmaville Central School	20 - 28 Park Road	Emmaville	Assisted Access
Glen Innes Hospital	94 Taylor Street	Glen Innes	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Glen Innes Public School	Church Street	Glen Innes	Assisted Access
Glencoe Community Hall	New England Highway	Glencoe	Assisted Access



Polling Place Name	Address	Locality	Accessibility
Gravesend Public School	Gwydir Street	Gravesend	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Guyra Central School	Marne Street	Guyra	Assisted Access
Inverell Masonic Hall	166 Otho Street	Inverell	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Inverell Public School	Ross Street	Inverell	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Kelly's Plains/Dangarsleigh CWA Hall	Dangarsleigh Road	Dangarsleigh	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Kentucky Memorial Hall	Noalimba Avenue	Kentucky	Assisted Access
Kingstown Community Hall	Kingstown Road	Kingstown	Assisted Access
Mingoola Public School	Bruxner Highway	Mingoola	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Newling Public School	80 Chapel Street	Armidale	Assisted Access
North Star Public School	Edward Street	North Star	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Nowendoc Memorial Hall	Brackendale Road	Nowendoc	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Red Range Public School	Parkes Street	Red Range	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Rocky River Public School	Bundarra Road	Rocky River	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Ross Hill Public School	Andrew Street	Inverell	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Roxy Theatre Bingara	Maitland Street	Bingara	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Tenterfield & District Soldiers Memorial Hall	96 Molesworth Street	Tenterfield	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Tingha Public School	54 Ruby Street	Tingha	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Upper Horton Hall	Cobbadah Street	Upper Horton	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Uralla Anglican Church Hall	Park Street	Uralla	Fully Wheelchair Accessible

Polling Place Name	Address	Locality	Accessibility
Walcha Anglican Church Hall	South Street	Walcha	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Warialda Public School	Geddes Street	Warialda	Fully Wheelchair Accessible
Woolbrook Public School	Church Street	Woolbrook	Does not meet accessibility requirements for electors with disabilities
Yetman Memorial Hall	Warialda Street	Yetman	Assisted Access



Appendix E: Northern Tablelands By-election May 2013 Ballot Paper

Ballot Paper
Legislative Assembly Election – Electoral District of
Northern Tablelands
Held on 25 May 2013

▶ DIRECTIONS FOR VOTING
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- Write the number **1** in the square next to the candidate of your choice.
- You can show more choices, if you want to, by writing numbers in the other squares, starting with the number **2**.
- Fold this ballot paper so your vote cannot be seen and place it in the ballot box (or in the envelope provided).

CANDIDATES

BUSH Bill
INDEPENDENT

MARSHALL Adam
NATIONALS

KOOPS Dora
THE GREENS

BEYERSDORF Herman
COUNTRY LABOR

NICHOLSON Katherine
INDEPENDENT

MAHER Jim
INDEPENDENT

NERO Silvana
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)

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

**Legislative Assembly By-election
District of Northern Tablelands
Held Saturday, 25 May 2013**

Result of By-election

On Tuesday, 28 May 2013 I returned to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Shelley Hancock, MP, the writ for the election of the member for the Legislative Assembly District of Northern Tablelands.

The following candidate was elected:
Adam Marshall (Nationals)

Colin Barry, Electoral Commissioner

**Detailed results are available from the
NSW Electoral Commission website,
www.elections.nsw.gov.au**

Your vote is your voice. Be heard. 

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EL_0041-NT_JUN13



References

Australian Bureau of Statistics *2011 Census QuickStats*; Northern Tablelands.

Allen Consulting Group, *Evaluation of technology assisted voting provided at the NSW State General Election March 2011: report to the New South Wales Electoral Commission*, Sydney, July, 2011.

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