



Victorian Electoral Commission

Report on the Gippsland South District
By-election held on 14 March 2015



August 2015

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

The Honourable Telmo Languiller, MP,
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

I am pleased to submit to you, for presentation to Parliament, this report on the conduct of the Gippsland South District by-election held on 14 March 2015.

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



Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner

September 2015

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Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Executive summary..... | 2 |
| 1. Snapshot..... | 3 |
| Participation | 4 |
| 2. Background..... | 6 |
| The writ | 6 |
| Election timeline..... | 6 |
| Preliminary arrangements with other agencies..... | 6 |
| The former member | 7 |
| Profile of the District..... | 7 |
| Map of the District..... | 7 |
| Past Results for Gippsland South District..... | 8 |
| 3. Participation | 8 |
| Enrolment..... | 8 |
| Turnout..... | 8 |
| Informal voting | 8 |
| 4. Election Personnel | 9 |
| Election Manager..... | 9 |
| Support for Election Manager | 9 |
| Recruitment and training..... | 9 |
| 5. Services to Electors | 10 |
| Enrolment..... | 10 |
| Services for electors from non-English speaking backgrounds | 10 |
| Accessibility of voting centres | 10 |
| Voting before Election Day | 11 |
| Voting on Election Day..... | 11 |
| 6. Services to registered political parties and candidates | 12 |
| By-election briefings for parties and candidates | 12 |
| Registration of how-to-vote cards | 12 |
| 7. Communication services..... | 13 |
| Direct mail | 13 |
| Newspaper advertising | 13 |
| Telephone enquiry service..... | 13 |
| Email information | 13 |
| Website | 13 |
| Social media | 14 |
| Media relations..... | 14 |
| 8. Complaints | 14 |
| 9. Counting the votes | 14 |
| 10. Declaration of result, return of the writ | 14 |
| 11. Actual cost | 15 |
| 12. Refund of nomination deposits | 15 |
| 13. Electoral entitlements..... | 15 |
| 14. Enforcement of compulsory voting | 16 |
| 15. Appendices | 17 |
| Appendix A: Detailed voting statistics | 18 |
| Appendix B: Distribution of preference votes..... | 21 |
| Appendix C: Communication products..... | 22 |
| Appendix D: Analysis of informal votes..... | 30 |

Executive summary

A by-election for the Gippsland South (State) District was triggered by the resignation, on 2 February 2015, of the sitting member, the Honourable Peter Ryan, MP.

The fact that this resignation so closely followed the 2014 State election allowed the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to reinstate District voting arrangements. The same election management team/staff and venues were utilised. Recent and effective relationships with suppliers and contractors familiar with the District and the VEC requirements, contributed to the success of the by-election.

A communication campaign that included householder letters on enrolment and voting, and a range of newspaper advertisements helped ensure that electors were aware of details of the by-election, their voting options and the result.

Eight candidates nominated for the by-election. Four independent candidates nominated and the Nationals, the Liberal Democrats, the Australian Greens, and the Liberal Party each endorsed a candidate. The Australian Labor Party did not nominate a candidate for this by-election. As no candidate achieved an absolute majority, a preference distribution was required. Mr Danny O'Brien, the candidate for the Nationals, who polled 45.22% of the first preference votes, was elected at the fifth exclusion.

The turnout rate of 87.06% for the by-election was lower than the turnout rate of 94.00% for Gippsland South District in the 2014 State election. However the turnout rate for the Gippsland South by-election was higher than the average turnout of 79.59% for the five preceding State by-elections.

In line with observed trends, the proportion of voters who voted prior to Election Day in person or by post, was 34.13%. This phenomenon has been observed around Australia and will be the subject of consideration by the VEC.

The informality rate of 5.51%, with eight candidates, was a slight increase on the informality rate of 5.50% for the Gippsland South District with six candidates at the 2014 State election. Yet the informality rate was lower than the average informality rate of 8.95% for the five preceding State by-elections.

An analysis of the informal votes has been conducted and a report is included in Appendix D.

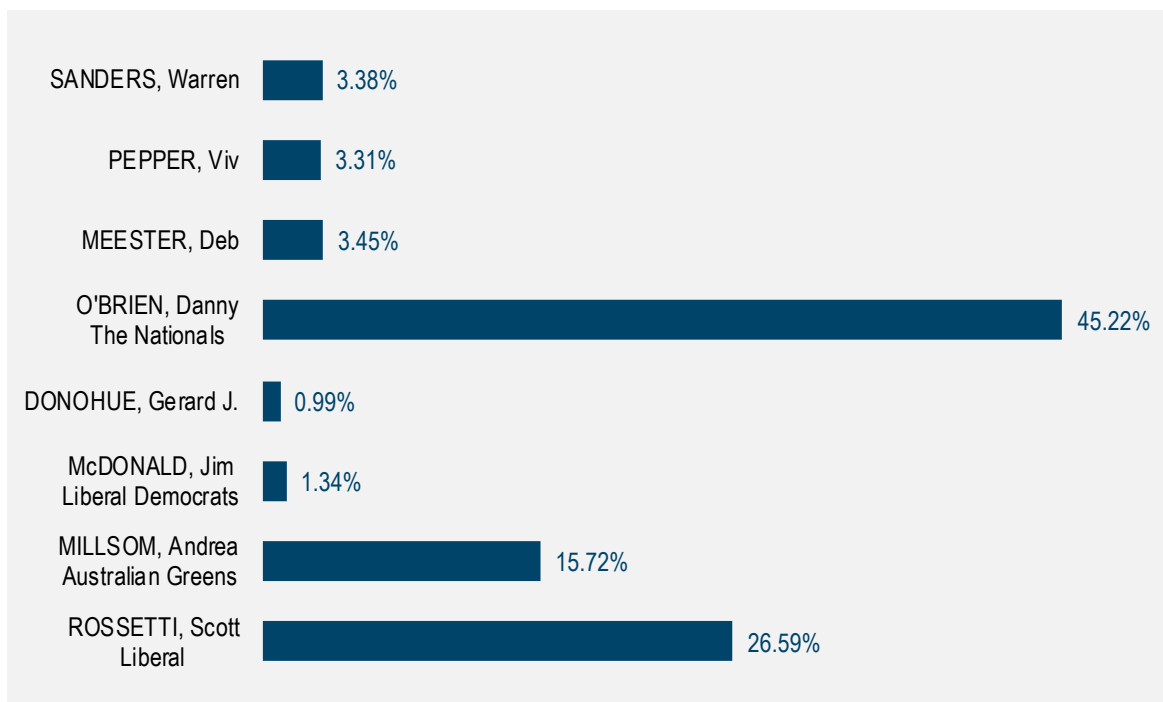
The result of the by-election was declared on Wednesday 18 March 2015, and the writ was returned to the Speaker the Hon. Telmo Languiller MP that afternoon. This efficient conclusion to the by-election allowed Mr O'Brien to take his seat in Parliament before the Easter recess. I take this opportunity to thank all VEC staff, contractors and suppliers, and particularly Election Manager, Ms Janine Taylor, Assistant Election Managers, Mr David Egan and Mrs Di Hastings and Election Support Officer, Ms Therese Camm for their contributions to the very successful conduct of the Gippsland South District by-election.



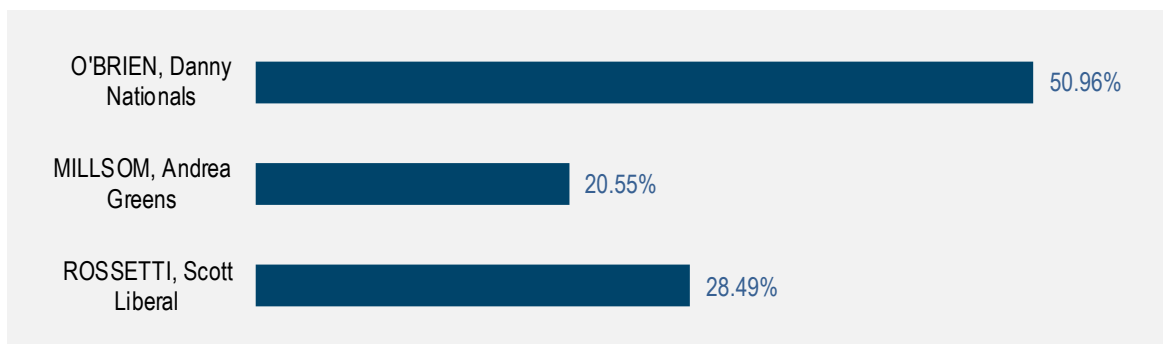
Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner

1. Snapshot

First preference votes (% of first preference votes)

