

POSTAL

GREATER GEELONG CITY COUNCIL
GENERAL ELECTION

2017



COUNCIL ELECTION

REPORT

Letter of Transmittal

The Honourable Bruce Atkinson, MLC,
President of the Legislative Council

The Honourable Colin Brooks, MP,
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

I am pleased to submit to you, for presentation to Parliament, this report on the conduct of the Greater Geelong City Council general election held on 28 October 2017.

The report is presented in accordance with section 8(2)(b) of the Electoral Act 2002.



Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner

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List of abbreviations

CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CoGG Act	City of Greater Geelong Act 1993
EMS	Election Management System
LG Act	Local Government Act 1989
LG Amendment Act	Local Government Amendment (Improved Governance) Act 2015
LGICI	Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate
MET	Municipal Electoral Tribunal
Regulations	Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2016
VEC	Victorian Electoral Commission

Executive Summary

The Greater Geelong City Council general election was held on 28 October 2017 by postal voting with 194,721 voters on the roll on entitlement day.

The election was conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), as the statutory election service provider to Greater Geelong City Council in accordance with clause 1 of Schedule 2 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the LG Act).

Having just completed the 2016 local government elections, the VEC was in a good position to conduct the Greater Geelong City Council general election in 2017 using the 2016 Election Service Plan as a base, and making minor adjustments and improvements. Importantly the same performance targets identified in 2016 were applied to the Greater Geelong City Council general election and to the service level agreement with the council.

Fifty three candidates nominated to contest eleven vacancies in four separate wards. The turnout rate of 76.84 percent was 0.86 percent lower than in 2012 (77.70%) but 3.09 percent higher than other postal elections in the 2016 local government general elections (excluding Melbourne City Council Leadership Team) (73.75%).

Informality rates were high in this general election, at 6.53 percent across the four wards, compared to 2.41 percent across 12 wards in the mayoral election in 2012. This increase is most likely due to the average number of candidates in each election increasing from 4.54 in 2012 to 13.25 in 2017.

The results of the Greater Geelong City Council general election were declared at 4.00 pm on Monday 6 November 2017.

I take this opportunity to thank all VEC staff, contractors and suppliers, and particularly the Returning Officer Colin Riley and Deputy Returning Officers Heidi Burnell, Brian Cullen and Noel McPhee for their contributions to the successful conduct of the Greater Geelong City Council general election.



Warwick Gately AM

Electoral Commissioner

About this report

This report has been compiled by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) on the conduct of the Greater Geelong City Council general election held in October 2017.

The report provides commentary on the services provided by the different branches within the VEC and their performance in the execution of the election. The report also includes details relating to voting statistics and the results of the election.

About the Victorian Electoral Commission

The VEC is an independent and impartial statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 2002*. The VEC conducts Victorian State elections, local government elections, certain statutory elections and polls, and other fee-for-service elections and polls for commercial and public sector clients. The VEC also conducts boundary reviews, maintains the Victorian register of electors, conducts electoral research, provides education services, and works to engage all Victorians who are entitled to vote in the democratic process.

Changes to the LG Act that took effect on 1 March 2016 established the VEC as the statutory provider of election services to Victoria's local government sector. Prior to this change, the VEC had responded to requests for quote and invitations to tender for local government elections even though it had been the sole provider of local government election services since 2004.

The Electoral Commissioner is Warwick Gately AM, and the Deputy Electoral Commissioner is Liz Williams. The Commissioner reports to the Victorian Parliament in relation to the VEC's activities.

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner are assisted by an Executive Management Group to deliver the functions of the VEC. The Local Government Program Manager, Katrina Collins, oversees the VEC's local government electoral activity and co-chairs the Planning Group, comprised of activity and project leads from across the organisation.

About Greater Geelong City Council

Greater Geelong City Council is divided into four wards with 11 councillors elected from three three-councillor wards and one two-councillor ward.

Figure 1 shows the electoral structure of Greater Geelong City Council.

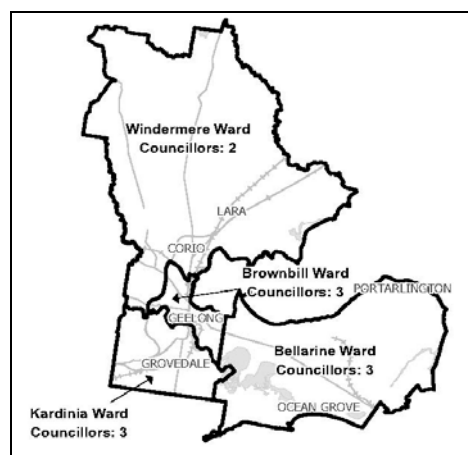


Figure 1. The electoral structure of Greater Geelong City Council at the general election held on 28 October 2017.

1 Frameworks

Local government elections in Victoria are governed by the following legislative frameworks:

- *Constitution Act 1975*
- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Electoral Act 2002*
- *Infringements Act 2006*
- *City of Greater Geelong Act 1993*

1.1 Legislation

The LG Act provides that local government elections are to be held on the fourth Saturday of October every four years in participating municipalities to ensure that local government consists of democratically elected councils. In October 2016, general elections were conducted for 78 of Victoria's 79 councils, with the general election for Greater Geelong City Council postponed until October 2017.

The passage of the Local Government Amendment (Improved Governance) Act 2015 (the LG Amendment Act) clarified a number of aspects of local government elections and codified the VEC's default position as electoral service provider to Victoria's local government sector, making the VEC the statutory provider for all local government elections in Victoria and the enforcement agency for the purpose of compulsory voting. The LG Amendment Act also made changes to several areas of the election program and provided clarity around the role of the Returning Officer.

1.2 Regulations

On 26 July 2016, the Governor in Council made the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2016 (the Regulations) that took effect on 7 August 2016. Included in the new Regulations are provisions that directly relate to the conduct of local government elections to enhance the integrity of the electoral system.

Key changes that were implemented in the 2016 local government elections and also applied at the Greater Geelong City Council general election in 2017 included:

Extended postal vote receipt period

An extended period for postal votes to be received and accepted by the Returning Officer during the week after Election Day applied to the election. As per the 2016 local government elections the extended postal vote receipt period meant that the final results for the Greater Geelong City Council general election were delayed by a week.

Candidate questionnaire

Candidates were invited to answer a set of prescribed questions through a candidate questionnaire. A variation to the candidate questionnaire specific to the Greater Geelong City Council general election was introduced in 2017 by way of an amendment to the Regulations.

Indication of preferences

Candidates at elections held by postal voting (with the exception of the Melbourne City Council general election) no longer lodge an indication of preferences for inclusion in the ballot pack mailed to voters.

2 Responsibilities

2.1 Electoral Commissioner

The LG Amendment Act provided clarity around the responsibilities of the VEC and the Electoral Commissioner in the preparation of the voters' roll, conduct of the elections and the enforcement of compulsory voting.

Accordingly, the VEC must:

- maintain the Electoral Commissioner's List of Legislative Assembly voters (EC List)
- prepare the voters' roll (except for Melbourne City Council)
- conduct the elections
- act as the enforcement agency for the purposes of compulsory voting enforcement.

The Electoral Commissioner is responsible for the appointment of the Registrar for the certification of the voters' roll pursuant to section 3(1) of the LG Act. The Electoral Commissioner also appoints the Prosecution Officer for the purposes of compulsory voting enforcement pursuant to section 40(2) of the LG Act.

The LG Act provides that the Electoral Commissioner is the Returning Officer for all Victorian local government elections. Once the VEC enters the preparation phase of the elections, the Electoral Commissioner appoints a Returning Officer to each council election pursuant to clause 1(7) of Schedule 2 of the LG Act.

2.2 Councils

Councils play an integral role in the execution of local government elections. The VEC worked in close partnership with the Greater Geelong City Council throughout the election timeline from the planning and implementation phases through to the feedback and evaluation phases post-election.

In accordance with section 22 of the LG Act, the council is responsible for the maintenance of the Chief Executive Officer's List (CEO List) which is combined with the EC List to create the voters' roll. Councils are also responsible for responding to complaints regarding alleged breaches of local laws and the VEC refers all such matters to council for appropriate action.

2.3 Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate

The Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate (LGICI) is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of alleged breaches of the LG Act. The VEC and the LGICI established a working agreement prior to the election and worked in close consultation throughout the election period.

3 Electoral Landscape

3.1 Representation reviews and changes in structure

Division 2 of Part 10 of the LG Act provides that the VEC must conduct electoral representation reviews of all Victorian councils. The purpose of an electoral representation review is to provide for fair and equitable representation of the voters of the council. Each council must be reviewed before every third general election (approximately every 12 years) or earlier if another trigger in the LG Act is activated requiring an earlier review. A review cannot commence until two years before a council's general election, and must be completed no later than six months before that general election.

An electoral representation review examines:

- the appropriate number of councillors (between five and twelve)
- whether the council should be subdivided into wards or should be unsubdivided and
- if the council is divided into wards, the boundaries of wards and the number of councillors for each ward. If a council is divided into wards, the number of voters represented by each councillor must be within 10 per cent of the average number of voters per councillor across the council.

This ensures equality of representation.

3.2 Greater Geelong City Council Structure

The Greater Geelong City Council structure was last reviewed by the VEC in 2016. On 16 March 2016, the VEC's report on the review was lodged with the Minister for Local Government. In April 2016, shortly after the report was released the Council was dismissed by the Minister for Local Government and went into administration. Consequently, the general election for the council, scheduled for October 2016, was postponed to October 2017. In July 2016, the State Government appointed a Citizens' Jury to recommend the best future design of the Greater Geelong City Council, including its electoral structure. Following consultation on boundaries that were based on recommendations from the Geelong Citizens' Jury in 2017, the electoral structure adopted was the option recommended by the VEC at the 2015-16 review. The next scheduled review of Greater Geelong City Council is required before the 2028 local government elections.

3.3 Method of voting

Councils are able to choose for their elections to be conducted entirely by postal voting or by attendance voting. If a council wishes to change its method of voting from what was used for its previous election, it must decide the change at least eight months before the election day. As in previous elections, the Greater Geelong City Council chose to conduct the election by postal voting.

4 Service Plan

For the Greater Geelong City Council general election the VEC developed an election service plan that was based on the plan from the 2016 local government general elections. The VEC sought feedback from the Greater Geelong City Council on the draft service plan in April 2017, with the final plan being released in May 2017.

The election service plan followed two major principles:

Local focus for election services

The VEC committed to appoint a Returning Officer for the Greater Geelong City Council general election and for the election to be managed locally. Accordingly, the management of candidates, enquiries from the public, and vote counting in the main, took place locally within the Greater Geelong City council area. Contingency plans were put in place to cover any overflow enquiries from voters.

