

F2011/21

5 August 2011

Ms Leanne Mash
General Manager
Oberon Council
PO Box 84
OBERON NSW 2787

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OBERON COUNCIL

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Dear Ms Mash

September 2012 Local Government Elections

I write further to our recent meeting regarding arrangements for the September 2012 Local Government Elections for Oberon Council.

I appreciate you and your staff making time to meet with us to discuss the new arrangements for the abovementioned elections. As you are now aware, councils are responsible for the conduct of the September 2012 Local Government Elections. Councils may resolve that the NSWEC is to conduct the elections. Such resolution must be made by 30 November 2011 in accordance with Clause 418 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

During the course of our meetings we provided information to assist councils to make an informed decision as to whether they have the capacity to conduct their own elections.

A number of councils have asked for further information regarding the likely budget for the September 2012 elections in the event that the council resolves that the NSWEC is to conduct these elections. At the meetings, we have explained that the NSWEC does not make any profit, nor has in the past, from the conduct of Local Government elections. The NSWEC will invoice on a cost recovery basis the actual costs of the Local Government elections from those councils which have selected the NSWEC to run their elections.

Councils wishing to estimate the 2012 invoice (assuming the same number of polling places and services) should consider four mark ups to the 2008 charge:

1. Wage costs increasing in the Public sector of 4 years x 4% cumulative (i.e. 17.0%);
2. Other operational costs increasing by 4 years CPI (estimated at 12.8% cumulative);
3. Number of electors being serviced, e.g. a 2% increase in roll numbers will deliver a similar cost increase; and
4. Some 'economy of scale' loss may be inevitable with a reduced number of councils electing to use NSWEC services for the 2012 Local Government Elections. At this stage it is not possible to quantify any impact.

If your council resolves that the NSWEC is to conduct the September 2012 elections council can take comfort from the fact that the elections will be conducted efficiently, effectively, with absolute integrity and at arm's length from the elected councillors and candidates as well as council staff. We have also provided you with a copy of



our Service Charter for NSW Councils which underpins our commitment to excellence in election outcomes.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and your staff and I do hope that your council resolves to select the NSWEC to conduct your elections.

Yours sincerely

Colin Barry
Electoral Commissioner