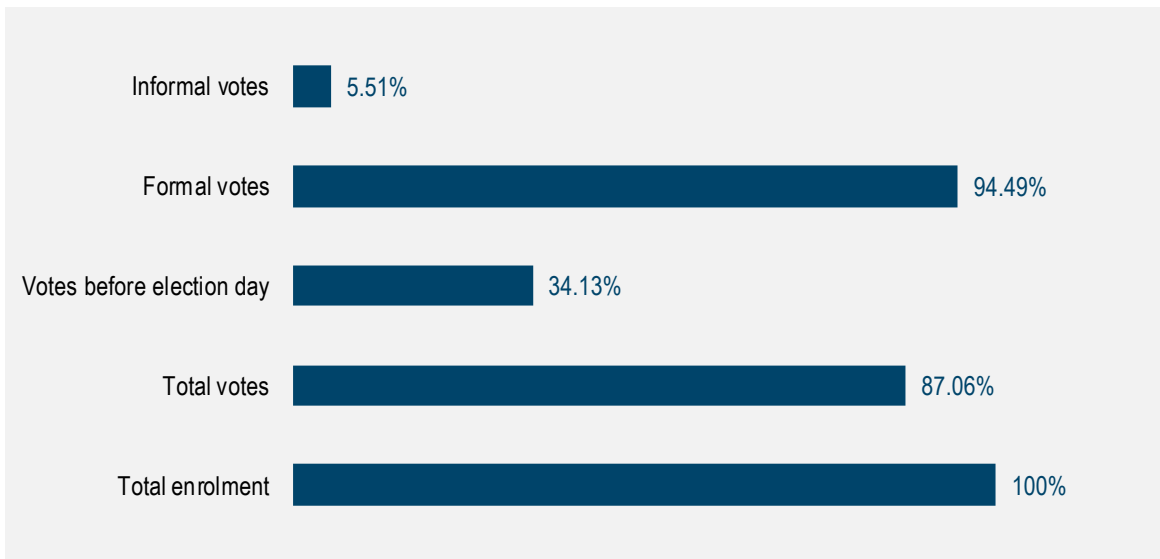


Results after distribution of preferences

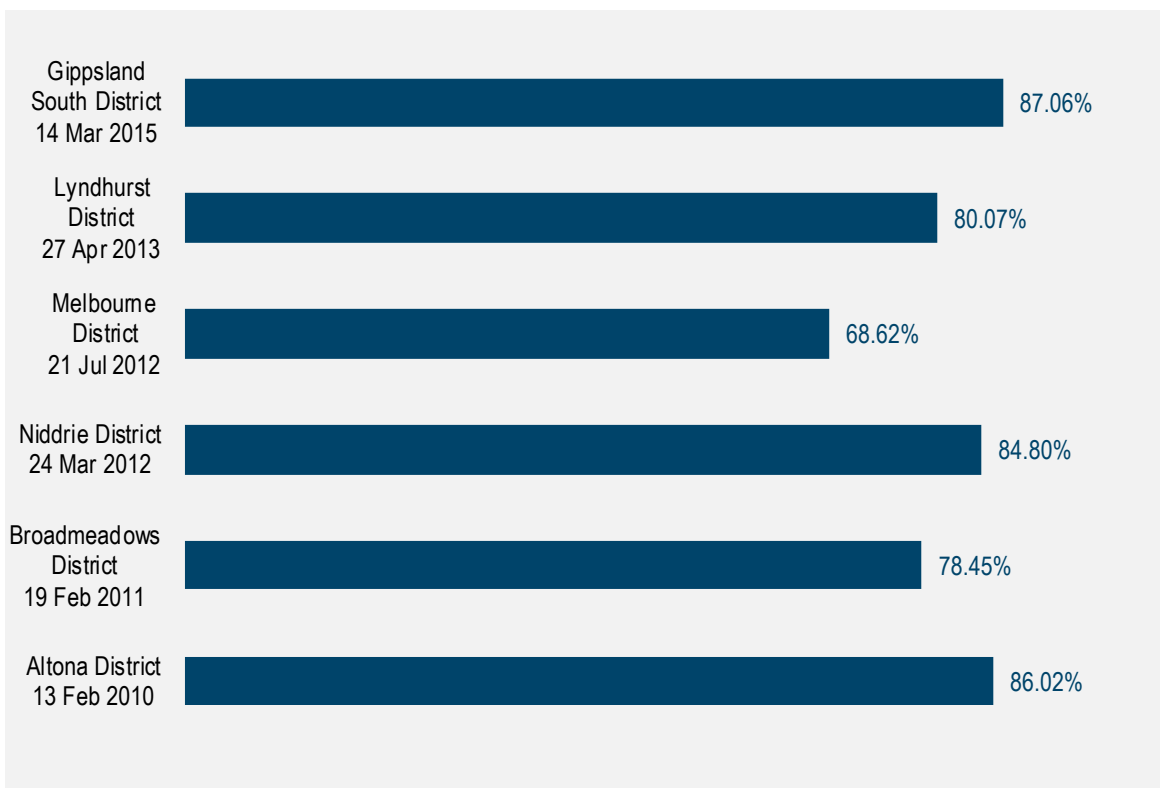


Participation

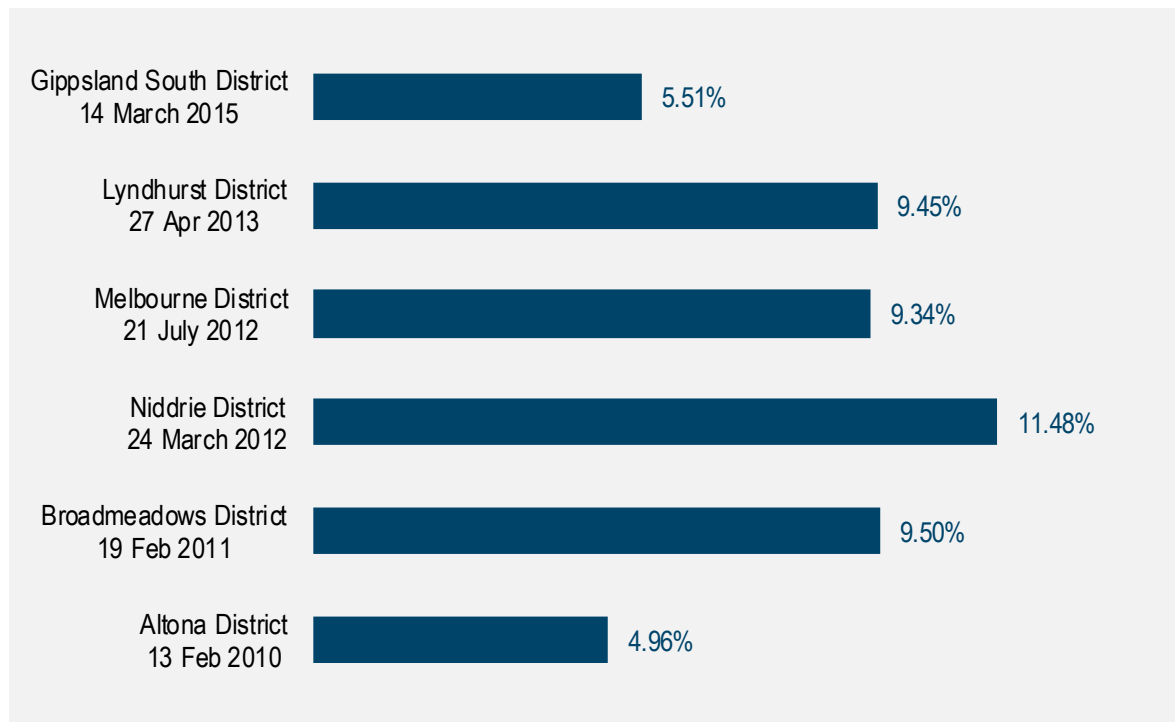
Participation at Gippsland South District by-election 2015



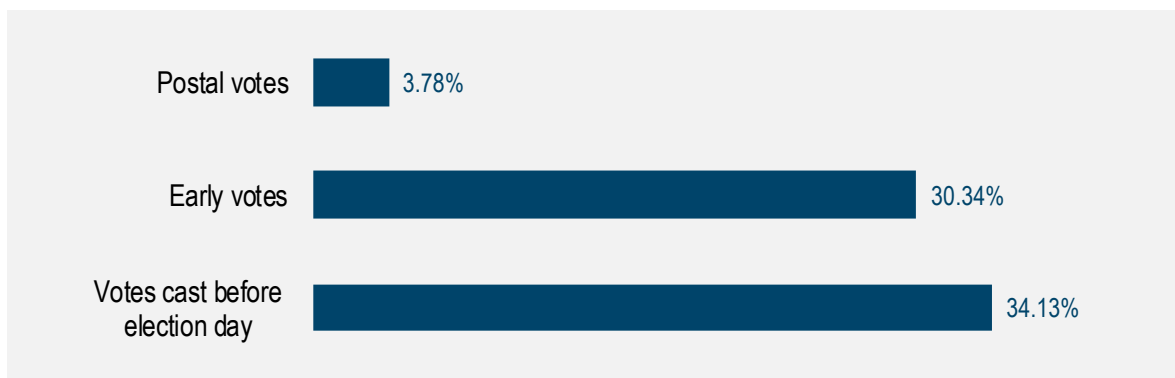
Voter turnout at Victorian State by-elections 2010–15 (% enrolment)



Informal votes at Victorian State by-elections 2010–15 (% votes)



Votes cast prior to Election Day



2. Background

The writ

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly issued a writ for the by-election for Gippsland South District on 17 February 2015. The writ set out the timetable for the by-election.

Election timeline

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Issue of the writ | Tuesday 17 February |
| Nominations open | 9.00 am, Wednesday 18 February |
| Close of Roll | 8.00 pm, Tuesday 24 February |
| Close of Nominations (party candidates) | 12 noon, Thursday 26 February |
| Close of Nominations (independent candidates) | 12 noon, Friday 27 February |
| Early voting commences | 8.30 am, Monday 2 March |
| Registration of how-to-vote-cards opens | Monday 2 March |
| Registration of how-to-vote cards close | 12 noon, Thursday 5 March |
| Last chance to apply for a postal vote | 6.00 pm, Thursday 12 March |
| Early Voting closes | 6.00 pm, Friday 13 March |
| ELECTION DAY VOTING | 8.00 am - 6.00 pm, Saturday 14 March |
| Results | From 6.00 pm, Saturday 14 March |
| Last day for return of writ | Friday 3 April |

Preliminary arrangements with other agencies

Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

The VEC made preliminary arrangements with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to ensure that any matters relating to how-to-vote cards could be heard within a 24 hour period. The VEC thanks VCAT for its support.

Victorian Government Solicitor's Office

The VEC made preliminary arrangements with the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office (VGSO) to have a senior legal advisor on standby 24 hours a day during the election period, to ensure that any matters were dealt with in a timely fashion. The VEC thanks the VGSO for its support.

Victoria Police

The VEC contacted the Chief Commissioner of Police to request a discreet police presence at all voting centres during the hours of voting on Election Day. The VEC provided a full list of all voting venues to Victoria Police to assist with this request. The VEC formally records its appreciation for the support received from the Chief Commissioner and Victoria Police.

Supreme Court

The VEC made preliminary arrangements with the Supreme Court to ensure that a Practice Court and presiding judge would be available to hear any applications for injunctions if the need arose on Election Day. The VEC thanks the Supreme Court for its support.

The former member

The Honourable Peter Ryan, MP represented the District of Gippsland South from 1992 to 2015. Mr Ryan was the leader of the Nationals in Victoria between December 1999 and 2014, and a member of several parliamentary committees between 1992 and 1999.

In 2008, he became the Shadow Minister for Regional and Rural Development and the Shadow Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade. Following the summer bushfires of 2009, Mr Ryan was appointed Shadow Minister for Bushfire Response. From 2010 to 2014, Mr Ryan was Deputy Premier of Victoria, as well as the Minister for Rural and Regional Development and Minister for Police from 2010 to 2013.



Profile of the District

Gippsland South District is a rural electorate located south-east of Melbourne. The District extends along the south coast from Venus Bay to Loch Sport. The electorate includes all of South Gippsland Shire and the southern parts of Wellington Shire. It covers an area of approximately 7,429 square kilometres. Gippsland South District includes the towns of Fish Creek, Foster, Golden Beach, Gormandale, Korumburra, Leongatha, Loch, Loch Sport, Longford, Meeniyan, Mirboo North, Nyora, Poowong, Port Albert, Port Welshpool, Rosedale, Sale, Seaspray, Tarwin Lower, Toora, Venus Bay, Welshpool, Woodside and Yarram.

Natural features include Wilsons Promontory National Park, Corner Inlet, the Gippsland Lakes and the Strzelecki Ranges. Industries in Gippsland South District include agriculture (largely dairying), timber production and tourism.