Cost effective

The VEC's election service plan aimed to provide high quality cost-effective election services. The VEC's Greater Geelong City Council general election program met all statutory requirements while ensuring customer focus, service and accuracy. All aspects and initiatives implemented in the Greater Geelong City Council general election program were comprehensively analysed for their cost and benefits.

Although cost increases in some areas of the Greater Geelong City Council general election program were unavoidable, the VEC was committed to seeking opportunities to minimise cost increases where possible.

4.1 Performance targets

The VEC set out specific targets for election preparation, conduct and outcomes for the Greater Geelong City Council general election to measure its performance. Details of these targets and comments against each can be found in Figures 2a, 2b and 2c.

Figure 2a: Election preparation targets

Target	Result
Establish the election service level agreement with council by Friday 5 May 2017.	Sent Tuesday 9 May 2017.
Establish an election office that is suitably located within the municipality, and publish accurate information on its accessibility level.	Achieved. Election office was established in consultation with council. Accessibility information was published on interactive maps on the VEC website.
Conduct a public awareness campaign to inform voters of their opportunity to vote with a focus on culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, people experiencing homelessness, people living with a disability, and the Indigenous community.	Achieved. The VEC advertised the elections in local newspapers, on radio programs, online and via social media. The public awareness campaign met its obligations and had a focus on the mentioned groups, with a record number of community education and outreach sessions delivered.
Establish a framework to appropriately evaluate and respond to complaints and enquiries, including timely referral of compliance matters to the relevant investigating authority.	Achieved. The VEC worked closely with the LGICI in 2016 to develop a streamlined election period complaints handling procedure. This was applied for the Greater Geelong City Council general election and the VEC committed to respond to complaints within five business days and, on average, responses were sent within three days.

Figure 2b: Election conduct targets

Target	Result
Achieve at least 99.95% accuracy in the municipal voters' roll, excluding processing errors outside of the VEC's control.	Achieved – no amendments.
Ensure all communication products are produced in an accurate and timely manner, are compliant with the legislation, and are focused on enhancing electoral understanding and participation.	Achieved. There were no legislative errors in statutory advertisements produced by the VEC.
Provide information to assist prospective candidates and ensure systems provide efficient processing of nominations and candidate information.	Achieved. The candidate handbooks were reviewed and delivered on the VEC website and at candidate information sessions. Candidate statements and questionnaires were processed and published within prescribed timelines.
Lodge all postal ballot material with Australia Post within the required timeframes.	Achieved.
Declare the election before 5.00 pm on Friday 10 November 2017.	Achieved. All elections were declared by 4.00 pm on Monday 6 November 2017.
Maximise opportunities to increase voter participation in the election.	Achieved. Overall participation in the Greater Geelong City Council general election was 79.73%, which is compared to an average of 75.67% for all postal elections held across the State at the 2016 local government elections (excluding Melbourne City Council).

Figure 2c: Election outcome targets

Target	Result
Establish robust election procedures so that no election can be overturned as a result of the VEC's processes.	Achieved. No election was overturned as a result of VEC processes
Evaluate its performance at each level of the election program and ensure its reporting obligations are met.	Achieved. Statutory report on the Greater Geelong City Council general election was transmitted within three months of the election.
Implement reconciliation and integrity checks to ensure correct recording of results during counting activities and during the packaging, movement and storage of election material.	Achieved.
Maintain accountability for the cost of the election and continue to identify opportunities to reduce the cost imposed on the council.	Achieved.

5 Initiatives

5.1 Enrolment information included on council rates notice

The Greater Geelong City Council worked with the VEC to include important information on enrolment and the upcoming general election in their council's rates notice. The information was aimed at rate payers that might have been eligible to apply to be on the roll and included key dates such as the close of enrolment and the close of voting.

5.2 Candidate's Voters' roll terms of use agreement

Prior to the commencement of roll production for the 2016 local government elections, the VEC implemented a web based facility for secure exchange of data (DEX). Compliant with legislation, the new facility significantly enhanced the security of data during transmission, therefore enhancing the privacy of the voting public.

For the Greater Geelong City Council general election, the VEC implemented further measures to ensure the confidentiality of roll data and privacy of the voting public. Included in the email inviting candidates to access the DEX and the voters' roll for their nominated ward the VEC detailed the terms of use prescribed by the LG Act. The candidate had to agree to the terms of use before they could gain access to the data. In addition, the VEC sent a follow up email at the conclusion of the election to all candidates who had accessed the voters' roll data asking them to confirm that they had returned or destroyed any copies of the data in their possession.

5.3 Updates to the VEC's online Candidate Helper

As a result of changes to LG amendment regulations, the VEC's online Candidate Helper application underwent various enhancements prior to the Greater Geelong City Council general election in order to meet legislative requirements. In particular, the candidate questionnaire was updated to include the additional nine questions, making a total of fifteen questions. A new version of the Candidate Questionnaire form was created and updates were made to the VEC website to ensure publication of candidate information was made available.

In light of modern campaigning tools for candidates and the growth of social media platforms, the existing candidate statement logic was improved to allow the use of all special characters in conjunction with the VEC's guidelines for candidate statements.

5.4 Youth employment target

Evaluation of the VEC's election staff profile from the 2016 local government elections identified a need to increase the percentage of young people employed in casual election roles. The VEC implemented youth employment initiatives to address age diversity and to create a sustainable workforce for future needs. Key Performance Indicators relating to employment of the youth demographic were set for the Greater Geelong City Council Returning Officer. The Returning Officer achieved the target to employ under-25-year-olds as 20 percent of the total staff in the election.

6 Election Timeline

Deadline fixed by the Registrar for council primary enrolment data	Monday 7 August 2017
Entitlement date	Friday 1 September 2017, 4.00 pm
Opening of the election office to the public	Wednesday 20 September 2017
Certification of the voters' roll and opening of nominations	Thursday 21 September 2017
Close of nominations	Tuesday 26 September 2017, 12 noon
Ballot draw	Tuesday 26 September 2017, from 1.00 pm
Deadline for lodging candidate statements, photographs and candidate questionnaires	Wednesday 27 September 2017, 12 noon
General mail out of ballot packs to voters	Tuesday 10 October – Thursday 12 October 2017
Close of voting	Friday 27 October 2017, 6.00 pm
Election Day	Saturday 28 October 2017
Close of the extended postal vote receipt period	Friday 3 November 2017, 12 noon
Declaration of the election	Monday 6 November 2017, 4.00 pm

7 Greater Geelong City Council general election in review

7.1 Planning and preparation

Planning for Greater Geelong City Council general election commenced in early 2017 when the VEC began consultation with the Greater Geelong City Council. Key elements of the election service plan and the particular requirements for the Greater Geelong City Council general election were discussed and decided.

Service level agreement

The VEC established a service level agreement with the Greater Geelong City Council. The agreement included the costing arrangements for the preparation, conduct, and closure of the election and summarised contingency election services that may be required during the 2017 – 2020 council term.

Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officers

Returning Officers are impartial and independent senior election officials trained in the management of elections. Returning Officers delegate responsibilities to Deputy Returning Officers or other authorised persons to support the functions of the election office.

In accordance with section 3 of the LG Act, the Electoral Commissioner appointed Colin Riley as the Returning Officer for the Greater Geelong City Council general election. The Electoral Commissioner also appointed Heidi Burnell, Brian Cullen and Noel McPhee as Deputy Returning Officers for the election.

As in previous elections, the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officers were selected from a pool of available senior election officials. In this instance, the senior election officials appointed all had extensive electoral experience and did not need in depth training. Instead, the VEC ran a one day intensive training session at the election office prior to the election.

Comprehensive manuals were provided to the election management team which included operational and procedural information.

Election office

The VEC established an election office within a council owned building: Busport, 17 Gheringhap Street, Geelong. The election office was open to the public between Wednesday 20 September 2017 and Friday 27 October 2017.

The selection of suitable accommodation for the election office is an important part of the election preparation process and venues undergo a comprehensive audit to ensure they meet a number of requirements.

The following factors are assessed and considered in order to determine suitability:

- security – the venue is secure and has a separate storage space for ballot material

- location – within council boundaries and is accessible by the public
- budget – is within reasonable budget
- accessibility – wheelchair access and suitable disabled parking
- connectivity – the venue can support the VEC's EMS (Election Management System) throughout all stages of the election timeline

While the accommodation used by the VEC for the Greater Geelong City Council general election office in 2012 was unavailable the council indicated that they would be able to provide a suitable alternative. Some work had to be carried out at the venue before it was deemed suitable.

7.2 Election Management System (EMS)

The VEC's EMS is a secure computerised system developed by the VEC to support the end to end administration and management of elections. Prior to the 2016 general elections, the EMS underwent significant redevelopment where new and improved functions were rolled out to election offices. Further enhancements were made prior to the Greater Geelong City Council general election due to changes to the candidate questionnaire.

The EMS was utilised by election office staff throughout the election period and by head office staff to provide oversight into the management of each election. Head office staff were able to oversee the activities of the election office including reconciliation of ballot papers.

7.3 Human resources and support services

In accordance with section 17A of the Electoral Act 2002 and section 75 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010, the VEC may discriminate against a person in relation to offering employment on the basis of that person's political belief or activity. All staff appointed to roles for the Greater Geelong City Council general election were required to complete a disclosure of political activities. The disclosure was then assessed to ensure that there could be no perception of political bias in relation to their work. The VEC rejected one application on the basis of their political disclosure.

Local Government Program Manager and Portfolio Manager

The relationship between the Greater Geelong City Council and the VEC was managed by the Local Government Program Manager and the Portfolio Manager who represented the VEC during consultation, negotiation and evaluation discussions with council officers.

Election Support Officer

During the election period, the Returning Officer was supported by an Election Support Officer based at the VEC's head office. The appointed Election Support Officer was a highly competent senior election official

experienced in managing elections. The Election Support Officer was responsible for providing the Returning Officer with procedural guidance and advice relating to legislation.

Help desk

The VEC established a central help desk to provide telephone and email support for the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officers appointed to conduct the Greater Geelong City Council general election.

The Help Desk provided three main services:

- performing quality checks of the computer infrastructure before the opening of each election office
- providing support for the VEC's election systems, including the resolution of any technical issues being experienced in the field and
- directing all calls regarding election procedures to the Election Support Officer.

Help Desk staff were experienced operators who had performed the role at previous elections.

Casual staff

The VEC is dedicated to employing a diverse range of individuals to fill election roles.

A staffing profile was prepared in advance of the opening of the election office and was based on the enrolment numbers within the council and peak work periods during the election. As well as the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer, 216 casual staff were appointed to fulfil a variety of roles.

Personnel helpline

The VEC's Personnel Helpline provides high quality phone and email support to election staff and operates all year round.

During the Greater Geelong City Council general election the Personnel Helpline assisted election staff to:

- access and navigate the VEC's personnel systems such as the election staff self-service portal and online registration
- log in to their election staff self-service portal to update contact details, enter banking, tax and superannuation details, access pay advices, and accept any offers of appointment
- complete their online registration for employment
- complete timesheets
- resolve pay related queries
- understand the political disclosure requirements
- complete online training.

