

Dear General Manager/CEO,

Ref: Service estimate for the conduct of the 2020 local government elections

On 18 September 2019, the Government released its response to the 'Review of local government costs' conducted by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). As part of its response to that Review, the Government has announced it will provide \$19.9m to fund the NSW Electoral Commission's core costs for the September 2020 local government elections.

In light of the release of the Government's response we are now in a position to provide you with an estimate of the cost of conducting Council's election.

This estimate takes into account the Government's announced contribution to the NSW Electoral Commission's costs. The estimate also covers use of our new vote count engine, incorporating the Weighted Inclusive Gregory Method. This estimate does not take into account the cost of any polls or referenda that Council may wish to conduct. We will be happy to revise our estimate should Council require polls or referenda to be conducted.

If you have not already done so, should Council resolve to enter into an arrangement with the NSW Electoral Commission to administer its 2020 election, please send us a copy of that resolution on or before 1 October 2019, as required by section 296(5A)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act). The NSW Electoral Commission will then send Council a copy of the service contract for review and approval. All contracts must be signed and returned no later than 1 January 2020, as required by section 296(5A)(b) of the Act.

If Council cannot pass the requisite resolution on or before 1 October 2019, we would ask that it be provided as soon as possible thereafter to enable the Electoral Commissioner to consider the resolution pursuant to section 296(5) of the Act. This provision empowers the Commissioner to enter into an arrangement to administer the election if he is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances that make it desirable or necessary for him to do so.

The Commissioner has formed the preliminary view that constraints placed on councils in the context of the timing of the IPART review constitute 'exceptional circumstances' for the purposes of section 296(5). Having said, it must be stressed that, to enable the NSW Electoral Commission to adequately plan for all council elections which it is engaged to conduct, any contracts must still be signed and returned to it no later than 1 January 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the attached estimate or the process, please contact me by telephone on (02) 9290 5431 or email at steve.robbs@elections.nsw.gov.au.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Robb
Director Customer Service & Relationship Management

2020 Local Government Election - Cost Estimate

Tweed Shire Council

Projects / Deliverables	Amount
<i>Ballot Papers</i>	36,502
<i>Call Centre</i>	31,067
<i>Event Management</i>	13,646
<i>Event Staffing</i>	336,708
<i>Information Technology</i>	37,910
<i>Logistics</i>	49,202
<i>Multi-Area Polling</i>	1,031
<i>Postal Voting</i>	9,073
<i>Venues</i>	142,861
<i>Voter Awareness</i>	33,203
TOTAL (excluding GST)	691,203
GST	69,120
TOTAL (including GST)	760,323

Assumptions

LGE 2020 Election Status - Fully Contested

NSWEC will conduct a similar proportion of council elections to 2016-17

Excludes cost for any referendum or poll a council may request NSWEC to conduct

All aspects of the election process will be as 2016/2017

Shared resources will be utilised where practical

Contact Details

Enquiries to Steve Robb, Director Customer Service & Relationship Management Tel: 02 9290 5431 Email: Steve.Robb@elections.nsw.gov.au