Map of the District

Historical pattern of the District

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1859-75 | Unaffiliated |
| 1875-77 | Liberal |
| 1877-78 | Unaffiliated |
| 1878-86 | Liberal |
| 1886-89 | Conservative |
| 1889-93 | Liberal |
| 1893-94 | Conservative |
| 1894-99 | Liberal |
| 1899-1902 | Conservative Liberal |
| 1902-07 | Conservative |
| 1907-08 | Fusion |
| 1908-09 | Liberal |
| 1909-27 | Fusion Liberal/Liberal/National |
| 1927 | Independent |
| 1927-29 | National |
| 1929-70 | Country |
| 1970-73 | Liberal |
| 1973-80 | Country/Nationals |
| 1980-82 | Liberal |
| 1982-present | Nationals |

Past Results for Gippsland South District

2014 State election results

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Elected member | RYAN, Peter |
| Total enrolment | 40,241 |
| Formal votes: | 35,745 |
| Informal votes: | 2,082 (5.50%) |
| Total votes: | 37,827 (94.00%) |

| Candidate | First preference votes | % |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| WINTERTON, Patrick (Rise Up Australia) | 1,076 | 3.01% |
| PSAILA, Lynn (ALP) | 7,819 | 21.87% |
| PIPER, Phil | 1,093 | 3.06% |
| MEESTER, Deb (Australian Country Alliance) | 1,853 | 5.18% |
| RYAN, Peter (Nationals) | 20,468 | 57.26% |
| ONLEY, Ian (Australian Greens) | 3,436 | 9.61% |

2010 State election results

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Elected member | RYAN, Peter |
| Total Enrolment | 39,215 |
| Formal votes: | 35,223 |
| Informal votes: | 1,615 (4.38%) |
| Total votes: | 36,838 (93.94%) |

| Candidate | First preference votes | % |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| RYAN, Peter (Nationals) | 22,479 | 63.82% |
| JACKSON, Kate (Greens) | 3,495 | 9.92% |
| BOYCE, Steve (ALP) | 6,647 | 18.87% |
| HIRT, John (CA) | 2,602 | 7.39% |

3. Participation

The VEC uses three measures to determine participation in the electoral system:

- enrolment: the proportion of the eligible voting population that enrolls to vote
- turn-out: the degree to which those who are enrolled actually vote in elections
- Informality of voting: the degree to which those who vote cast an informal vote

Enrolment

At the close of roll, there were 40,649 electors enrolled, 408 more than at the close of roll for the 2014 State election.

See Section 5 of this report for information about enrolment.

Turnout

The turnout for the Gippsland South District by-election was 87.06%. This participation rate is considered satisfactory, particularly since the Labor party did not endorse a candidate for the by-election.

Informal voting

The informality rate of 5.51% was a marginal increase on the informality rate of 5.50% for Gippsland South District at the 2014 State election.

The informality rate for Gippsland South District is lower than the average informality rate of 8.95% for the five preceding State by-elections.

An analysis of informal voting at the Gippsland South District by-election is included in Appendix D.

4. Election Personnel

Election Manager

Ms Janine Taylor was appointed the Election Manager for Gippsland South District. The Election Manager was responsible for:

- staffing the election office
- receiving candidate nominations
- conducting the draw for ballot paper positions
- dealing with electoral enquiries
- appointing voting centre managers and election officials
- training voting centre managers
- receipt of how-to-vote cards for registration by the VEC
- supervising voting, and receiving and recording results
- declaring the election

The Election Manager was assisted by VEC staff and other election officials.

Support for Election Manager

Mr David Egan and Mrs Di Hastings were appointed as Assistant Election Managers, and Ms Therese Camm was appointed Election Support Officer.

The VEC supported the Election Manager through the provision of:

- training and advice on election management
- office equipment and furniture, computers, telephones and electronic fax, ballot boxes, voting screens and voting centre furniture
- help desk support and assistance for the VEC's election management system and with other technical issues
- electoral materials, including voting centre and office forms and manuals
- telephone enquiry manual and a voter information campaign for the by-election
- assistance with public and media relations
- netbooks for use in voting centres

Recruitment and training

A total of 207 staff, including the Election Manager, two Assistant Election Managers and an Election Support Officer were appointed for the by-election. Of these, 149 were appointed as election officials at voting centres on Election Day.

A further 54 election casuals were appointed by the Election Manager to assist with early voting at the early voting centres, mobile voting, and administrative duties including counts conducted at the election office.

A three-hour training session was conducted for the voting centre managers, assistant voting centre managers, early voting centre managers and election liaison officers. The Election Manager and Assistant Election Manager had previous recent election experience and did not require additional training.

Mobile early voting centre team leaders received training prior to commencing work.

5. Services to Electors

Enrolment

The day after the issue of the writ for Gippsland South District, the VEC sent written notification of the by-election to every household in the electorate.

The letter advised that, since a by-election would be held soon, eligible people who were not on the electoral roll should enrol, and those who had recently moved should update their enrolment details. This provided four working days for electors to ensure that they were correctly enrolled and eligible to vote in the by-election.

Enrolment advertisements were placed in both major daily papers (see Appendix C for the advertising schedule and sample communication products).

Electors were able to update their enrolment or enrol on the VEC website (vec.vic.gov.au). Printed enrolment forms were also available from the VEC website, Australia Post offices, Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) divisional offices and by contacting the VEC election office.

The VEC election office remained open until 8.00 pm on Tuesday, 24 February. The VEC also made arrangements with the AEC divisional offices at Warragul and Sale to remain open until 8.00 pm on Tuesday, 24 February.

At the close of roll, there were 40,649 electors enrolled, 408 more than at the close of roll for the 2014 State election.

Services for electors from non-English speaking backgrounds

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census, English was stated as the only language spoken at home by 91% of people usually resident in Gippsland South District.

Electors could also access voting instructions translated into 21 languages (including English) placed inside each voting screen.

Accessibility of voting centres

All voting centre premises are rated for wheelchair accessibility using a rating assessment tool developed by the VEC, and ratings are included in advertisements, EasyVote letters and on the VEC website.

Both early voting centres were rated Accessible with Assistance (AWA). Of the 46 Election Day voting centres, 12 were rated as Fully Wheelchair Accessible (FWA), 25 were rated as Assisted Wheelchair Access (AWA) and the remaining nine were rated as No Wheelchair Accessibility (NWA).

Voting before Election Day

Early voting

Electors unable to vote on Election Day had the opportunity to vote early at early voting centres established within the Gippsland South District.

The early voting centres were located at:

- Leongatha – 1 Church Street
- Sale – 348 Raymond Street

Early voting centres were open between 8.30 am and 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday from Monday 2 March to Friday 13 March 2015. Extended opening hours were available on Saturday 7 March and Thursday 12 March. Both centres were rated Accessible with Assistance.

A total of 10,738 electors (30.34% of total voters) voted early, in person, for the by-election, compared with 10,321 (27.28% of total voters) for the District at the 2014 State election.

Mobile voting

A total of 399 electors took advantage of mobile voting, with a mobile voting team visiting 17 venues in the week prior to Election Day.

Voting interstate and overseas

Early voting services were provided at eight interstate locations and one overseas location- London.

A total of 28 early votes were cast outside Victoria for the Gippsland South District by-election. This compares with 89 for the District for the 2014 State election.

Postal voting

Electors unable to attend a voting centre on Election Day could apply for a postal vote. Postal vote applications were available for download at vec.vic.gov.au, and could be obtained at any post office in the District or by calling the VEC. Three postal votes were issued outside the State for the Gippsland South District by-election. This compares with 17 at the 2014 State election.

To help ensure the efficient delivery of ballot packs, postal vote applications were processed on the day they were received by the VEC. As postal vote applications

may be received up until 6.00 pm on the Thursday prior to the election, the VEC contacted anyone whose application was received on that day to advise them that their vote had to be postmarked before or on election day to be included in the count, and to inform them of their voting options.

A total of 393 ballot packs were mailed to General Postal Voters and 1,259 election-specific postal vote applications were processed. In total, 1,339 postal votes were counted for the by-election. Figure 1 shows the proportion of total votes that were cast before Election Day.

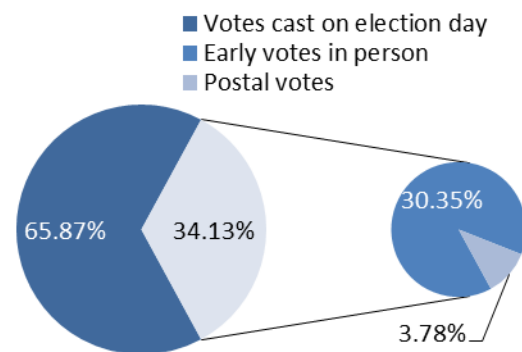


FIGURE 1: PROPORTION OF VOTES CAST BEFORE AND ON ELECTION DAY

Voting on Election Day

Electors could vote at any of the 46 voting centres open across the District on Election Day.

Provisional votes

People who were not on the roll but who claimed to be entitled to enrol and vote, were able to cast a provisional vote. They are required to show a proof of identification such as a driver licence or learner permit, or to nominate a service provider to be contacted for identity verification. Votes cast in this manner are classified as 'provisional' votes until the person's enrolment details can be verified.

A total of 114 provisional votes (44.7% of the 255 provisional votes received) were admitted to the count. Most of the excluded provisional votes were rejected because the voters were enrolled in districts other than Gippsland South District.

6. Services to registered political parties and candidates

Eight candidates nominated for the Gippsland South District by-election compared with six candidates in the 2014 State election.

Candidate nomination forms could be completed on the VEC website or by calling the VEC directly. Parties nominated their candidates directly with the VEC and independent candidates nominated through the election office.

The VEC provided a handbook explaining aspects of electoral law directly relating to candidates. Candidates also received a VEC Candidates' Kit containing:

- a how-to-vote card declaration
- an 'Appointment of Scrutineer' form
- an Electoral Roll Confidentiality Agreement
- a list of voting centres in the District (and early voting centres)
- estimated votes and the number of issuing points at each voting centre
- Election Manager contact details
- a nomination form
- a District fact sheet

After nominating and upon request, candidates were provided with a copy of the electoral roll for the District, on CD ROM, for the purposes of campaigning – in compliance with section 33(6) of the *Electoral Act 2002*.

By-election briefings for parties and candidates

Registered political parties were invited to attend individual briefing sessions before the close of nominations. One party participated.

Prospective independent candidates were invited to attend a briefing session conducted on 24 February 2015 at the election office. No prospective independent candidates attended.

Registration of how-to-vote cards

How-to-vote cards that are distributed within 400 metres of a voting centre on Election Day must be registered with the VEC. Political parties were required to register how-to-vote cards directly with the VEC. Independent candidates could submit their cards with the Election Manager for registration by the VEC.

A how-to-vote card checklist was provided in each candidate's handbook, to ensure that all cards were correct, authorised and properly registered.