Approximately 200 calls were received by the Personnel Helpline from August through to December 2017.

7.4 Public education and outreach campaign

The VEC's Education and Inclusion team worked with local community-based organisations to advertise and

deliver a range of electoral inclusion initiatives, including the delivery of electoral information and enrolment sessions and the provision of electoral information resources. The VEC focussed on campaigns with three key target populations.

People experiencing homelessness

The VEC partnered with the Council of Homeless Persons' Peer Education and Support Program (PESP) to provide outreach sessions to people experiencing homelessness at Lazarus Centre and Salvo Connect Barwon Women's Services. These sessions provided the opportunity for engaging and discussing enrolling using 'no fixed address' enrolment forms and silent elector enrolment forms. There were 10 participants at the Lazarus Centre session and although there were no new enrolments one person signed up their interest to work during elections with the VEC.

Culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD)

A CALD enrolment outreach session was held at Diversitat - in partnership with the City of Greater Geelong. Approximately 100 CALD community members attended to check and update their enrolment details - with some members enrolling for the first time. The VEC provided two community educators who were able to speak up to 10 languages between them, an electoral inclusion officer who spoke Thai and a Karen interpreter. A further two electoral information sessions were delivered at Diversitat to a total of 53 CALD community members, who were part of the English as a Second Language program; Easy English election guides were also distributed.

People living with disability

A total of twenty local disability organisations were contacted in order to ensure people living with disability were provided with electoral information and enrolment opportunities. A total of four outreach sessions were held as a result of the contact - one at Wild Rumpus and three at Gen U (Karingal-St Laurence) involving 36 clients and four centre staff. The sessions were a chance to engage with young people with a disability who were not enrolled, and to speak with those who were older and hadn't had the opportunity to be involved in voting in the past. Further general election information outreach sessions were also provided to Gen U and the Barwon region's Women with Disabilities Network after the election.

Stakeholder engagement and marketing

In addition to the outreach sessions conducted with the target populations, the VEC

- liaised with the City of Greater Geelong's Community Development Unit regarding provision of enrolment and education outreach sessions
- targeted community workers in the Geelong area through a Facebook and LinkedIn social media campaign offering outreach services

- distributed an enrolment reminder poster, with an interpreter phone line number to communities via Diversitat ahead of the close of roll for the election and
- dispatched Easy English election guides to Geelong Regional Library Corporation for distribution to all 16 libraries within the municipality.

7.5 Voters' Roll

Local government enrolment entitlements

Enrolment entitlements that applied to the Greater Geelong City Council general election are specified under the LG Act and differ from those that apply at State and Federal elections.

Enrolment entitlements at a local government election fall into three groups:

The Victorian Electoral Commissioner's List of State electors (section 12 of the LG Act) - EC List

Residents in the local council area who are on the roll for the Legislative Assembly, who are 18 years of age and over, Australian citizens or qualified British subjects are included on the EC List. To enrol, an enrolment form must be completed, signed and witnessed prior to the entitlement date. Entitlement is based on the residential address on the enrolment form. The EC List database has been designed and maintained for the purpose of producing electoral rolls for State and local government elections.

State enrolled voters formed approximately 89% of the Greater Geelong City Council roll.

The Chief Executive Officer's List of council-entitled voters – CEO List

Non-resident ratepayers (section 13 of the LG Act)

A person who owns a rateable property in the local council area (whether solely or jointly) and who is not a resident of the area, has an entitlement and is automatically enrolled on the voters' roll in respect of that property (i.e. without application). This entitlement is limited to two people per property and the details of those people are extracted from the council's rates and property systems.

This entitlement category formed approximately 11% of the Greater Geelong City Council roll.

Other ratepayer entitlements (sections 14, 15 and 16 of the LG Act)

Other enrolment entitlements include resident owner-occupiers, occupiers with rates responsibility and appointed voting representatives for companies with rates responsibilities. In order to be enrolled, people or companies with these entitlements must complete an application form each election cycle. Council includes these entitlements on its CEO List.

These entitlements combined made up approximately 0.02% of the roll.

Voters' roll production

The VEC was responsible for the preparation of the voters' roll for the Greater Geelong City Council and the Electoral Commissioner appointed the VEC's Director of Enrolment as the Registrar for these elections.

Considerable time and effort is devoted to roll production with the intricate checking of names and addresses in an effort to prepare voters' rolls that are as accurate as possible. To compile a voters' roll for the Greater Geelong City Council general election, the EC List of State-enrolled voters and the CEO List, provided by the council are combined. Every effort is made to assist the council to prepare their CEO list, including providing dates of birth where definite matches between the CEO and EC List occur, clarifying the spelling and formatting of names and identifying deceased persons and duplicate records that appear on both lists. In accordance with the LG Act, any duplicate record identified on the CEO List is removed. This process is undertaken in four stages:

Data matching

In 2015 the VEC worked with Greater Geelong City Council to match CEO list data to the State roll and provided feedback to increase the accuracy of the council's records.

Preliminary roll

In July 2017, the council provided the VEC with their CEO List data and the VEC conducted a trial run of roll production for the Greater Geelong City Council general election. This is an essential task designed to identify and resolve any issues early in the roll production process that may otherwise delay final processing.

Primary enrolment data

On Wednesday 16 August 2017 the council supplied their CEO List data to the VEC as required under section 22(2) of the LG Act. The data was loaded into the VEC computer system and merged with the State roll data. From this, a roll was prepared and was sent to council for quality assurance purposes.

Production of the certified voters' rolls

Following the close of roll at 4.00 pm on Friday 1 September 2017, the council provided the VEC with their final CEO List in a similar format to the primary enrolment data. Changes to the CEO and EC List between the primary enrolment data extract and the entitlement date were determined and applied.

The voters' roll was finalised and certified by the Registrar on Thursday 21 September 2017.

During a local government election it is not unusual to identify amendments to the roll; however no amendments to the certified voters' roll were required for the Greater Geelong City Council general election.

Enrolment

A total of 194,721 voters were enrolled at the close of rolls for the Greater Geelong City Council general election. This is an increase of 24,313 (14%) from the 2012 election where there was a total of 170,408 voters enrolled at the close of roll. A total of 172,697 persons were enrolled on the EC List and 22,024 on the CEO List.

Between the close of rolls and the ballot pack mail out, the VEC received advice of fifteen deceased persons on the EC list. Subsequently ballot packs were not mailed to their addresses.

The table in *Appendix 1* shows voter numbers by ward.

7.6 Communication campaign

The VEC ran a comprehensive communication campaign from Friday 11 August to Monday 6 November 2017, developed to meet legislative requirements and increase voter awareness and participation in the Greater Geelong City Council general election. The VEC's communication team coordinated the development and placement of advertising, development and distribution of media releases and preparation of election information for the VEC's website.

Statutory advertising

The Returning Officer is required to place four statutory notices during the conduct of a local government election:

- notice of entitlement date
- notice of election
- voting details and
- declaration of results.

The content of the advertisements is guided by legislation. This has resulted in the VEC adopting an information-based rather than a motivational approach to press advertising.

Additionally, the council chose to include a 'voting reminder' advertisement which ran in the week prior to election day.

See *Appendix 2* for examples of advertisements.

Social media campaign

Using paid promotion on Facebook, the VEC targeted voters by geographic area, CALD background and topics of interest.

The paid advertising was supported by a defined timeline of social media posts on Facebook and Twitter designed to cover each of the key messages of the communication campaign, and to seed conversation about the democratic process.

On average 14,209 people saw the VEC's paid advertising on Facebook, this is compared to an average of 1,200 people who saw unpaid, organic content.

See *Appendix 3* for examples of the social media campaign.

VEC website

The VEC website featured specific information for the election. Content was updated at each phase of the election cycle including information about:

- enrolment
- inspecting and objecting to errors in the voters' roll
- nominating for election
- redirection of ballot packs
- replacement ballot packs
- the close of voting and
- election results.

Key voting information on webpages could also be converted to Easy English on the page.

During the period of the communication campaign the VEC's website had 98,858 unique users – 96% of these users were first time users – engaged in 131,265 active sessions viewing a total number of 420,855 pages.

Vic Election Alerts

Vic Election Alerts was a digital communication initiative designed to provide electors with enrolment and voting reminders. Electors were required to register on the VEC website with their email address or mobile number (or both) to receive alerts.

Media relations

The strategic approach driving the media relations program was coordinated information sharing, focusing on the provision of authorised, accurate, traceable, consistent and timely information to effectively inform stakeholders and manage potential issues. Media engagement was focused on ensuring an accurate representation of the electoral process, with a focus on responsiveness when dealing with the media.

Auslan video

The Auslan video prepared for the local government elections in 2016 was also available for the Greater Geelong City Council general election. Signed by an Auslan interpreter and with optional subtitles, the video contains information explaining enrolling and voting entitlements, nomination procedures and voting procedures.

Easy English information booklet

Election information was produced in Easy English with assistance from Scope Victoria for people with low English literacy, and learning and cognitive disabilities.

The booklet was also available on the VEC's website.

Public telephone enquiries

The Greater Geelong City Council general election office established a local telephone enquiry service which

operated from Wednesday 20 September 2017 until the close of voting at 6.00 pm on Friday 27 October 2017. The types of calls related to:

- voting entitlements and obligations
- enrolment questions
- ballot pack had not been received
- ballot material was spoilt or destroyed, so replacement ballot material was required
- a voter advising that he or she was overseas or interstate, and
- queries regarding the content of the ballot pack.

Interpreter services

The Victorian Interpreting and Language Services' Language Link was engaged to provide a telephone interpreting service for multi-language telephone enquiries. The VEC advertised direct lines for 20 languages other than English and a general line for all other languages.

7.7 Candidate Information

Candidate Helper

As previously mentioned, the VEC's Candidate Helper was available to candidates through the VEC's website. The Helper provided candidates with the opportunity to create and edit their candidacy material online. When printed, the form included a barcode which the Returning Officer scanned at the election office to retrieve the information. The candidate's information (data) was uploaded directly into the VEC's EMS. This significantly reduced processing times and streamlined quality assurance practices.

The VEC's Candidate Helper went live on Thursday 7 September 2017, enabling candidates to pre-complete their nomination and other forms online before lodging them in person with the Returning Officer.

Candidate Information Session

The VEC held a candidate information session on Tuesday 19 September 2017. The session provided prospective candidates with information about the election process and their responsibilities as candidates. It was also an opportunity for prospective candidates to meet the Returning Officer, set up a nomination appointment or ask questions about the process.

Information kit

An information kit was made available to prospective candidates at the candidate information session and the election office.

