

ITEM 07.22.119 REPORT ON 2021 COUNCIL ELECTION

Meeting	Council	28 June 2022
Directorate	Corporate & Governance	
Prepared by	Governance Officer, Bligh Grant	
Attachments	A. NSW Electoral Commission Invoice for 2021 LG Election ⇒	

SUMMARY

Section 393A of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that within 6 months after the declaration of an election, the General Manager must provide the Minister with a written report and that the Report must be displayed on Council's website. This item constitutes the Report to the Minister.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the details of the report on the 2021 Council Election and approves it being submitted to the Minister and being placed on Council's website.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION - 07.22.119**Whaites/Toms**

That Council considers the details of the report on the 2021 Council Election and approves it being submitted to the Minister and being placed on Council's website.


Voting recorded as follows

For: Clancy, Day, Johnstone, Novak, Pickering, Smith, Tiley, Toms, Whaites

Against: Nil

CARRIED

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LINKAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

Theme Leadership

Objective We will have a strong, accountable and representative Government

KEY ISSUES

As per s. 393A of the *Local Government Act*, the statutorily required information is as follows:

Item	Data
a) time spent on the election by the general manager as a proportion of the general manager's remuneration	10 days: TRP 202021 = \$286,557.00 /365 = \$785.00 10 x 7 = \$7,851
b) time spent on the election by council staff as a proportion of council staff remuneration	6 weeks of Grade 11 @ \$1662.00 / week = \$9,971.50 /\$38,605,000.00 (Financial Statements) =.0258%
c) the remuneration of council staff explicitly employed for the election	Nil.
d) the remuneration, recruitment and training costs of election officials	'Event Management' is listed as \$7,977; 'Event Staffing' is listed as \$218,093. Proportions of other items in <u>Attachment A</u> (unspecified)—e.g., 'Call Centre' (\$13,674), 'Information Technology' (\$22,159) and 'Logistics' (\$28,790) would also accrue to this item.
e) the cost of running any candidate information seminars	\$5,918.00
f) the cost of hiring venues and equipment for the election, including council venues and equipment and any associated costs	'Venues' are listed as \$41,642 (<u>Attachment A</u>).
g) the cost of any technological support, including the development of any counting software	'Information Technology' listed as \$22,159 (<u>Attachment A</u>).
h) the cost of preparing a written report under this section	6 hours @ \$47.48 = \$284.90
i) any electoral services provided to electors	Customer Service received an increase in calls and foot traffic in the two weeks proceeding the election Questions asked were:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where can I vote? • Where can I find information about the candidates/ Who are the candidates, and what do they stand for? • Why is there no information on our website about candidates and voting centres? • What time do voting centres open/close? • How can I vote? • How many people do I need to vote for? • Can I vote for the mayor?
j) any electoral services provided to candidates	Candidate information seminars at (e) above. Some candidates made enquiries to Council officers regarding the election; these enquiries were directed to the NSW Electoral Commission.
k) operational details of the election	<p>This election was atypical in that it was postponed twice—first from September 2020 to September 2021, then to 4 December, 2021. Both postponement decisions were based on the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>There were 28 polling booths across the electorate, all in the LGA.</p> <p>CVC shared its Returning Officer with Richmond Valley Council. No operational challenges were encountered due to this arrangement.</p>
l) an overall evaluation of the conduct of the election, including feedback from stakeholders	<p>The 2021 Council Election did not attract a notable quantum of feedback—either positive or negative—and, as such, can be evaluated as successful, particularly given the COVID-19 circumstances.</p> <p>The Returning Officer, Ms Leisa Stout and her staff are thanked for their efforts.</p>
m) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of electors entitled to vote at the election • number of electors who voted • specifying the number of electors who voted personally or by post. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38,544 residential and non-residential electors were enrolled on 25 October 2021. • Total turnout (ballots counted) was 33.109 (85.67%; informal 7.17%). • In-person/postal: Unavailable on NSW EC website.
n) the cost to the council of engaging the electoral services provider to administer the election	<p>As per <u>Attachment A</u>, engaging the NSW Electoral Commission costs \$398,739. Additional outlays as detailed above:</p> <p>GM time: \$7,851 Council staff time: \$9,971 Candidate training: \$5,980 Writing this report: \$285</p> <p>TOTAL: \$413,826.00</p>

BACKGROUND

As above.

COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Financial

As mentioned above, note that Council assets were utilised as venues for the 2021 Local Government Election (e.g., Maclean Civic Hall was utilised as the Returning Office for both Clarence Valley and Richmond Valley). As such, a proportion of the outlays to the NSW Electoral Commission was returned to Council in the form of venue hire. This served to ease the financial burden of the election.

Asset Management

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, requirements for election venues were atypical and strictly adhered to. This provided an opportunity to examine the limitations of some of Council's existing assets—e.g., Maclean Civic Centre.

Policy and Regulation

As above

Consultation

NSW Electoral Commission.

Legal and Risk Management

As above

Climate Change

N/A



ABN 94 828 824 124

Tax Invoice

Invoice To	Date:	11/05/2022
CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL	Invoice:	SILG003025
LOCKED BAG 23	Account Number:	AR00167
GRAFTON NSW 2460	Your Reference:	2021 Council Election Invoice
ABN: 85 864 095 684		

Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Net Value	Tax	Gross
Total Expenses LGE 2021	1.00	577,468.10	577,468.10	57,746.81	635,214.91
Covid/Deferral Discount	1.00	-214,978.29	-214,978.29	-21,497.83	-236,476.12
PAYABLE AMOUNT			Net Value	Tax	Gross
			362,489.81	36,248.98	398,738.79

ACCOUNTS ARE PAYABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS

Payment via E.F.T to Westpac BSB: 032-001 Acct: 20-4116 OR Cheque Payable to "NSW Electoral Commission"

Remittance Advice email to: finance@elections.nsw.gov.au

Level 2, 231 Elizabeth Street, Sydney 2000, GPO Box 832, Sydney 2001

Tel: 02 9290 5999 Fax: 02 9290 5991



**2021 Local Government Election
Summary of Costs
Clarence Valley Council**

Projects / Deliverables	Total Cost of Election	Covid/Deferral Discount *	Final Invoice Amount
<i>Ballot Papers</i>	5,446	-	5,446
<i>Call Centre</i>	13,674	-	13,674
<i>Event Management</i>	14,730	(6,753)	7,977
<i>Event Staffing</i>	316,198	(98,105)	218,093
<i>Information Technology</i>	55,328	(33,169)	22,159
<i>Logistics</i>	37,503	(8,712)	28,790
<i>Postal Voting</i>	15,200	(9,898)	5,302
<i>Venues</i>	95,357	(53,715)	41,642
<i>Voter Awareness</i>	24,033	(4,626)	19,406
TOTAL (excluding GST)	577,468	(214,978)	362,490
GST			36,249
TOTAL (including GST)			398,739

Note

If a referendum or poll was run in December 2021 for your Council, the associated costs have been included in the Final Invoice Amounts above.

** Where a discount has not been applied, the Actual Costs for that category have come in below the Council estimate.*