A total of 16 how-to-vote cards were registered for the Gippsland South District by-election (see Figure 2). As required by legislation, registered how-to-vote cards were published on the VEC website.

| Party/Candidate/Stakeholder | # HTVC |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| AUSTRALIAN GREENS | 1 |
| AUSTRALIAN GREENS | 1 |
| AUSTRALIAN GREENS | 1 |
| AUSTRALIAN GREENS | 1 |
| AUSTRALIAN GREENS | 1 |
| AUSTRALIAN GREENS | 1 |
| THE NATIONALS | 1 |
| LIBERAL | 1 |
| LIBERAL DEMOCRATS | 1 |
| PEPPER, Viv | 1 |
| PEPPER, Viv | 1 |
| SANDERS, Warren | 1 |
| MEESTER, Deb | 1 |
| GASFIELD FREE SEASPRAY | 1 |
| COAL AND CSG FREE MIRBOO NORTH | 1 |
| DONOHUE, Gerard J. | 1 |

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF HOW-TO-VOTE CARDS REGISTERED, GIPPSLAND SOUTH DISTRICT BY-ELECTION 2015

7. Communication services

The Gippsland South District by-election communication campaign consisted of direct mail, newspaper advertising, a telephone enquiry service, proactive media relations, Facebook and Twitter posts, and information and services provided via the VEC website.

Direct mail

The VEC distributed 26,419 enrolment information letters to households in Gippsland South District from 18 February 2015.

An EasyVote letter was sent to each elector on the roll (excluding General Postal Voters). The EasyVote letter provided information about early voting, postal voting, overseas and interstate voting and Election Day voting arrangements. It also provided the location and accessibility rating of all voting centres, and a suggestion that the elector take the letter to the voting centre to help streamline the voting experience.

A total of 40,256 EasyVote letters were lodged with Australia Post for distribution on 27 February 2015. General postal voters were sent ballot material two business days after nominations closed.

Newspaper advertising

A series of advertisements that met the requirements set out in the *Electoral Act 2002* appeared in local newspapers, as well as in *The Age* and *Herald Sun* throughout the election period (see Appendix C for placement details and advertisement samples).

Telephone enquiry service

The election office operated a dedicated telephone enquiry service from 18 February. Calls to the office peaked each time a mailout occurred, with electors calling to:

- check enrolment details
- ask for advice about what to do if they could not attend a voting centre on election day
- enquire about the location of election day voting centres

Email information

Electors could also email the VEC with requests and queries via its info@vec.vic.gov.au email address.

The main types of queries received during the election period related to:

- voting overseas
- who must vote, and
- where to vote

The VEC received a relatively low number of emails (28) through its info@vec.vic.gov.au email address.

Website

From the day the writ was issued, the VEC website provided information about the by-election for electors in the District, candidates and the general public. Traffic to the website increased marginally just prior to Election Day, with a total of around 5,000 page views of the primary by-election information page. There were 170 sessions on the voting centre lookup, 173 sessions on the registered how-to-vote cards and then 224 sessions looking at results on election night and the following two days.

Electors were able to update their enrolment details online via the VEC's website. Online information detailed voting obligations and options for electors if they could not vote on Election Day. During the by-election period, 642 postal vote applications were downloaded directly from the site, and a total of 291 sessions involved the download of the list of voting centre locations (including interstate and overseas).

During the entire period, the most frequently accessed content was – in order of user sessions: results; how-to-vote cards; the election timeline; and voting centre locations. Candidate information and nomination forms were also available on the website.

Results were made available progressively on the VEC website after 6.00 pm on election night.

Social media

Facebook and Twitter were used by the VEC to help disseminate key election information and updates throughout the election.

When compared to the recent 2014 State election, social media activity was very quiet throughout the by-election.

The VEC posted a number of standard Tweets during the campaign; however, public posts regarding the by-election were the main activity seen on Twitter for the Gippsland South by-election.

There were only 159 posts to Twitter using the generally accepted tag #GippSthVotes and visits to the VEC's Facebook page were only marginally higher than when no election is being conducted.

Media relations

The VEC distributed four media releases to local and State-wide media outlets throughout the election period. The releases aimed to inform the public of key electoral information, including the deadline for enrolments, the opening of candidate nominations, the final candidate list, the opening of the early voting period and voting options for Gippsland South District electors. A media advisory was also issued, offering the media the opportunity to film and photograph on election day and detailing the availability of results.

The VEC received media enquiries relating to the by-election from several local and two State-wide media outlets. The majority of queries concerned the timing of the by-election, registration of interest to film on the day, and availability of results. In addition, the VEC received media queries regarding an alleged candidate complaint.

8. Complaints

The VEC received three formal complaints about the Gippsland South District by-election. One complaint related to the lack of full wheelchair accessibility at a voting centre, one about an application available via the VEC website and another querying the processes employed in the conduct of the by-election. All complaints were managed in accordance with the VEC process and where relevant, appropriate response action was taken.

9. Counting the votes

After the 6.00 pm close of voting, the first-preference count took place in the voting centres and the results were phoned through to the election office.

A two-candidate-preferred (2CP) count, to distribute preferences to the two candidates considered most likely to be in the lead after the distribution of preferences, was conducted following each count of first-preference votes. The VEC had selected the Nationals and the Greens for the 2CP count. It became apparent on election night that the leading two candidates were the National and Liberal candidates. The VEC did not adjust the original 2CP figures, but extended the final preference distribution to achieve the 2CP split between the National Party and the Liberal Party.

Postal and early votes were counted in the election office on election night in the same count order as in the voting centres. Provisional votes were checked on the Monday after Election Day and those entitled to be admitted were counted.

A recheck was conducted on all ballot papers on the Monday and Tuesday following the election. A preference distribution was conducted to determine the result of the election.

10. Declaration of result, return of the writ

Mr Danny O'Brien (The Nationals) was declared the successful candidate on Wednesday 18 March 2015.

The writ was returned on 18 March 2015.

11. Actual cost

At 30 June 2015 the actual direct costs incurred by the VEC in conducting the Gippsland South District by-election was \$337,233. This includes direct expenses and obligations related to salaries of temporary election personnel, advertising and associated infrastructure including office accommodation, transport and office requisites. These costs exclude the election entitlement payments shown in Figure 3.

12. Refund of nomination deposits

Upon nominating for an election, candidates (or their party) must provide a deposit of \$350. This deposit is refunded if the candidate obtains at least 4% of the first preference vote or is elected. Deposits were refunded between April and June 2015.

Of the eight candidates, three were refunded their deposit, and five candidates forfeited the deposit with the funds being forwarded to consolidated revenue.

13. Electoral entitlements

An amount of \$1.661 per vote was payable to political parties and independent candidates for this election where candidates obtained at least 4% of the first-preference votes.

An entitlement existed for three party candidates. There were no entitlements for independent candidates. All the entitlements were paid by 30 June 2015.

| Registered Political Parties | Entitlement |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| National Party | \$25,114.32 |
| Liberal Party | \$14,766.29 |
| Australian Greens | \$8,733.54 |
| Total | \$48,614.15 |
| Independent Candidates | Entitlement |
| None | \$0 |
| Total electoral entitlements | \$48,614.15 |

FIGURE 3: ELECTORAL ENTITLEMENTS, GIPPSLAND SOUTH BY-ELECTION 2015

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14. Enforcement of compulsory voting

Postal vote declarations received too late for the count, and elector information reports completed at voting centres on Election Day — detailing elector excuses for not voting – were processed through the compulsory voting module of the VEC's Election Management System.

The first stage of the non-voter follow-up process is conducted under Part 9, Division 2 of the *Electoral Act 2002*. Subsequent follow-up of electors who do not respond to the 'Apparent Failure to Vote' notice, or who provide an invalid response, is conducted under the *Infringements Act 2006*.

- Electors who are deemed to be non-voters may receive two further notices from the VEC. An Infringement Notice providing notification of liability for a penalty amount (currently set at \$74).
- A penalty reminder notice that includes costs as well as the original penalty.

Payment of penalties may be by cheque, money order, cash, via the internet using BPAY, or at any Australia Post outlet using the PostBillPay facility.

The first stage of compulsory voting follow-up for the Gippsland South by-election commenced on 20 May 2015, with 3,743 Apparent Failure to Vote notices mailed.

On 3 July 2015, 2,353 Infringement notices were mailed to apparent non-voters who either did not respond to the Apparent Failure to Vote notice, or provided an invalid excuse.

It is anticipated that enforcement of compulsory voting provisions will be completed by early 2016.

Further details of enforcement of compulsory voting provisions at the Gippsland South District by-election will be included in the VEC's Annual Report.

15. Appendices

14

15

Appendix A: Detailed voting statistics

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Enrolment: | 40,649 | |
| Formal votes: | 33,439 | |
| Informal votes: | 1,951 | (5.51% of total votes) |
| Total votes: | 35,390 | (87.06% of electors enrolled) |

| | SANDERS, Warren | PEPPER, Viv | MEESTER, Deb | O'BRIEN, Danny THE NATIONALS | DONOHUE, Gerard J. | McDONALD, Jim LIBERAL DEMOCRATS | MILLSOM, Andrea AUSTRALIAN GREENS | ROSSETTI, Scott LIBERAL | Informal Votes | Total Votes Polled |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Alberton | 1 | 12 | 11 | 149 | 4 | 3 | 37 | 107 | 20 | 344 |
| Arawata | 3 | 6 | 1 | 56 | 0 | 2 | 28 | 48 | 7 | 151 |
| Bena | 3 | 10 | 3 | 96 | 3 | 6 | 32 | 55 | 13 | 221 |
| Berrys Creek | 1 | 3 | 1 | 91 | 1 | 3 | 22 | 7 | 4 | 133 |
| Devon North | 2 | 0 | 4 | 152 | 0 | 1 | 37 | 76 | 16 | 288 |
| Dumbalk | 6 | 10 | 2 | 174 | 1 | 7 | 46 | 33 | 15 | 294 |
| Fish Creek | 13 | 10 | 2 | 227 | 6 | 8 | 137 | 72 | 37 | 512 |
| Foster | 40 | 39 | 15 | 407 | 12 | 7 | 246 | 229 | 51 | 1046 |
| Golden Beach | 16 | 5 | 10 | 72 | 1 | 3 | 38 | 52 | 15 | 212 |
| Gormandale | 6 | 7 | 6 | 216 | 3 | 3 | 66 | 73 | 28 | 408 |
| Kilmany | 2 | 0 | 4 | 47 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 28 | 6 | 96 |
| Kongwak | 4 | 2 | 5 | 76 | 1 | 0 | 38 | 48 | 9 | 183 |
| Koonwarra | 7 | 7 | 4 | 147 | 2 | 7 | 62 | 71 | 12 | 319 |
| Korumburra | 53 | 210 | 42 | 689 | 40 | 50 | 276 | 418 | 152 | 1930 |
| Leongatha | 28 | 71 | 21 | 775 | 14 | 37 | 247 | 285 | 86 | 1564 |
| Leongatha East | 12 | 19 | 9 | 290 | 7 | 12 | 105 | 114 | 45 | 613 |
| Leongatha South | 4 | 2 | 1 | 92 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 29 | 8 | 164 |