Items included in the kit:

- Candidate Handbook
- Nomination Form
- Scrutineer Handbook

- form for the appointment and declaration of a scrutineer
- form for completion of the candidate statement
- form for completion of the candidate questionnaire
- LGICl campaign donation information sheet
- campaign donation return form
- candidate refund of fees form
- candidate photograph guidelines
- key election dates
- map of the local council area

Candidate bulletins

The Returning Officer provided candidates with regular bulletins during the election period providing reminders on deadlines and other relevant information including counting arrangements.

7.8 Candidate Services

Nominations

Nominations were accepted from Thursday 21 September 2017 until 12 noon on Tuesday 26 September 2017. Nomination forms were required to be lodged by candidates in person at the election office. The fee to nominate as a candidate was \$250 per candidate as set by the LG Act.

There was a total of 53 nominations for 11 vacancies in four wards received during the nomination period. There were 13 candidates for Bellarine Ward, 18 candidates for Brownbill Ward, 11 candidates for Kardinia Ward and 11 candidates for Windermere Ward. This was a decrease from the 2012 election which had 59 nominations for 13 vacancies in 12 wards.

Approximately 81% (43) of candidates completed their nomination form using the VEC's online candidate helper; this was 7% more than the percentage that used the helper in the 2016 local government general elections (74%).

See *Appendix 4* for a full list of candidates at the close of nominations.

Ballot draw

A ballot draw must be conducted for all contested elections after the close of nominations to determine the order in which the candidates' names appear on the ballot paper. The ballot draws were conducted by the Returning Officer and held in the election office. Each ballot draw is conducted electronically using the VEC's random ballot draw application within the EMS. The application randomly lists candidate names in the order they will appear on the ballot paper.

Statements and photos

For the Greater Geelong City Council general election candidates were able to submit a candidate statement of up to 200 words along with a photograph for the VEC to include in the ballot pack mailed to voters. Candidate

statements were published and printed exactly as submitted with no corrections to grammar or spelling by the VEC. All statements were quality assured by VEC staff in a timely manner which ensured that publication and printing was within deadlines. All candidates submitted a statement and photograph, 83% (44) doing so using the VEC's online candidate helper, a 12% increase on the number that used the helper in the 2016 local government general elections (71%).

Candidate Questionnaires

Each candidate was invited to respond to a set of questions prescribed by the Regulations. The questionnaire sought information from candidates relating to their experience and training applicable to the role of a councillor, whether they were endorsed by a registered political party and their vision for the council.

The completed questionnaires were accessible to voters on the VEC website and available in the election office.

Candidates were invited to complete and submit the questionnaire by 12 noon on Wednesday 27 September 2017. All 53 candidates submitted a questionnaire; 37 questionnaires (70%) were completed via the VEC's online candidate helper, a 34% increase on the number that used the helper in the 2016 local government general elections (36%).

Rolls for candidates

Once nominations closed, the VEC used its data exchange server to distribute roll data to candidates. Candidates obtained access to the server by way of an email invitation which included a privacy declaration. Once the candidate agreed to the declaration they were able to download the roll data from the data exchange facility.

A total of 25 candidates downloaded roll data, most doing so in the days after the close of nominations, Tuesday 26 – Thursday 28 September 2017.

Retirement of a candidate

During the voting period it was identified that Stephen McGain, a candidate for Bellarine Ward was ineligible to be a candidate for the election. On Friday 20 October 2017, in accordance with clause 9A of Schedule 2 of the LG Act, candidate McGain was retired, and a public notice of retirement published (as required under clause 8 of Schedule 2 of the LG Act - see Appendix 2).

As the retirement occurred during the voting period, preferences recorded on completed ballot papers against candidate McGain were treated as removed by the Returning Officer in accordance with clause 8(8) of Schedule 2 of the LG Act.

7.9 Election material and products

The VEC has developed an extensive suite of products to support the conduct of local government elections. Whilst ensuring all products comply with the requirements of the LG Act, they have been designed to be as simple and informative as possible for the voter.

Where possible, product generation has been fully automated to allow the VEC to meet the tight timelines for printing and dispatch of the products.

Ballot packs

During the conduct of a postal election, the Returning Officer must send or deliver ballot material to each voter on the roll who is entitled to vote at the election. The ballot material mailed to voters included:

- a postal vote declaration envelope
- a ballot paper and joined candidate statements product that included instructions about how to vote correctly and notice of how and when the completed ballot paper must be returned
- a prepaid return envelope.

See *Appendix 5* for a sample ballot pack. Multi-language leaflets were also included for the Greater Geelong City Council general election.

Design and print of ballot papers

As per previous elections in subdivided municipalities, the ballot paper for each ward was a different colour to the other wards within the council. This assisted during the compilation of ballot material and helped ensure that voters received the correct ballot material. Additionally, the return pre-paid envelopes contained colour coding to each ward to assist with the sorting of returned material.

Production and mail out of ballot material for postal elections

For the printing of ballot material for the Greater Geelong City Council general election, the VEC's contracted printing company was engaged. The company has extensive experience in elections, having been engaged by the VEC for many major electoral events over many years. Their experience and expertise minimises risk to the organisation as their processes are proven.

The Regulations require the VEC to post ballot packs to voters at least 15 days prior to the close of voting. This places significant pressure on print production and mailing.

As in previous years, the VEC utilised direct extraction of ballot paper and candidate statement data from EMS using Extensible Mark-up Language (XML) into pre-prepared ballot paper and candidate statement templates. Each template was specifically coded to accept the number of candidates that had nominated for a particular election. This process ensured a speedier turnaround of ballot paper and candidate statement print-ready artwork that included the ballot paper, candidate statements and photographs. Implementation of this process in 2017 meant that the artwork for all postal elections was lodged for printing by 6.00 pm on Wednesday 27 September 2017.

As required by the Regulations, ballot packs were mailed randomly over three days; Tuesday 10 October – Thursday 12 October 2017 with no more than 35% being mailed to voters on the roll each day. Over the three day

period, the VEC mailed out a total of 194,706 ballot packs. All ballot packs were mailed using the Australia Post priority service.

Return of ballot paper envelopes

Completed ballot paper envelopes were returned to the election office using Australia Post’s priority paid service. The VEC’s arrangements with Australia Post allowed returned mail to be pre-sorted into wards where applicable, prior to receipt by the Returning Officer.

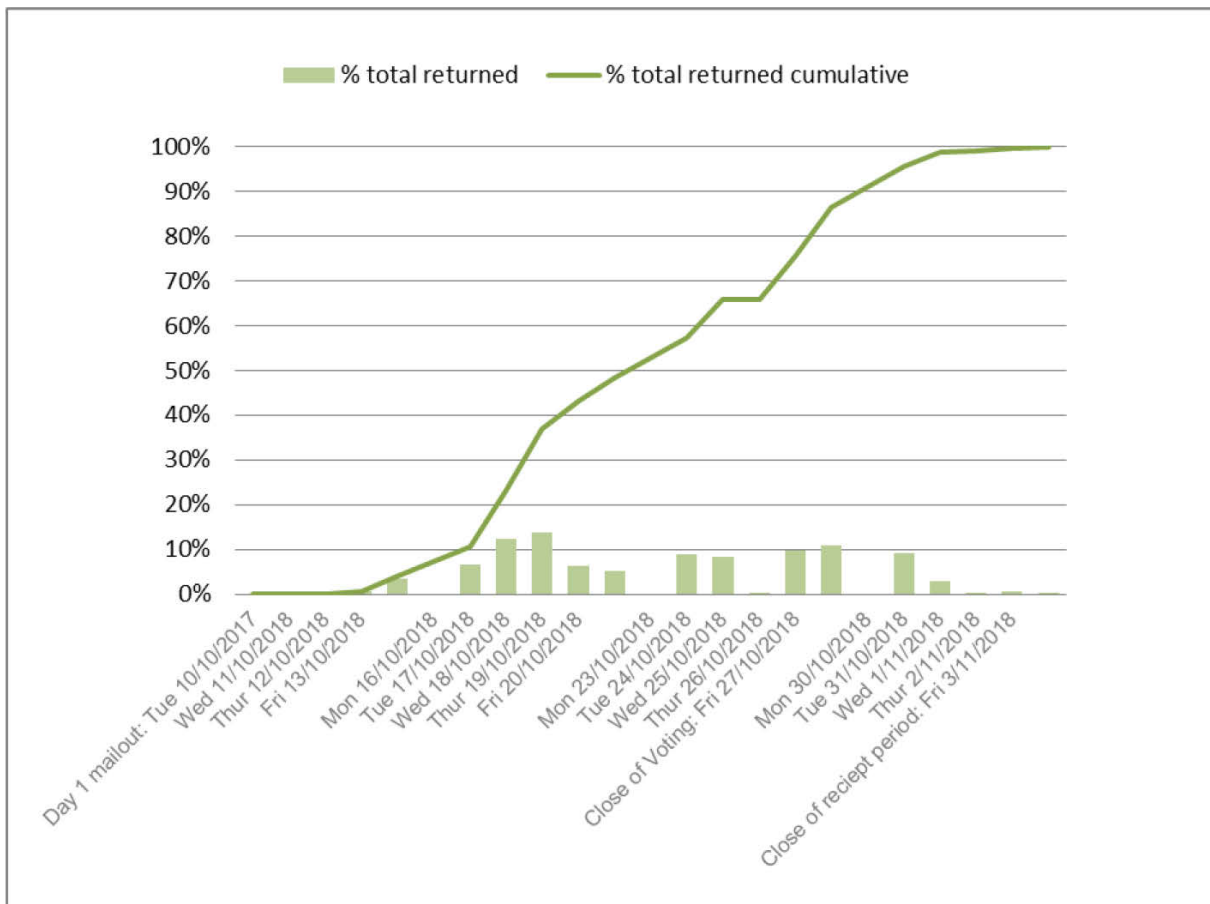
The Returning Officer received 135,157 returned ballot paper envelopes through the post by the close of voting at 6.00 pm on Friday 27 October 2017. The Regulations allow for the Returning Officer to admit returned ballot paper envelopes received by post before 12 noon on

Friday 3 November 2017 if satisfied that the vote had been posted prior to the close of voting. The Returning Officer accepted 21,143 returned ballot paper envelopes during the extended postal vote receipt period.

In total, the Returning Officer admitted 149,955 ballot paper envelopes to extraction and counting processes. Any ballot paper envelopes not signed by the voter or, in the case of unenrolled declaration votes, where an entitlement was not found for the person, were not admitted to the extraction and count.

Figure 3 shows the pattern of ballot paper envelopes returned for postal elections between day one of the mailout on 10 October to the close of the extended postal vote receipt period on Friday 3 November.

Figure 3: **Ballot paper envelope return pattern**



7.10 Services for voters who are blind or have low vision

The VEC worked with Vision Australia and Blind Citizens Australia to provide election information to blind and low vision voters. This included making information about the election available for download in large print and audio files and 'BrowseAloud' functionality of the VEC website. Braille and large print ballot material was also available to voters who had registered for these products, and on request. A total of two braille and nine large print ballot packs were issued to voters for the Greater Geelong City Council general election.

7.11 Election results

Close of voting

Close of voting for the election was Friday 27 October 2017 at 6.00 pm.

The Regulations allow for a 5 day postal vote receipt period where votes are able to be admitted for postal and attendance elections if the Returning Officer is satisfied that the voter completed the declaration before the close of voting and the vote was received by the Returning Officer before the end of the postal vote receipt period. The close of the extended postal vote period for the Greater Geelong City Council general election was on 12 noon on Friday 3 November 2017.

Following the close of voting, the extraction of ballot papers commenced on Saturday 28 October 2017 at the Geelong West Town Hall, 153 Pakington Street, Geelong West. The extraction of all admitted ballot paper envelopes was completed on Friday 3 November 2017, following the end of the extended postal vote receipt period. The extraction process involved separating the declaration flaps containing the voter's details from each admitted ballot paper envelope, and then extracting the contents from the ballot paper envelope. This two-stage process maintains anonymity and ensures the number of envelopes is tracked for ongoing reconciliation.

Any returned ballot paper envelopes found not to contain a regulation ballot paper or contained more than one ballot paper were required to be rejected and could not be counted. There were 340 returned ballot paper envelopes rejected during the extraction activity.

Following the extraction of ballot papers from the returned ballot paper envelopes, a total of 149,616 ballot papers were submitted for counting.

Counting

Due to the extended postal vote receipt period, the VEC implemented a strategy where votes were categorized into two separate groups. The first group of votes were those received up until the close of voting from voters who had not requested replacement ballot material. First preference counts were completed for this group from election weekend and into the following week. The second group of votes included the remaining votes received by the end of the postal vote receipt period and

were counted from 12 noon Friday 3 November 2017 onwards. Preference distributions could not be conducted until all first preference counts were complete and computer counted results could not be calculated until all ballot papers to be included in the count had been data entered into the VEC's computer count application.

Ballot papers for the four Wards were counted at Marcus Oldham College, 145 Pigdons Road, Waurn Ponds by computer data entry using the VEC's computer counting application. The application checks for the formality of each ballot paper and when the calculation function is enabled, distributes preferences using the proportional representation method. The Returning Officer invited candidates and scrutineers to attend an information session on the computer count process, which was held at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 24 October 2017 at Council Chambers, Geelong City Hall, 30 Gheringhap Street, Geelong.

Following the completion of data entry, the provisional results were calculated at 3.00 pm on Saturday 4 November 2017 at the election office. The provisional results were published to the VEC website as they became available.

Recounts

Clause 13 of Schedule 3 of the LG Act states that a recount of votes can be actioned at the decision of the Returning Officer or at the written request of a candidate which is accepted by the Returning Officer at any time before a candidate has been declared elected.

There were no formal requests for recounts for the Greater Geelong City Council general election.

7.12 Declaration of results

The results of the Greater Geelong City Council general election were declared at 4.00 pm on Monday 6 November 2017 at Council Chambers, Geelong City Hall, 30 Gheringhap Street, Geelong.

The VEC website was updated following the declaration to reflect the elected candidates from the election. A table showing the successful candidates can be found at Appendix 6.

In accordance with clause 23(2)(b) of Schedule 2 of the LG Act, the Electoral Commissioner advised the Minister for Local Government, of the declared results for the Greater Geelong City council general election on Monday 13 November 2017.

7.13 Refund of nomination deposits

In accordance with clause 24 of Schedule 2 of the LG Act, candidates are eligible to receive a refund of their \$250 nomination fee if:

- the candidate is declared elected or
- the total number of first preference votes the candidate receives is at least equal to 4% of the total number of first preference votes in favour of all the candidates in the election.

Of 53 candidates, 36 were eligible to receive a refund of their nomination fee resulting in the VEC issuing a total amount of \$9,000 by way of refund. A total of 17 candidates did not meet the above provisions resulting in a total amount of \$4,250 being forfeited to the Greater Geelong City Council.

7.14 Voter participation

Participation is measured by the number of marks on the roll as a percentage of the total enrolment and can vary from turnout.

Overall participation in the Greater Geelong City Council general election was 79.73%, which is compared to an average of 75.67% for all postal elections held across the State at the 2016 local government elections (excluding Melbourne City Council).

Analysis of voter participation for the different enrolment categories shows that participation is higher for voters who are enrolled on the Electoral Commissioner's List, for which voting is compulsory (82.16%) compared to voters enrolled on the CEO List (60.61%), where voting is not compulsory.

Voter participation statistics are included in *Appendix 7*.

7.15 Voter turnout

Voter turnout is measured as the number of formal and informal votes counted as a percentage of voters on the roll. For reporting consistency purposes, figures for voter turnout include all ballot papers admitted to the count, and do not include rejected envelopes. Accordingly, they do not reflect total participation.

Voter turnout for the 2017 Greater Geelong City Council general election was 76.84 percent. This is lower than the turnout of 77.70 percent at its last general election in October 2012 but higher than the turnout of 73.75 percent at the postal elections in the 2016 local government elections (excluding Melbourne City Council Leadership Team). See *Figure 4* and *Appendices 8* and *9* for further details on voter turnout.

7.16 Informal voting rates

A vote is classified as informal when the voter does not complete the ballot paper in accordance with instructions or if their voting intention cannot be determined. Votes classified as informal cannot be admitted to a count.

The percentage of informal votes at the 2017 Greater Geelong City Council general election was 6.53 percent. This is higher than the 6.02 percent informality seen at the postal elections in the 2016 local government elections (excluding City of Melbourne Leadership Team) and much higher than the 2.41 percent experienced at the Greater Geelong City Council general election in October 2012.

See *Figure 4* and *Appendices 8* and *9* of this report.

Figure 4: Greater Geelong City Council general election turnout and informality percentages compared to previous general elections

	Turnout %	Informality %
2017	76.84	6.53
Postal elections - 2016 local government elections (excluding Melbourne Leadership team)	73.75	6.02
2012	77.70	2.41

7.17 Complaints

A dedicated complaints team based at the VEC's Head Office handled all complaints received in writing.

Complaints in relation to local government elections generally fall into two broad categories:

- the conduct of participants in the election - complaints about the conduct of candidates and other participants in the election (often where the complainant alleged inappropriate or illegal behaviour by another person or group associated with the election, at times alleging a breach of the LG Act or local laws).
- the administration of the election - complaints about the conduct of the election and services to voters.

The VEC received six written complaints in relation to the Greater Geelong City Council general election. Four complaints were in relation to the administration of the election and two related to the conduct of a participant in the election.

The VEC committed to responding to each complaint within five working days. The VEC's average response time for the Greater Geelong City Council general election was three working days.

7.18 Applications to the Municipal Electoral Tribunal and Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

The LG Act establishes a Municipal Electoral Tribunal (MET), which sits in the Magistrates' Court of Victoria, to consider applications for an inquiry to dispute a local government election. The Tribunal's powers are prescribed in the LG Act and applications for an inquiry must be lodged with the Magistrates' Court within 14 days of the declaration of the election being disputed. As the electoral service provider under the LG Act, the VEC appears before the Tribunal to respond to claims against the election process. Prior to the 2016 local government elections, the LG Act was also changed to allow the VEC to apply directly to the Tribunal to inquire into an election.

No applications to the MET were lodged following the Greater Geelong City Council general election.

7.19 Election reports to Councils

Pursuant to clause 14 of Schedule 3 of the LG Act, a report is to be prepared and submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of the relevant council on the conduct of the election within three months of election day.

A report was sent to the Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Geelong City Council on Wednesday 24 January 2017. The report included a certified record of ballot papers and declarations printed, issued, used, spoiled and returned as required by the legislation. Comprehensive details and statistics regarding election arrangements and outcomes were also included in the report.

7.20 Compulsory voting enforcement

In accordance with Division 7 of Part 3 of the LG Act, the VEC has commenced compulsory voting enforcement for the Greater Geelong City Council general election.

List of non-voters

Following the Greater Geelong City Council general election, the VEC commenced preliminary work in readiness for the production of the non-voter list. Postal vote declarations received after the cut-off date and voter information reports received during the elections – detailing voter excuses for not voting – were processed through the VEC’s election management system between November and December. Commencing in mid-January 2017 the VEC prepared the list of non-voters in accordance with the Regulations. This included the exclusion of any non-voters who are automatically exempt from compulsory voting, such as those voters over 70 years of age.

The VEC’s enforcement program involves three stages of notices and lodgement of any outstanding matters with the courts. The VEC provides updates to the council on the statistics at each stage.

Apparent Failure-to-vote Notice

The VEC prepared and sent an apparent failure-to-vote notice to all voters who appeared not to have voted and were not excused or automatically exempt. A total of 21,312 apparent failure-to-vote notices were dispatched on 19 January 2018. Apparent non-voters had 28 days in which to reply.

Infringement Notice

Following the Apparent Failure-to-vote notice process, in early March, the VEC prepared and dispatched 15,527 infringement notices. Of those 2,012 had responded to the apparent failure-to-vote notice but their excuse was not deemed sufficient and 13,515 had not responded to the apparent failure-to-vote notice. A penalty of \$78 applied to this notice. Non-voters have 42 days in which to respond to the infringement notice.

During the infringement period, non-voters have a number of options under the Infringements Act 2006 including:

- pay the penalty in full
- seek a payment plan
- seek a review of the infringement - the legislation sets out the criteria on which a review can be requested and the process for conducting the review.

Penalties collected during the infringement period are reconciled and forwarded to councils.

Penalty Reminder Notice

At the close of the infringement period the VEC will prepare and send a Penalty Reminder Notice to those apparent non-voters who have not paid the penalty or had their infringement withdrawn. A penalty plus prescribed costs applies to this notice. The same options apply as for the infringement notice and non-voters have 42 days in which to respond. It is envisaged that the penalty reminder stage will conclude in late June 2018.

Lodgement with the courts

During the infringement and penalty reminder stages of enforcement non-voters can opt to have their matter heard directly in the Magistrates’ Court. The VEC will commence proceedings against any such non-voters in two stages – at the conclusion of the infringement stage and again at the conclusion of the penalty reminder stage.

Once all stages of enforcement have been completed the VEC will produce final court files to lodge with the Infringements Court for prosecution.

Prosecution of non-voters at the Infringements and Magistrates’ Courts involve significant time and resources. Matters referred to the Courts may not be resolved until well after the completion of the notice period, and can be expected to continue into subsequent financial years.