| | SANDERS, Warren | PEPPER, Viv | MEESTER, Deb | O'BRIEN, Danny THE NATIONALS | DONOHUE, Gerard J. | McDONALD, Jim LIBERAL DEMOCRATS | MILLSOM, Andrea AUSTRALIAN GREENS | ROSSETTI, Scott LIBERAL | Informal Votes | Total Votes Polled |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Loch | 6 | 8 | 3 | 79 | 3 | 0 | 75 | 78 | 17 | 269 |
| Loch Sport | 13 | 9 | 9 | 131 | 5 | 0 | 69 | 108 | 26 | 370 |
| Longford | 30 | 12 | 30 | 185 | 2 | 6 | 61 | 137 | 21 | 484 |
| Mardan | 0 | 3 | 0 | 86 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 12 | 2 | 123 |
| Meeniyah | 6 | 23 | 9 | 266 | 5 | 14 | 114 | 95 | 22 | 554 |
| Mirboo North | 36 | 103 | 10 | 485 | 5 | 23 | 334 | 178 | 97 | 1271 |
| Mount Eccles | 3 | 1 | 6 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 23 | 7 | 115 |
| Nambrok | 10 | 4 | 11 | 173 | 3 | 1 | 21 | 48 | 12 | 283 |
| Nerrena | 0 | 1 | 3 | 88 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 13 | 3 | 127 |
| Nyora | 27 | 47 | 11 | 194 | 11 | 11 | 130 | 208 | 67 | 706 |
| Poowong | 12 | 23 | 5 | 187 | 7 | 8 | 76 | 122 | 19 | 459 |
| Port Albert | 13 | 5 | 3 | 92 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 69 | 15 | 216 |
| Port Franklin | 7 | 1 | 0 | 66 | 7 | 1 | 28 | 48 | 8 | 166 |
| Rosedale | 36 | 24 | 21 | 433 | 10 | 4 | 99 | 221 | 66 | 914 |
| Sale | 74 | 18 | 136 | 650 | 8 | 18 | 177 | 533 | 78 | 1692 |
| Sale East | 62 | 33 | 74 | 580 | 5 | 8 | 101 | 416 | 56 | 1335 |
| Sale North | 60 | 14 | 116 | 485 | 9 | 9 | 136 | 373 | 87 | 1289 |
| Sandy Point | 2 | 1 | 0 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 12 | 5 | 104 |
| Seaspray | 10 | 10 | 24 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 48 | 8 | 192 |
| Staceys Bridge | 3 | 1 | 1 | 72 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 43 | 2 | 139 |
| Stradbroke | 3 | 2 | 4 | 68 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 23 | 5 | 125 |
| Tarwin Lower | 27 | 30 | 13 | 182 | 8 | 6 | 167 | 98 | 66 | 597 |
| Toora | 15 | 9 | 10 | 218 | 0 | 7 | 105 | 131 | 44 | 539 |
| Welshpool | 7 | 4 | 3 | 212 | 3 | 4 | 68 | 122 | 25 | 448 |
| Won Wron | 4 | 0 | 1 | 78 | 0 | 2 | 27 | 45 | 7 | 164 |
| Woodside | 14 | 5 | 3 | 181 | 1 | 2 | 35 | 71 | 17 | 329 |
| Wurruk | 10 | 3 | 18 | 135 | 2 | 3 | 15 | 87 | 22 | 295 |
| Yanakie | 8 | 2 | 4 | 88 | 0 | 3 | 30 | 27 | 3 | 165 |
| Yarram | 38 | 28 | 25 | 584 | 6 | 12 | 136 | 340 | 81 | 1250 |

| | SANDERS, Warren | PEPPER, Viv | MEESTER, Deb | O'BRIEN, Danny THE NATIONALS | DONOHUE, Gerard J. | McDONALD, Jim LIBERAL DEMOCRATS | MILLSOM, Andrea AUSTRALIAN GREENS | ROSSETTI, Scott LIBERAL | Informal Votes | Total Votes Polled |
|--|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Ordinary Votes | 737 | 837 | 694 | 9915 | 206 | 303 | 3620 | 5474 | 1412 | 23198 |
| Early Vote | 307 | 229 | 417 | 4672 | 103 | 124 | 1369 | 3029 | 488 | 10738 |
| Postal Vote | 79 | 41 | 42 | 487 | 21 | 21 | 251 | 353 | 44 | 1339 |
| Marked As Voted | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Provisional | 6 | 1 | 2 | 45 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 34 | 7 | 114 |
| Total Declaration Votes | 392 | 271 | 461 | 5205 | 124 | 146 | 1638 | 3416 | 539 | 12192 |
| TOTAL ALL VOTE TYPES | 1129 | 1108 | 1155 | 15120 | 330 | 449 | 5258 | 8890 | 1951 | 35390 |
| Percentage of Formal Vote Polled By Candidate | 3.38% | 3.31% | 3.45% | 45.22% | 0.99% | 1.34% | 15.72% | 26.59% | | |

Appendix B: Distribution of preference votes

| | |
|---|--------|
| Total valid first preference votes polled for all candidates: | 33,439 |
| Number of votes required to constitute an absolute majority on first count: | 16,720 |
| Number of informal votes: | 1,951 |

| Candidates' Names (in ballot paper order) | SANDERS, Warren | PEPPER, Viv | MEESTER, Deb | O'BRIEN, Danny | DONOHUE, Gerard J. | McDONALD, Jim | MILLSOM, Andrea | ROSSETTI , Scott | TOTAL |
|---|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Total first preference votes recorded for each candidate | 1129 | 1108 | 1155 | 15120 | 330 | 449 | 5258 | 8890 | 33439 |
| Transfer of 330 ballot papers of DONOHUE, Gerard J. (1st excluded candidate) | 52 | 43 | 64 | 55 | | 40 | 39 | 37 | 330 |
| Progressive Total | 1181 | 1151 | 1219 | 15175 | | 489 | 5297 | 8927 | 33439 |
| Transfer of 489 ballot papers of McDONALD, Jim (2nd excluded candidate) | 53 | 21 | 91 | 132 | | | 82 | 110 | 489 |
| Progressive Total | 1234 | 1172 | 1310 | 15307 | | | 5379 | 9037 | 33439 |
| Transfer of 1172 ballot papers of PEPPER, Viv (3rd excluded candidate) | 466 | | 419 | 108 | | | 118 | 61 | 1172 |
| Progressive Total | 1700 | | 1729 | 15415 | | | 5497 | 9098 | 33439 |
| Transfer of 1700 ballot papers of SANDERS, Warren (4th excluded candidate) | | | 1345 | 141 | | | 135 | 79 | 1700 |
| Progressive Total | | | 3074 | 15556 | | | 5632 | 9177 | 33439 |
| Transfer of 3074 ballot papers of MEESTER, Deb (5th excluded candidate) | | | | 1484 | | | 1239 | 351 | 3074 |
| Progressive Total | | | | 17040 | | | 6871 | 9528 | 33439 |
| Transfer of 6871 ballot papers of MILLSOM, Andrea (6th excluded candidate) | | | | 4840 | | | | 2031 | |
| FINAL TOTAL | | | | 21880 | | | | 11559 | 33439 |

O'BRIEN, Danny (The Nationals) elected at 5th exclusion

Appendix C: Communication products

Advertisements

| Advertisement | Outlets | Publish date(s) |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Issue of the writ | The Age and Herald Sun | 18 February 2015 |
| Early voting | Latrobe Valley Express; Leongatha Star; Sale Gippsland Times; Wonthaggi South Gippsland Sentinel Times; Yarram Standard; Foster Mirror | 2-4 March 2015 |
| How to vote on election day | Latrobe Valley Express; Leongatha Star; Sale Gippsland Times; Wonthaggi South Gippsland Sentinel Times; Yarram Standard; Foster Mirror | 9-11 March 2015 |
| Vote today | The Age and Herald Sun | 14 March 2015 |
| Result and return of the writ | The Age and Herald Sun (public notices) | 21 March 2015 |

Issue of the writ advertising

Gippsland South District State by-election

I have received the writ from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Telmo Languiller, MP, issued on Tuesday 17 February 2015, for the election of one member of the Legislative Assembly for Gippsland South District.

The writ specifies the following dates for the by-election:

Close of roll: 8.00 pm, Tuesday 24 February

Nominations close: 12 noon, Friday 27 February

Election day: Saturday 14 March

Return of the writ: On or before Friday 3 April

W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner

Make sure you're enrolled to vote!

You are already enrolled for the Gippsland South District by-election if you're on the State or Federal roll for your present address within the area shown on the map.

If you're an Australian citizen, aged 18 years or more and are not enrolled, you must enrol to vote immediately.

If you have recently moved or changed your name, you must update your enrolment by **8.00 pm on Tuesday 24 February**.

How do I check if I'm on the roll?

You can check your enrolment details to see if they are current at vec.vic.gov.au or by calling 1300 805 478.

Updating or enrolling your details online

To enrol or update your details online, just visit vec.vic.gov.au and use the online application to complete an electronic enrolment update; there is no need for paper forms.

If you are enrolling for the first time, you will need a driver licence number, Australian passport number or a person who is already on the electoral roll in Victoria to confirm your identity.

For more information please visit vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 805 478.

Updating or enrolling using a paper form

Paper enrolment forms are available at any post office, Centrelink or Australian Electoral Commission office.

Alternatively, visit vec.vic.gov.au to download a printable form.

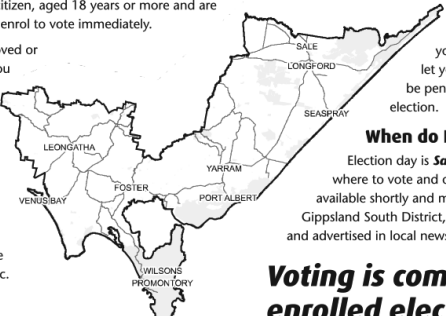
Enrolling is compulsory

Enrolling and keeping your enrolment details up-to-date are compulsory. However, if you have never enrolled or have let your details lapse, you will not be penalised if you enrol for this by-election.

When do I vote?

Election day is **Saturday 14 March**. Details of where to vote and other voting options will be available shortly and mailed to enrolled electors within Gippsland South District, listed online at vec.vic.gov.au and advertised in local newspapers.

Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors.



Candidate information

Registered political parties must nominate candidates at the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne. Nominations close at 12 noon on Thursday 26 February. Late nominations cannot be accepted.

Candidates not endorsed by a registered political party must nominate with the Election Manager, Janine Taylor, at 1 Church Street, Leongatha. The Election Manager will supply a Candidate Info Kit, which includes a nomination form. Nominations close at 12 noon on Friday 27 February. Late nominations cannot be accepted.