Figure 5: **Compulsory voting enforcement statistics as of 6 March 2018**

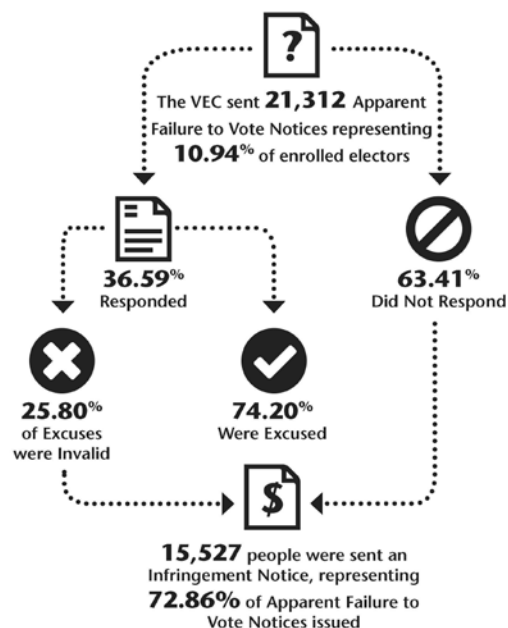


Figure 6: Compulsory voting enforcement statistics as of 6 March 2018

Apparent Failure to Vote Notices (AFTVN) issued as percentage of total enrolment.	10.94% (21,312)
Response rate to Apparent Failure to Vote Notice	36.59% (7,797)
Invalid responses as percentage of total responses	25.80% (2,012)
No response to AFTVN	63.41% (13,515)
Percentage of voters excused based on returned AFTVN	74.20% (5,785)
Infringement Notices issued as percentage of AFTVNs	72.86% (15,527)

7.21 Invoicing

As outlined in the Election Service Plan, the VEC is mindful of providing cost efficient election services to councils in Victoria. As in previous local government elections, the VEC applied a marginal cost recovery model to the Greater Geelong City Council general election where all direct costs are recovered.

The VEC invoices in two main stages, the first invoice for the preparation of the voters' roll and the conduct of the election was sent to the Greater Geelong City Council on Tuesday 16 January 2018. A second invoice for the dispatch and processing of three non-voter notices is expected to be sent to the Greater Geelong City Council in mid-2018. Further invoices are issued where prosecution costs are incurred. These will be raised in following financial years.

The VEC acknowledges that there has been inflationary pressures which has increased some of the costs associated with local government elections. The VEC has previously outlined that cost increases have been evident with:

- communication and advertising costs
- Australia Post rate increases
- rates of pay for election officials
- market rent for election office accommodation
- paper for the production of ballot material
- transport and logistics in relation to movement and delivery of equipment and ballot material and
- costs associated with travel.

8 Debrief and Evaluation

The VEC conducted a debriefing and evaluation program after the Greater Geelong City Council general election, inviting feedback from the council, candidates and staff. All feedback received is considered during the preparation and planning of future local government elections.

8.1 Council

On Wednesday 13 December 2017, the Greater Geelong City Council was invited to complete an online evaluation survey following the conclusion of the election. The survey took approximately 10 minutes with the aim being to assess the VEC's performance in the execution of the elections as well as obtain valuable feedback for future development of the VEC's local government elections program. The feedback provided indicated that the council was satisfied with the overall management of the election and no issues were raised.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Voter numbers by ward

Ward	Electoral Commissioner's List	Chief Executive Officer's List					Total	Certified Roll Total
		N	A	P	O	T		
Bellarine	44,769	11,591	3		1		11,595	56,364
Brownbill	51,799	3,894	6		1		3,901	55,700
Kardinia	45,350	3,775	11				3,786	49,136
Windermere	30,779	2,731	11				2,742	33,521
Total	172,697	21,991	31		2		22,024	194,721

- N** The number of non-resident ratepayers automatically entitled to enrolment as per section 13 of the LG Act), forms the bulk of the council list.
- A** Applicant Resident voters – Resident ratepayers who are entitled for council elections but are not on the state register – Non-citizen ratepayers basically, from the council list.
- P** Occupier ratepayers – People who pay rates on a leased property and have applied to council to vote for that entitlement with agreement of the property owner, from the council list.
- O** Corporation (owner) applicants - People who have applied to vote on behalf of a corporation that owns a rateable property in the council.
- T** Corporation (occupier) applicants – Like occupier ratepayers (P), but for corporations.

Appendix 2: Advertising

2.1: Notice of entitlement (statutory)



Greater Geelong City Council Elections

Your Council, Your Vote

You must be enrolled to vote
Elections will be held for Greater Geelong City Council in October 2017.
To be able to vote, you must be enrolled by 4.00 pm on Friday 1 September 2017.

You are already enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 28 October 2017 **AND**
- you live in the City of Greater Geelong and you are on the State electoral roll for your present address **OR**
- you own property in the City of Greater Geelong, don't live in the municipality, and you are the first or second-named person on the Council's rate records.* **OR**
- you enrolled through Council for this October's elections.

*If you own more than one property in the municipality, you may specify to Council the property for which you wish to claim entitlement by 4.00 pm on Friday 1 September 2017.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 28 October 2017 **AND**
- you are not on the State electoral roll **OR**
- you have lived at your present residential address for at least a month and have not updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

How do you enrol?
Enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au or pick up a form at any post office or Australian Electoral Commission office and return it to the Victorian Electoral Commission by 4.00 pm on Friday 1 September 2017.

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you are not an Australian citizen, but you live and pay rates in the City of Greater Geelong **OR**
- you pay rates on a property you occupy in the City of Greater Geelong and have no other voting entitlement within that municipality, e.g. you are a shop tenant and are either named on the Council's rates records to receive the rates notice or have the written consent of the owner to vote in their place **OR**
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates in the City of Greater Geelong and have no other voting entitlement within that municipality.

If you meet the above criteria and wish to enrol, contact Greater Geelong City Council on (03) 5272 4667 for a special enrolment form.

Checking your enrolment?
If you are an Australian citizen you can check your enrolment details at vec.vic.gov.au at any time, or call 1300 805 478.

If you are not an Australian citizen or you are a non-resident, contact the council on (03) 5272 4667.

**Enrol before 4.00 pm
Friday 1 September 2017**

Register for SMS and email alerts at vec.vic.gov.au

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

- አማርኛ 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian
- 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داری 9209 0193 Dari
- Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer
- 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin
- فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian
- Soomaali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
- Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

 vec.vic.gov.au  Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

2.2: Notice of election (statutory)

Greater Geelong City Council Elections

Your Council, Your Vote



Vote by post this October

Voting

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Greater Geelong City Council elections from Tuesday 10 October 2017. Your completed ballot material must be in the mail or hand-delivered to the Returning Officer by 6.00 pm on Friday 27 October.



If you will be away

If you will be away or your mailing address will change after Friday 1 September, you can apply for your ballot pack to be redirected. Download the Redirection of Ballot Pack form at vec.vic.gov.au/GeelongElection or write to:

Returning Officer
Greater Geelong City Council election
c/- Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Completed applications can be:

- faxed to (03) 9620 1568
- scanned and emailed to redirections@vec.vic.gov.au, or
- mailed to the Returning Officer.

Each voter requesting redirection must sign their request. Requests for redirection must be received by 5.00 pm on Thursday 21 September 2017.

Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for blind and low vision voters who register by 5.00 pm Wednesday 13 September. To register, call (03) 8620 1122 during business hours.

How to nominate as a candidate

To nominate as a candidate you must complete a nomination form and lodge it, together with the \$250 nomination fee, in person with the Returning Officer. Nomination forms can be lodged during business hours from Thursday 21 September until 12 noon on Tuesday 26 September at:

Busport, 17 Gheringhap Street, Geelong

To help reduce waiting time while nominations are processed, visit vec.vic.gov.au and pre-complete your nomination form using the Candidate Helper.

The Candidate Helper will be available from Thursday 7 September. Print your pre-completed form and lodge it with the Returning Officer along with the \$250 nomination fee.

Call the Returning Officer from Wednesday 20 September on (03) 8619 1421 to make a nomination appointment.

Candidate information session

When: 6.30 pm Tuesday 19 September 2017

Where: Council Chambers, Geelong City Hall, 30 Gheringhap Street, Geelong

Candidate Information Kits containing nomination forms and other electoral information will be available at this session.

Colin Riley

Returning Officer

Nominations close 12 noon

Tuesday 26 September

Register for SMS and email alerts at vec.vic.gov.au/GeelongElection

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

- ግድግዳ 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • دڙي 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka
- Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ክፍ 9209 0192 K'fir • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 普通话 9209 0106 Mandarin • العربية المغربية 9209 0195 Persian
- Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomaali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese
- All other non-English languages 9209 0112

vec.vic.gov.au | [/electionsvic](https://www.facebook.com/electionsvic) | [@electionsvic](https://twitter.com/electionsvic)

Victorian Electoral Commission


Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

720384

2.3: Voting details (statutory)

Greater Geelong City Council Elections

Your Council, Your Vote



Postal election: check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday 10 October 2017.
This is a postal election.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by Wednesday 18 October please call (03) 8619 1421 during office hours to arrange an alternative.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated to stand for election will be listed in the ballot packs and at vec.vic.gov.au. Where provided by candidates, a photo and a statement will also be included.

Responses to the candidate questionnaire, where provided, will also be available at vec.vic.gov.au.

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your preference. You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

How to return your ballot material

Post your completed ballot paper using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand-deliver it during office hours to:
Busport, 17 Gheringhap Street, Geelong

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll at 4.00 pm on Friday 1 September 2017.
Enrolled residents may be fined if they do not vote — this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if:

- you are aged 70 years or over **OR**
- you live outside this council area **OR**
- you applied directly with Council to be on the roll.

Colin Riley Returning Officer

Busport, 17 Gheringhap Street, Geelong
Tel: (03) 8619 1421 for general enquiries

Office hours:

- 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays)
- 9.00 am to 8.00 pm Thursday 26 October
- 9.00 am to 6.00 pm Friday 27 October


Your completed ballot material must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6.00 pm Friday 27 October

Register for SMS and email alerts at vec.vic.gov.au/GeelongElection

For enquiries in languages other than English call our Interpreting service:

- ግዛርት 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Војнаски 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • دینک 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka
- Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian
- Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomaali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese
- All other non-English languages 9209 0112

vec.vic.gov.au [/electionsvic](https://www.facebook.com/electionsvic) [@electionsvic](https://twitter.com/electionsvic) (03) 8619 1421

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria. 720385

Greater Geelong City Council Elections Candidate retirement

As of Friday 20 October, candidate Stephen McGain has been retired from the 2017 Greater Geelong City Council Bellarine Ward election.

Following the retirement of Mr McGain, 12 candidates remain for the three vacancies in the Bellarine Ward.

Voters should not be concerned if they have already completed and returned their ballot paper. Voters should continue to complete their ballot paper in accordance with the instructions on the ballot paper.

Victorian law ensures that, if for any reason a candidate on the ballot paper is retired, each voter's preferences pass to the remaining candidates in the order the voter has indicated.