The Election Manager will conduct an information session for prospective non-party candidates at 4.00 pm on Tuesday 24 February at the election office, 1 Church Street, Leongatha.

For more information on nominating, please contact the Election Manager, Janine Taylor, on 5662 0522.

How-to-vote cards

If a person or organisation intends to distribute how-to-vote cards on election day, Saturday 14 March, the cards must be registered by the VEC.

Registered how-to-vote cards are the only form of printed electoral material that may be distributed within 400 metres of a voting centre on election day.

The period for submitting how-to-vote cards for registration is from Monday 2 March to 12 noon on Friday 6 March.

Organisations or individuals other than registered political parties can submit how-to-vote cards to the Election Manager, Janine Taylor, or to the VEC.

Registered political parties must submit their how-to-vote cards for registration to the VEC at Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne.

How-to-vote cards submitted for registration after 12 noon on Friday 6 March cannot be accepted.

[@electionsvic](https://twitter.com/electionsvic)
[/electionsvic](https://facebook.com/electionsvic)
131 832
vec.vic.gov.au
Victorian Electoral Commission

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

Gippsland South District State by-election: Early voting

Election day for the Gippsland South District by-election is Saturday 14 March.

Voting options

If you can't get to a voting centre on election day, there are two ways you can vote in advance.

Vote in person

Early voting locations are open between 8.30 am and 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday, until Friday 13 March. There are two locations:

- 1 Church Street, Leongatha
- 348 Raymond Street, Sale

Both venues are wheelchair accessible with assistance.

Both venues will be closed on Labour Day (Monday 9 March) but will have extended opening hours on:

- Saturday 7 March, 9.00 am to 2.00 pm
- Thursday 12 March, 8.30 am to 8.00 pm

Vote by post

Postal vote applications are available:

- online at vec.vic.gov.au
- at any post office within Gippsland South District
- at the election office: 1 Church Street, Leongatha
- at the Warragul and Sale Australian Electoral Commission offices
- by calling 131 832.

Post, fax or email a scanned copy of your correctly completed application immediately, using the details listed on the form.

Once your application has been processed, a ballot pack will be sent to you.

Follow the instructions to complete and post your ballot paper.

Ballot papers posted after 6.00 pm on Saturday 14 March cannot be counted.

Voting if you will be interstate or overseas

If you will be outside of Victoria on election day, you can vote before you leave or while you are away.

Before you leave

You can vote by post or in person as described opposite.

While you're away

You can vote by post as described opposite. Alternatively, voting services outside Victoria are available until the close of business on Friday 13 March at Victoria House, London (UK) or at selected locations in each Australian state and territory.

For locations, visit vec.vic.gov.au or call the Gippsland South District by-election office on (03) 5662 0522.

Who can vote

Everyone on the State electoral roll for Gippsland South District can cast a vote at any voting centre.

If you are an Australian citizen, over the age of 18, and you live in Gippsland South District but have never enrolled, you can enrol and vote on the spot. When you visit a voting centre within the District, simply bring one of the following documents:

- a driver licence or learner permit
- a council rates notice in your name
- an electricity bill in your name for your current home address
- a current Victorian identification, such as a Proof of Age card.

If you are on the State electoral roll for another district then you cannot vote in this by-election.

131 832  vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

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

Gippsland South District

State by-election: Vote correctly this weekend

Election day for the Gippsland South District by-election is this Saturday 14 March

Who can vote?

Everyone on the State electoral roll for Gippsland South District can cast a vote at any voting centre.

If you are an Australian citizen, over the age of 18, and you live in Gippsland South District but have never enrolled, you can enrol and vote on the spot. When you visit a voting centre, simply bring one of the following documents:

- a driver licence or learner permit
- a council rates notice in your name
- an electricity bill in your name for your current home address
- a current Victorian identification, such as a Proof of Age card.

If you are on the roll for another district, you cannot vote in this by-election.

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must complete your ballot paper correctly.

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 for your vote to count. Use numbers only.

Candidates

The candidates, in the order in which they will appear on your ballot paper, are:

- SANDERS, Warren
- PEPPER, Viv
- MEESTER, Deb
- O'BRIEN, Danny
THE NATIONALS
- DONOHUE, Gerard J.
- MCDONALD, Jim
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
- MILLSOM, Andrea
AUSTRALIAN GREENS
- ROSSETTI, Scott
LIBERAL

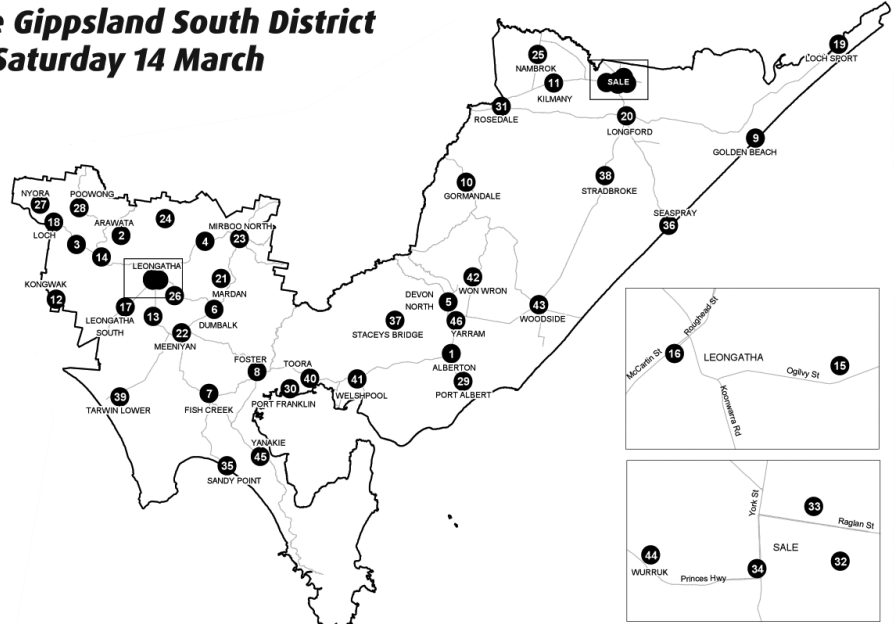
The member elected to the Victorian State Parliament Lower House (or Legislative Assembly) as a result of this by-election will serve until the next State election in November 2018.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory if you were on the electoral roll for Gippsland South District at the close of the roll (8.00 pm on Tuesday 24 February 2015).

You may be fined if you do not vote.

For more information visit vec.vic.gov.au or call 5662 0522



Voting centres will be open 8.00 am to 6.00 pm this Saturday 14 March

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Alberton Primary School 21 Thomson Street Alberton FWA | 18. Loch Public Hall Smith Street Loch AWA | 34. Sale Memorial Hall 82-88 MacAllister Street Sale FWA |
| 2. Arawata Public Hall 371 Fairbank Road Arawata AWA | 19. Loch Sport Public Hall National Park Road Loch Sport FWA | 35. CFA Sandy Point Surfers Walk Sandy Point NWA |
| 3. Bena Public Hall 41 Main Road Bena NWA | 20. Longford Primary School 6380 South Gippsland Highway Longford AWA | 36. Seaspray Public Hall Futcher Street Seaspray AWA |
| 4. Berrys Creek Public Hall 20 Berrys Creek Road Berrys Creek NWA | 21. Mardan Public Hall Coulters Road Mardan FWA | 37. Staceys Bridge Public Hall 248 Albert River Road Staceys Bridge NWA |
| 5. Devon North Public Hall 599 Tarra Valley Road Devon North FWA | 22. Meeniyah Uniting Church Hall Geale Street Meeniyah AWA | 38. Stradbroke Hall 4971 South Gippsland Highway Stradbroke AWA |
| 6. Dumbalk Public Hall Farmers Road Dumbalk FWA | 23. Mirboo North Town Hall 30 Ridgway Street Mirboo North FWA | 39. Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute 27 Riverside Drive Tarwin Lower AWA |
| 7. Fish Creek Memorial Hall Falls Road Fish Creek AWA | 24. Mount Eccles Mechanics Institute Mount Eccles Hall Road Mount Eccles AWA | 40. Toora Community Hall 23 Gray Street Toora AWA |
| 8. South Gippsland Secondary College 2 Pioneer Street Foster FWA | 25. Nambrok-Denison Primary School 947 Sale-Cowwarr Road Nambrok AWA | 41. Welshpool Fire Station 40 Main Street Welshpool AWA |
| 9. Golden Beach Community Hall 1/11 Surf Edge Golden Beach AWA | 26. Nerrena Public Hall Nerrena Hall Road Nerrena AWA | 42. Won Wron Public Hall Napier Road Won Wron AWA |
| 10. Gormandale Mechanics Institute corner Main Street and Hyland Highway Gormandale FWA | 27. Nyora Primary School Grundy Avenue Nyora AWA | 43. Woodside Public Hall Woodside Beach Road Woodside AWA |
| 11. Kilmany Public Hall 21 Freshwaters Road Kilmany NWA | 28. Poowong Consolidated School Main Street Poowong AWA | 44. Wurruk Primary School 13-19 Fisk Street Wurruk FWA |
| 12. Kongwak Primary School 1445 Wonthaggi-Korumburra Road Kongwak AWA | 29. Yacht Club Port Albert Bay Street Port Albert NWA | 45. Yanakie Public Hall Meeniyah-Promontory Road Yanakie AWA |
| 13. Koonwarra Fire Station Koonwarra - Inverloch Road Koonwarra AWA | 30. Port Franklin Public Hall Tramway Street Port Franklin AWA | Yarram Guide and Scout Hall 80 Commercial Road Yarram NWA |
| 14. St Paul's Anglican Parish Hall 5 Bridge Street Korumburra AWA | 31. Rosedale Public Hall 37 Prince Street Rosedale NWA | FWA - Full wheelchair access AWA - Assisted wheelchair access NWA - No wheelchair access |
| 15. Leongatha Secondary College Nerrena Road Leongatha AWA | 32. Araluen Primary School 99 Patten Street Sale FWA | |
| 16. St Peters Anglican Church corner Bruce and McCartin Streets Leongatha NWA | 33. Sale College Gymnasium Guthridge Campus Guthridge Parade Sale FWA | |
| 17. Leongatha South and District Community Centre Bass Highway Leongatha South AWA | | |

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[/electionsvic](https://facebook.com/electionsvic)

131 832

vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**



Gippsland South District State by-election: Vote today

Today is election day for the Gippsland South District by-election

Who can vote?

Everyone on the State electoral roll for Gippsland South District can cast a vote at any voting centre.

If you are an Australian citizen, over the age of 18, and you live in Gippsland South District but have never enrolled, you can enrol and vote on the spot. When you visit a voting centre, simply bring one of the following documents:

- a driver licence or learner permit
- a council rates notice in your name
- an electricity bill in your name for your current home address
- a current Victorian identification, such as a Proof of Age card.

If you are on the roll for another district, you cannot vote in this by-election.

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must complete your ballot paper correctly.

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 for your vote to count. Use numbers only.

Candidates

The candidates, in the order in which they will appear on your ballot paper, are:

- SANDERS, Warren
- PEPPER, Viv
- MEESTER, Deb
- O'BRIEN, Danny
THE NATIONALS
- DONOHUE, Gerard J.
- McDONALD, Jim
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
- MILLSOM, Andrea
AUSTRALIAN GREENS
- ROSSETTI, Scott
LIBERAL

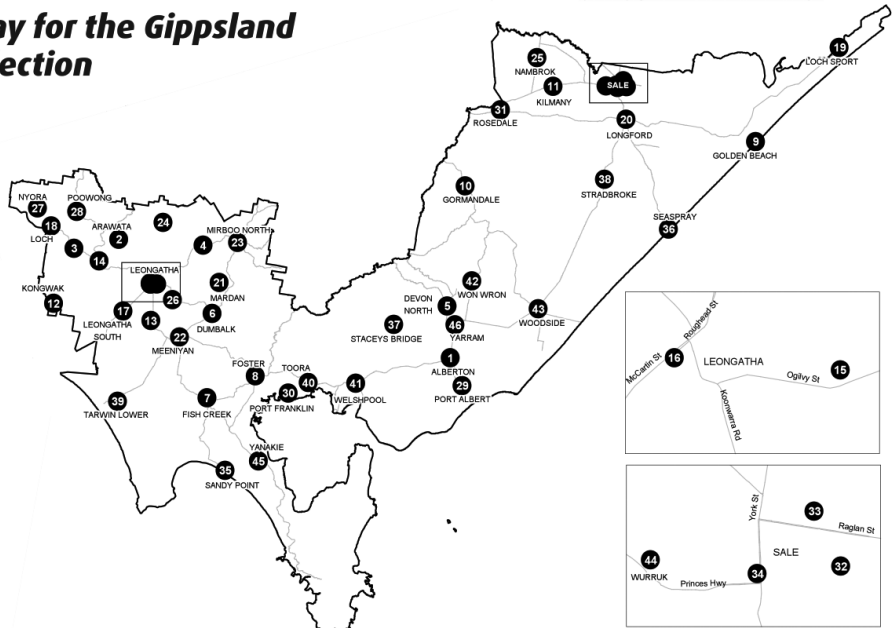
The member elected to the Victorian State Parliament Lower House (or Legislative Assembly) as a result of this by-election will serve until the next State election in November 2018.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory if you were on the electoral roll for Gippsland South District at the close of the roll (8.00 pm on Tuesday 24 February 2015).

You may be fined if you do not vote.

For more information visit vec.vic.gov.au or call 5662 0522



Voting centres are open 8.00 am to 6.00 pm today

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Alberton Primary School 21 Thomson Street Alberton FWA | 18. Loch Public Hall Smith Street Loch AWA | 34. Sale Memorial Hall 82-88 MacAlister Street Sale FWA |
| 2. Arawata Public Hall 371 Fairbank Road Arawata AWA | 19. Loch Sport Public Hall National Park Road Loch Sport FWA | 35. CFA Sandy Point Surfers Walk Sandy Point NWA |
| 3. Bena Public Hall 41 Main Road Bena NWA | 20. Longford Primary School 6380 South Gippsland Highway Longford AWA | 36. Seaspray Public Hall Futcher Street Seaspray AWA |
| 4. Berrys Creek Public Hall 20 Berrys Creek Road Berrys Creek NWA | 21. Mardan Public Hall Coulters Road Mardan FWA | 37. Staceys Bridge Public Hall 248 Albert River Road Staceys Bridge NWA |
| 5. Devon North Public Hall 599 Tarra Valley Road Devon North FWA | 22. Meeniyun Uniting Church Hall Geale Street Devon North AWA | 38. Stradbroke Hall 4971 South Gippsland Highway Stradbroke MWA |
| 6. Dumbalk Public Hall Farmers Road Dumbalk FWA | 23. Mirboo North Town Hall 30 Ridgway Street Mirboo North FWA | 39. Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute 27 Riverside Drive Tarwin Lower AWA |
| 7. Fish Creek Memorial Hall Falls Road Fish Creek AWA | 24. Mount Eccles Mechanics Institute Mount Eccles Hall Road Mount Eccles AWA | 40. Toora Community Hall 23 Gray Street Toora AWA |
| 8. South Gippsland Secondary College 2 Pioneer Street Foster FWA | 25. Nambrook-Denison Primary School 947 Sale-Cowwarr Road Nambrook AWA | 41. Welshpool Fire Station 40 Main Street Welshpool AWA |
| 9. Golden Beach Community Hall 1/11 Surf Edge Golden Beach AWA | 26. Nerrena Public Hall Nerrena Hall Road Nerrena AWA | 42. Won Wron Public Hall Napier Road Won Wron AWA |
| 10. Gormandale Mechanics Institute corner Main Street and Hyland Highway Gormandale FWA | 27. Nyora Primary School Grundy Avenue Nyora AWA | 43. Woodside Public Hall Woodside Beach Road Woodside AWA |
| 11. Kilmany Public Hall 21 Freshwaters Road Kilmany NWA | 28. Poowong Consolidated School Main Street Poowong AWA | 44. Wurruk Primary School 13-19 Fisk Street Wurruk FWA |
| 12. Kongwak Primary School 1445 Wonthaggi-Korumburra Road Kongwak AWA | 29. Yacht Club Port Albert Bay Street Port Albert NWA | 45. Yanakie Public Hall Meeniyun-Promontory Road Yanakie AWA |
| 13. Koonwarra Fire Station Koonwarra - Inverloch Road Koonwarra AWA | 30. Port Franklin Public Hall Tramway Street Port Franklin AWA | 46. Yarram Guide and Scout Hall 80 Commercial Road Yarram NWA |
| 14. St Paul's Anglican Parish Hall 5 Bridge Street Korumburra AWA | 31. Rosedale Public Hall 37 Prince Street Rosedale NWA | FWA - Full wheelchair access AWA - Assisted wheelchair access NWA - No wheelchair access |
| 15. Leongatha Secondary College Nerrena Road Leongatha AWA | 32. Araluen Primary School 99 Patten Street Sale FWA | |
| 16. St Peters Anglican Church corner Bruce and McCartin Streets Leongatha NWA | 33. Sale College Gymnasium Guthridge Campus Guthridge Parade Sale FWA | |
| 17. Leongatha South and District Community Centre Bass Highway Leongatha South AWA | | |



Result and return of the writ notice

Gippsland South District State by-election

DECLARATION OF RESULT

The candidate elected in the Gippsland South District by-election held on Saturday 14 March 2015 was:
Danny O'Brien
The Nationals

I have returned the writ to the Hon. Telmo Languiller, MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The writ was issued on Tuesday 17 February 2015 for the election of one member to the Legislative Assembly to represent Gippsland South District.

Detailed results are available at vec.vic.gov.au

Warwick Gately AM
Victorian Electoral Commission

Media releases and advisories

| Phase | Headline | Dispatch |
|---|--|------------------|
| Issue of writ | Date set for Gippsland South by-election | 17 February 2015 |
| Nominations | Call for candidates for Gippsland South District | 18 February 2015 |
| Close of roll (District enrolment figures) | Gippsland South District prepares for by-election | 26 February 2015 |
| Close of nominations and start of early voting period | Candidates announced for Gippsland South District by-election | 27 February 2015 |
| Election day media opportunities | Gippsland South District by-election: Media photo/film opportunities and results | 12 March 2015 |

Direct mail

| Product | Content | Volume dispatched | Dispatch |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|
| Enrolment letter to households | Key election dates and how to check and update your enrolment | 26,419 | 18 February 2015 |
| EasyVote letter | Voting options, voting locations, contact information and an EasyVote Card | 40,256 | 27 February 2015 |

Important information: *Gippsland South District by-election*

To the householder

Are you correctly enrolled?

A by-election for your District is being held on Saturday, 14 March 2015. By law, if you are an Australian citizen over the age of 18, you must be enrolled at your current address once you have lived there for one month.

If you've moved since you last enrolled, or have changed your name or post office box, you must ensure your enrolment details are up to date by **8.00 pm on Tuesday, 24 February**.

If you are an Australian citizen, aged 18 or over and you are not enrolled, you need to enrol immediately.

How do you check if you are on the roll?

Check online at vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 805 478.

Enrolling or updating your enrolment online

To enrol or update your details online, just visit vec.vic.gov.au and use the online application to complete an electronic enrolment update; there is no need for paper forms.

If you are enrolling for the first time, you will need a driver licence number, Australian passport number or a person who is already on the electoral roll in Victoria to confirm your identity.

Enrolling or updating your enrolment with a paper form

Paper enrolment forms are available at any post office, Centrelink or Australian Electoral Commission office. Alternatively, visit vec.vic.gov.au to download a printable form.

Completed enrolment forms should be mailed immediately to the Victorian Electoral Commission, Reply Paid 66506, Melbourne, Victoria, 8001 (no stamp is required). You can also fax it to (03) 9277 7126, email a scanned copy to elector@vec.vic.gov.au or deliver the form in person to one of the offices listed below:

- Australian Electoral Commission, 79-91 Raymond Street, Sale
- Australian Electoral Commission, Shop 4, 76 Smith Street, Warragul
- Victorian Electoral Commission, Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne

You must ensure that you're enrolled and that your details are correct by **8.00 pm on Tuesday, 24 February**.

Do you have to enrol?




Enrolling and keeping your enrolment details up-to-date are compulsory. However, if you have never enrolled or have let your details lapse, you will not be penalised if you enrol for this by-election.

Voting in the by-election

The VEC will write to all enrolled voters before election day providing information about the various voting options that will be available. If you are registered as a General Postal Voter, your ballot material will be mailed to you from **Monday, 2 March**.


Warwick Gately, AM
Electoral Commissioner

***Check your enrolment online at
vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 805 478***

 @electionsvic  /electionsvic Victorian Electoral Commission 

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



Your EasyVote Letter: **Gippsland South District by-election**

The Gippsland South District by-election will be held on

Saturday 14 March 2015

Voting is between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm



VOTING IS COMPULSORY - AVOID A FINE

Where can I vote?

You can vote at any voting centre within Gippsland South District between 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on Saturday 14 March.

A complete list of voting centres is available on the back of this letter.

Can I vote early?

If you can't get to a voting centre on election day, you can vote at any early voting centre listed below:

- 1 Church Street, Leongatha **AWA**
- 348 Raymond Street, Sale **AWA**

Early voting is also available at Victoria House, London, UK, and at various interstate locations.