***Your completed ballot material must be in the mail
or hand-delivered by 6.00 pm Friday 27 October***

 vec.vic.gov.au


Victorian Electoral Commission 

Authorised by L. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

2.5: Voting reminder (non- statutory)

Greater Geelong City Council Elections

Your Council, Your Vote



Postal election: check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday 10 October 2017.
This is a postal election.
If you have not received your ballot pack, please call (03) 8619 1421 during office hours to arrange an alternative.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated to stand for election will be listed in the ballot packs and at vec.vic.gov.au. Where provided by candidates, a photo and a statement will also be included.
Responses to the candidate questionnaire, where provided, will be available at vec.vic.gov.au.

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your preference. You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

How to return your ballot material

Post your completed ballot paper using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand-deliver it during office hours to:
Busport, 17 Gheringhap Street, Geelong

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
• ገጽገጽ 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • دري 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomaali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese
• All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll at 4.00 pm on Friday 1 September 2017.
Enrolled residents may be fined if they do not vote — this includes homeowners and tenants.
You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if:

- you are aged 70 years or over **OR**
- you live outside this council area **OR**
- you applied directly with Council to be on the roll.





Collin Riley Returning Officer

Busport, 17 Gheringhap Street, Geelong
Tel: (03) 8619 1421 for general enquiries
Office hours:

- 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday
- 9.00 am to 8.00 pm Thursday 26 October
- 9.00 am to 6.00 pm Friday 27 October

Your completed ballot material must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6.00 pm Friday 27 October

Register for SMS and email alerts at vec.vic.gov.au/GeelongElection

vec.vic.gov.au  /electionsvic  @electionsvic  (03) 8619 1421 Victorian Electoral Commission 

Authorised by W. Cateley, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

720386

Greater Geelong City Council elections Declaration of results

The following candidates were elected to the Greater Geelong City Council at the general election held in October 2017:

Bellarine Ward

ASHER, Stephanie (1st elected)

MASON, Jim (2nd elected)

SULLIVAN, Trent (3rd elected)

Brownbill Ward

KONTELJ, Eddy (1st elected)

MANSFIELD, Sarah (2nd elected)

MURRIHY, Peter John (3rd elected)

Kardinia Ward

HARWOOD, Bruce (1st elected)

NELSON, Ron (2nd elected)

MURNANE, Pat (3rd elected)

Windermere Ward

AITKEN, Anthony (1st elected)

GRZYBEK, Kylie (2nd elected)

Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au.

Colin Riley

Returning Officer

Monday 6 November 2017.

 vec.vic.gov.au Victorian Electoral Commission 

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Appendix 3: Examples of the social media communication campaign

3.1 Greater Geelong City Council 2017 Election – community outreach – published Friday 28 April 2017



3.2 Promoted Facebook post – Enrolment – published Friday 11 August 2017



3.3 Facebook post, published Tuesday 22 August 2017

 **The Victorian Electoral Commission**
Published by Mike L Vec [?] · August 22, 2017 · 🌐

You have less than two weeks to enrol for the Greater Geelong City Council 2017 General Election 😊 Every Australian citizen who lives in Geelong, aged 18 and over must enrol.

But there are also other voting entitlements for property owners, corporations, other ratepayers, even people who aren't Australian citizens! 🗳️ Find out about all entitlements to vote in the City of Greater Geelong here: <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/GeelongElection>



Greater Geelong City Council
2017 General Election

General Election - Victorian Electoral Commission

3.4 Facebook post, published Wednesday 30 August 2017

 **The Victorian Electoral Commission**
Published by Mike L Vec [?] · August 30, 2017 · Melbourne, VIC · 🌐

🗳️ Not an Australian citizen but want to enrol for the Greater Geelong City Council General Election this October? Contact City of Greater Geelong ASAP on (03) 5272 4667 to see if you're eligible.
<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/GeelongElection/>



Greater Geelong City Council 2017
General Election - Victorian
Electoral Commission

The Victorian Electoral Commission will be conducting elections for all four wards of Greater...

VEC.VIC.GOV.AU

3.5 Facebook post, published Tuesday 26 September 2017 (close of nominations)



3.6 Promoted Facebook post, published 5 October 2017

Desktop



Mobile



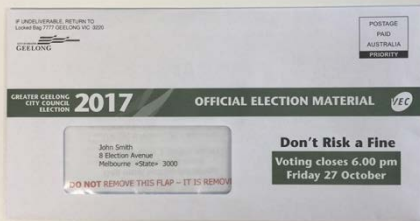
3.7 Facebook post, published Friday 13 October 2017 (mail out completed Thursday 12 October)

 **The Victorian Electoral Commission** added 6 new photos.
 Published by Mike L Vec (?) · October 13, 2017 ·

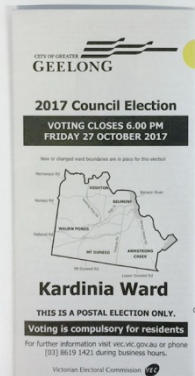
Ballot packs for the Greater Geelong City Council general election are arriving at homes and businesses throughout Geelong as we speak. Keep a look out for yours. This is what they look like - follow these instructions to ensure yours is completed and returned before voting closes at 6.00 pm on Friday 27 October. 🗳️📧📄🗳️

Some household members may receive ballot packs before others, but don't stress, we mail the ballot packs randomly.
<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/GeelongElection/>

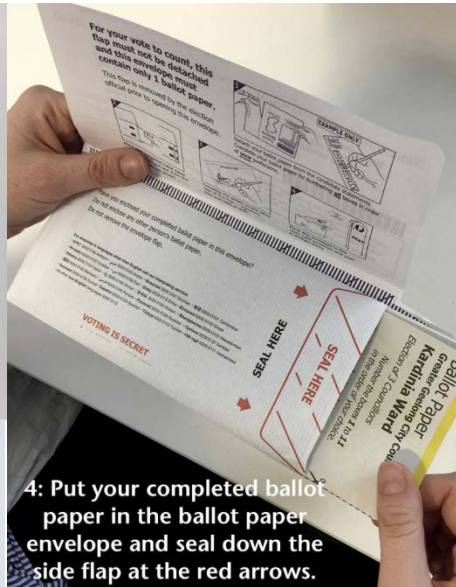
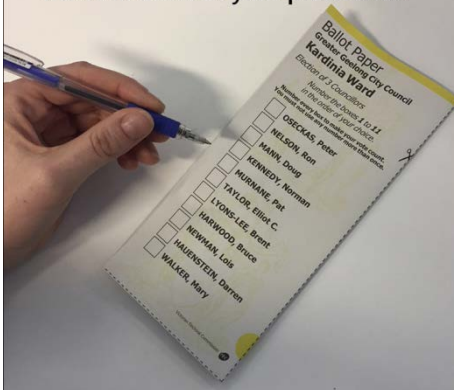
1: The ballot pack to look out for in your mailbox.



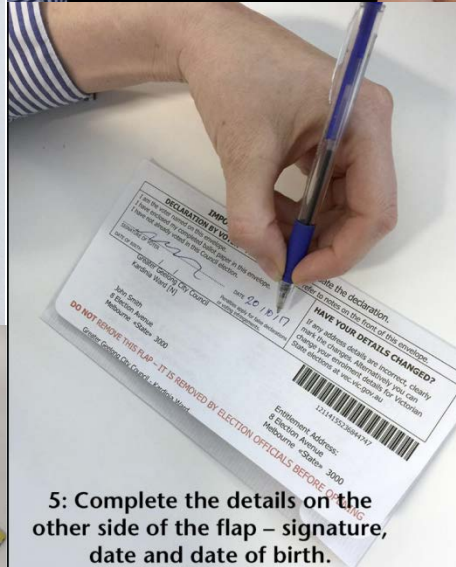
2: The booklet with all the information about the election candidates, with a ballot paper attached.



3: Write '1' in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number ALL remaining boxes in order of your preference.



4: Put your completed ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope and seal down the side flap at the red arrows.



5: Complete the details on the other side of the flap – signature, date and date of birth.

6: Put the ballot paper envelope in the reply-paid envelope and post it before 6.00 pm on Friday 27 October.



3.8 Facebook post, published Monday 23 October 2017



The Victorian Electoral Commission

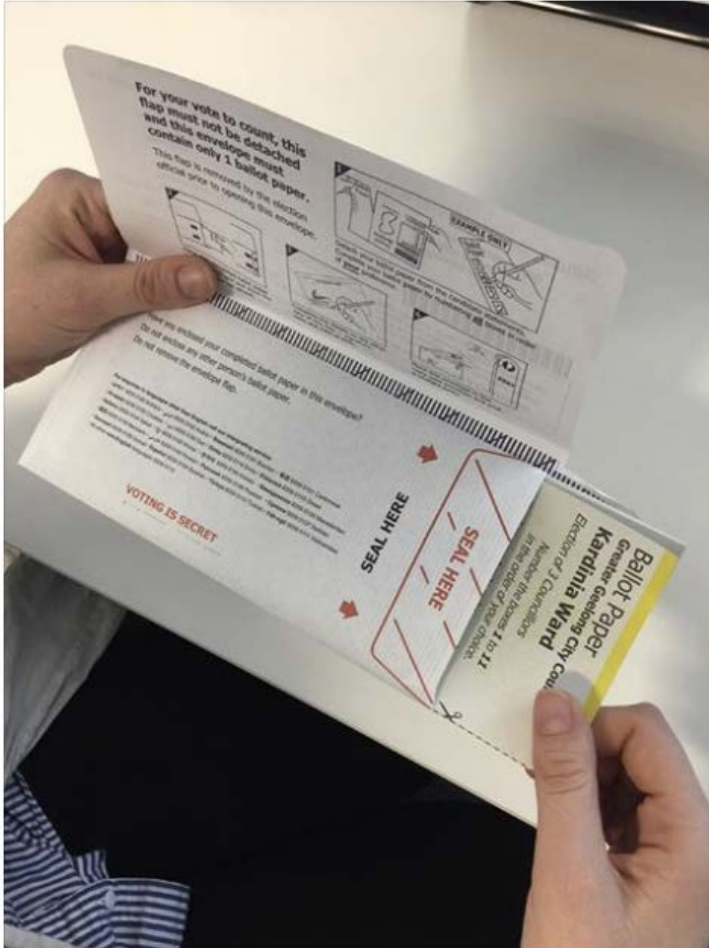
Published by Mike L Vec [?] · October 23, 2017 · ✱

Less than five days to post your completed ballot paper for the City of Greater Geelong general elections. 🗳️📄

If you have lost, damaged or not received your ballot pack, call (03) 8619 1421 during business hours for further advice.

You can also visit the election office and vote on the spot.

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/GeelongElection/>



The Victorian Electoral Commission

Public & Government Service

Send Message

3.9 Facebook post, published Tuesday 24 October 2017



The Victorian Electoral Commission

Published by Mike L Vec [?] · October 24, 2017 · ✱

Time's running out to vote in the City of Greater Geelong council elections. 🗳️🗳️🗳️ Just pop your completed ballot material in the mail before 6.00 pm Friday 27 October. If you're in the Geelong CBD area, feel free to drop your completed ballot paper off at the election office, 17 Gheringhap Street Geelong. But don't try and steal our sign - we're very attached to it... 🗝️ <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/GeelongElection/> #GeelongVotes #haveyoursay #yourcouncilyourvote #everyvotecounts



The Victorian Electoral Commission

Public & Government Service

Send Message

3.10 Facebook post, published Thursday 26 October 2017



The Victorian Electoral Commission

Published by Mike L Vec [?] · October 26, 2017 · *

These City of Greater Geelong voters haven't let the oldest excuse in the book get in the way of exercising their democratic right to vote 🐶🐶🐶



Make sure you get YOUR completed ballot paper in the mail before 6.00 pm Friday 27 October. We won't mind if it's covered in dog drool 😊

#GeelongVotes #YourCouncilYourVote #HaveYourSay

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/GeelongElection/>



The Victorian Electoral Commission

Public & Government Service

Send Message

3.11 Facebook post, published Friday 27 October 2017 (close of voting 6PM)



The Victorian Electoral Commission

Published by Mike L Vec [?] · October 27, 2017 · *

Voting closes TODAY in the Geelong, Victoria elections! POST YOUR VOTE BY 6PM TONIGHT - have your say and avoid a potential \$79 fine! #Geelongvotes



The Victorian Electoral Commission

Public & Government Service

Send Message

Appendix 4: List of candidates

Candidate Name	Ward
ADAMS, Naomi	Bellarine Ward
GOERSCHEL, Petra	Bellarine Ward
SULLIVAN, Trent	Bellarine Ward
ASHER, Stephanie	Bellarine Ward
ROE, Tom	Bellarine Ward
SIMS, Art	Bellarine Ward
McGAIN, Stephen (Retired)	Bellarine Ward
O'BRYAN, Denis	Bellarine Ward
VAN BEVEREN, John	Bellarine Ward
MASON, Jim	Bellarine Ward
BRACKLEY, Anne Elizabeth	Bellarine Ward
WEBB, Stewart	Bellarine Ward
ELLIS, Lindsay	Bellarine Ward
SANDNER, Alec	Brownbill Ward
HATHWAY, Sarah	Brownbill Ward
CSAR, Ellen	Brownbill Ward
MITCHELL, Peter	Brownbill Ward
AIDT, Mik	Brownbill Ward
BULL, Sue	Brownbill Ward
GAMBLE, Jennifer	Brownbill Ward
NEAL, Charles	Brownbill Ward
MANSFIELD, Sarah	Brownbill Ward
GILLARD, Terry	Brownbill Ward
KING, Michael	Brownbill Ward
KONTELJ, Eddy	Brownbill Ward
JACKA, Jacki	Brownbill Ward
BALLAS, George	Brownbill Ward
CADWELL, Melissa June	Brownbill Ward
MURRIHY, Peter John	Brownbill Ward
FIDGE, Freya	Brownbill Ward
SIMMONDS, Stephen	Brownbill Ward
OSECKAS, Peter	Kardinia Ward
NELSON, Ron	Kardinia Ward
MANN, Doug	Kardinia Ward
KENNEDY, Norman	Kardinia Ward
MURNANE, Pat	Kardinia Ward
TAYLOR, Elliot C.	Kardinia Ward
LYONS-LEE, Brent	Kardinia Ward
HARWOOD, Bruce	Kardinia Ward
NEWMAN, Lois	Kardinia Ward
HAUENSTEIN, Darren	Kardinia Ward
WALKER, Mary	Kardinia Ward
AITKEN, Anthony	Windermere Ward
WITHINGTON, David	Windermere Ward
BLASZCZYK, Robert	Windermere Ward
LACEY, Greg	Windermere Ward
KOZUL, Marina	Windermere Ward
GROSSMAN, Jordan	Windermere Ward
GRZYBEK, Kylie	Windermere Ward
BAKER, Bronwen Peta	Windermere Ward
HEIDARI, Moshtagh	Windermere Ward
DICKENS, Ken J.	Windermere Ward
KOZACZEK, Roman	Windermere Ward

Appendix 5: Sample ballot pack



Delivery Address:
PO Box 2500
SAMPLE VIC 0000



No stamp required
if posted in Australia





Returning Officer
Sample Election Office
Reply Paid 00000
SAMPLE VIC 0000

BALLOT PAPER ENVELOPE

Voting Instructions


1. Detach and complete your ballot paper.
2. Put your ballot paper in this envelope and seal the envelope.
3. **Sign** and **date** the flap on this envelope. An election official will remove the flap before opening the envelope to ensure the secrecy of your vote.
4. Place this envelope in the reply paid envelope, seal and post it straight away.

NOTES

- Any voter unable to vote without assistance may authorise a person to sign on their behalf. The authorised persons must ensure their name is clearly written beneath their signature along with the words "authorised signatory".
- Date of birth information may be provided to council to maintain accuracy of Council rolls.

VOTING IS SECRET

M931P
2016

Victorian Electoral Commission 

IF UNDELIVERABLE, RETURN TO
Locked Bag 7777 GEELONG VIC 3220



POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA
PRIORITY

GREATER GEELONG
CITY COUNCIL
ELECTION

2017

OFFICIAL ELECTION MATERIAL


VEC

Don't Risk a Fine

Voting closes 6.00 pm


Friday 27 October

Appendix 5: Sample ballot pack (continued)



BALLOT PAPER
(Please detach before completing)


NOTICE: Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer. Contact details available at vec.vic.gov.au



CANDIDATE, Name

Text Provided by candidate

NOTICE: Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer. Contact details available at vec.vic.gov.au



CANDIDATE, Name

Text Provided by candidate

1
2

Don't Risk a Fine

**VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 2017**

Your ballot paper is attached to this leaflet.
See the ballot paper envelope for voting instructions.

**VOTING IN THIS ELECTION
IS BY POST ONLY**

Your completed ballot material must be posted or in the hands of the Returning Officer on or before **6.00 pm on Friday 27 October 2017**.

Late votes cannot be included in the count.

Alternatively, you may hand-deliver your envelope during business hours to:

Address Line 1
Address Line 2

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

Completed candidate questionnaires are available at vec.vic.gov.au or alternatively from the Returning Officer.


COMPULSORY VOTING PROVISIONS APPLY

You have received this ballot pack because you are enrolled for this election. Voting is compulsory if you were on the Victorian State electoral roll for this council on Friday 1 September 2017.

If you are 70 years of age or over on election day, you are encouraged to vote, but will not be fined if you do not vote.

Further information on voting entitlements can be found at vec.vic.gov.au

You may receive an Apparent Failure To Vote Notice if you complete and return your ballot material after the close of voting.



2017 Council Election


**VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 2017**

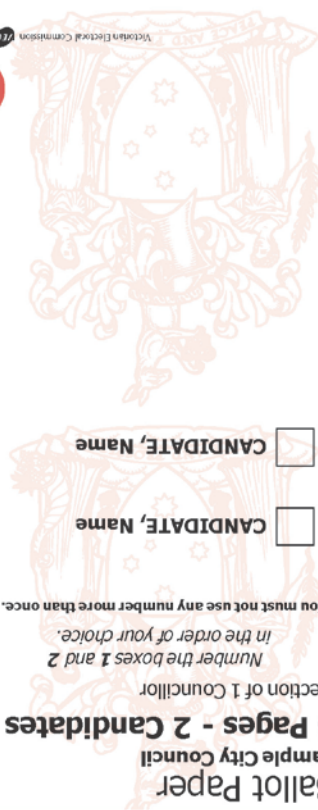
MAP

THIS IS A POSTAL ELECTION ONLY.

Voting is compulsory for residents

For further information visit vec.vic.gov.au or phone [03] 8620 1000 during business hours.

Victorian Electoral Commission 



Ballot Paper
Sample City Council
6 Pages - 2 Candidates
Election of 1 Councillor

Number the boxes 1 and 2
in the order of your choice.

You must not use any number more than once.

CANDIDATE, Name

CANDIDATE, Name

Appendix 6: Successful Candidates

Ward	Successful Candidates
Bellarine Ward	ASHER, Stephanie (1st elected candidate) MASON, Jim (2nd elected candidate) SULLIVAN, Trent (3rd elected candidate)
Brownbill Ward	KONTELJ, Eddy (1st elected candidate) MANSFIELD, Sarah (2nd elected candidate) MURRIHY, Peter John (3rd elected candidate)
Kardinia Ward	HARWOOD, Bruce (1st elected candidate) NELSON, Ron (2nd elected candidate) MURNANE, Pat (3rd elected candidate)
Windermere Ward	AITKEN, Anthony (1st elected candidate) GRZYBEK, Kylie (2nd elected candidate)

Appendix 7: Election participation by category and Ward

Ward	Participation by Enrolment category				Council total
	Voters enrolled through section 12 of the LG Act (EC List)	Voters aged 18 to 69 years old on election day	Voters aged 70 years and over on election day	Voters enrolled through sections 13 – 16 of the LG Act (CEO List)	
Bellarine Ward	83.82%	83.69%	84.34%	65.79%	80.11%
Brownbill Ward	81.36%	81.02%	82.99%	56.55%	79.62%
Kardinia Ward	83.05%	82.69%	84.76%	56.84%	81.03%
Windermere Ward	79.80%	79.27%	82.95%	49.67%	77.34%
Whole of Greater Geelong City Council participation	82.16%	81.80%	83.85%	60.61%	79.73%
Statewide postal election comparator for 2016 LG elections (excl. Melbourne City Council)	78.51%	78.28%	79.73%	55.54%	75.67%

Appendix 8: Statistics by ward

Council/ward name	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	Enrolment	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate
Bellarine Ward	3	13 (-1 Retired)	56,364	75.91%	6.25%
Brownbill Ward	3	18	55,700	77.38%	8.92%
Kardinia Ward	3	11	49,136	78.77%	5.12%
Windermere Ward	2	11	33,521	74.65%	5.07%
Greater Geelong City Council	11	53 (-1 Retired)	194,721	76.84%	6.53%

Appendix 9: Election statistics comparison

	Number of vacancies	Number of electorates	Number of candidates	Average # candidates / election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	change in % voter turnout from last election	change in % informal votes from last election
2017 Geelong	11	4	53	13.25	76.84	6.53	194,721	-0.86 (from 2012) +3.09 (from 2016)	+4.12 (from 2012) +0.51 (from 2016)
2012 Geelong	13	12 + Mayor	59	4.54	77.70	2.41	170,408		
2016 Postal (ex. City of Melbourne Leadership Team)	579	230	1,913	8.32	73.75	6.02	3,716,999		

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Victorian Electoral Commission

Level 11, 530 Collins Street Melbourne Victoria 3000

Ph: 03 8620 1100 | Fax: 03 9629 8632

vec.vic.gov.au

2018