Early voting centres are open between 8.30 am and 6.00 pm on weekdays until Friday 13 March (excluding Labour Day, Monday 9 March), with extended hours on Saturday 7 March (9.00 am to 2.00 pm) and Thursday 12 March (8.30 am to 8.00 pm).

Can I vote by post?

Postal vote applications are available:

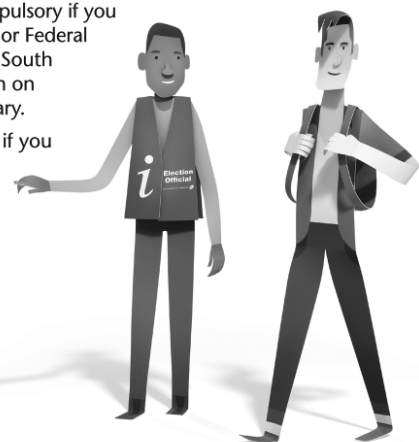
- online at vec.vic.gov.au
- at any post office within Gippsland South District
- at the election office: 1 Church Street, Leongatha
- at the Warragul and Sale Australian Electoral Commission offices
- by calling 131 832.

The VEC must receive your postal vote application by 6.00 pm on Thursday 12 March.

Is voting compulsory?

Yes. Voting is compulsory if you were on the State or Federal roll for Gippsland South District at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 24 February.

You may be fined if you do not vote.



For more information, visit vec.vic.gov.au or call (03) 5662 0522.



@electionsvic



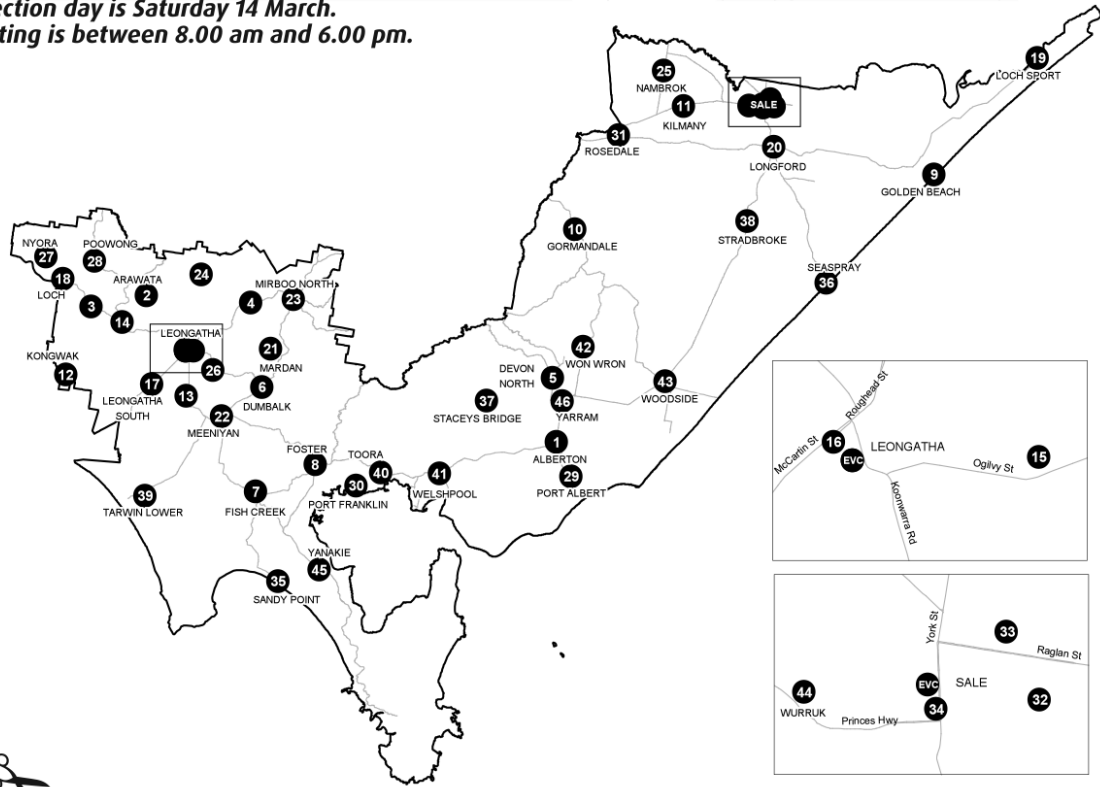
/electionsvic

Victorian Electoral Commission



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

**Election day is Saturday 14 March.
Voting is between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm.**



Election day voting centre locations

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1. Alberton Primary School 21 Thomson Street Alberton FWA | 13. Koonwarra Fire Station Koonwarra - Inverloch Road Koonwarra AWA | 25. Nambrok-Denison Primary School 947 Sale-Cowwarr Road Nambrok AWA | 37. Staceys Bridge Public Hall 248 Albert River Road Staceys Bridge NWA |
| 2. Arawata Public Hall 371 Fairbank Road Arawata AWA | 14. St Paul's Anglican Parish Hall 5 Bridge Street Korumburra AWA | 26. Nerrena Public Hall Nerrena Hall Road Nerrena AWA | 38. Stradbroke Hall 4971 South Gippsland Highway Stradbroke AWA |
| 3. Bena Public Hall 41 Main Road Bena NWA | 15. Leongatha Secondary College Nerrena Road Leongatha AWA | 27. Nyora Primary School Grundy Avenue Nyora AWA | 39. Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute 27 Riverside Drive Tarwin Lower AWA |
| 4. Berrys Creek Public Hall 371 Fairbank Road Berrys Creek NWA | 16. St Peters Anglican Church corner Bruce and McCartin Streets Leongatha NWA | 28. Poowong Consolidated School Main Street Poowong AWA | 40. Toora Community Hall 23 Gray Street Toora AWA |
| 5. Devon North Public Hall 599 Tarra Valley Road Devon North FWA | 17. Leongatha South and District Community Centre Bass Highway Leongatha South AWA | 29. Yacht Club Port Albert Bay Street Port Albert NWA | 41. Welshpool Fire Station 40 Main Street Welshpool AWA |
| 6. Dumbalk Public Hall Farmers Road Dumbalk FWA | 18. Loch Public Hall Smith Street Loch AWA | 30. Port Franklin Public Hall Tramway Street Port Franklin AWA | 42. Won Wron Public Hall Napier Road Won Wron AWA |
| 7. Fish Creek Memorial Hall Falls Road Fish Creek AWA | 19. Loch Sport Public Hall National Park Road Loch Sport FWA | 31. Rosedale Public Hall 37 Prince Street Rosedale NWA | 43. Woodside Public Hall Woodside Beach Road Woodside AWA |
| 8. South Gippsland Secondary College 2 Pioneer Street Foster FWA | 20. Longford Primary School 6380 South Gippsland Highway Longford AWA | 32. Araluen Primary School 99 Patten Street Sale FWA | 44. Wurruk Primary School 13-19 Fisk Street Wurruk FWA |
| 9. Golden Beach Community Hall 1/11 Surf Edge Golden Beach AWA | 21. Mardan Public Hall Coulters Road Mardan FWA | 33. Sale College Gymnasium Guthridge Campus Guthridge Parade Sale FWA | 45. Yanakie Public Hall Meeniyar-Promontory Road Yanakie AWA |
| 10. Gormandale Mechanics Institute corner Main Street and Hyland Highway Gormandale FWA | 22. Meeniyar Uniting Church Hall Geale Street Meeniyar AWA | 34. Sale Memorial Hall 82-88 MacAlister Street Sale FWA | 46. Yarram Guide and Scout Hall 80 Commercial Road Yarram NWA |
| 11. Kilmarnock Public Hall 21 Freshwaters Road Kilmarnock NWA | 23. Mirboo North Town Hall 30 Ridgway Street Mirboo North FWA | 35. CFA Sandy Point Surfers Walk Sandy Point NWA | |
| 12. Kongwak Primary School 1445 Wonthaggi-Korumburra Road Kongwak AWA | 24. Mount Eccles Mechanics Institute Mount Eccles Hall Road Mount Eccles AWA | 36. Seaspray Public Hall Futcher Street Seaspray AWA | |

FWA - Fully wheelchair accessible
AWA - Assisted wheelchair access
NWA - Not wheelchair accessible

Appendix D: Analysis of informal votes

Informal votes at the Gippsland South by-election

There were 1,951 informal votes at the by-election, comprising 5.51% of total votes. The informal voting rate was practically identical to the 5.5% informal vote in Gippsland South at the 2014 State election. Informal voting at the Gippsland South by-election was the lowest at a by-election since the 2010 Altona by-election (4.96%). This report examines the incidence of the informal vote at the by-election. The report also describes the types of mistakes that informal voters made and how they varied from those at the 2014 State election.

The range of candidates can affect the informal voting rate. In district by-elections over the past decade where both major parties were standing, the informal vote was a median of 1.33 percentage points lower than at the preceding State election. In contrast, where a major party was not standing, the informal vote was 3.14 percentage points higher than at the State election. It appears that some party supporters prefer to vote informally than to vote for another party or candidate. However, in this case the absence of a Labor candidate at the by-election had no apparent effect on the informal voting rate.

Informal voting rates ranged from 1.6% at Mardan to 11.1% at Tarwin Lower. Broadly, informal voting rates tended to be higher in the larger towns and the coastal communities and very low in small rural localities. The informal voting rate at the voting centres fluctuated marginally between the State election and the by-election, with little apparent pattern in the variations between voting centres.

In the survey of informal ballot papers, the VEC used the same categories as in its analyses of informal ballot papers since the 2006 State election. These categories are described in Table 1.

| Category | Description |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Blank | The bulk of these ballot papers were presumably deliberately informal, though they might include ballot papers lodged by people who had difficulties with the whole voting process. |
| Numbers – 1 only | |
| Numbers – insufficient | Ballot papers including insufficient numbers to constitute a formal vote. |
| Numbers – apparently deliberate | Ballot papers including number sequences such as '1's, or '0', or '1', '10', '300', which indicate an intention to cast an informal vote. |
| Numbers – other | |
| Ticks/crosses – preference | Ballot papers indicating a clear preference for a candidate through a single tick or cross. |
| Ticks/crosses – apparently deliberate | Ballot papers with ticks or crosses in every square, indicating an intention to reject all the candidates. |
| Ticks/crosses – other | |
| Writing – apparently deliberate | Ballot papers with writing or drawings indicating opposition to all the candidates, including those with a cross over the whole paper. |
| Writing – other | Vague scrawls not indicating any intention. |

TABLE 1: CATEGORIES USED BY THE VEC IN ANALYSIS OF BALLOT PAPERS

Table 2 shows the results of the survey for the by-election and for Gippsland South at the 2014 State election.

| Category | 2015 by-election | 2014 State election |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Blank | 577 (29.6%) | 754 (36.3%) |
| Numbers – 1 only | 124 (6.4%) | 603 (29.1%) |
| Numbers – insufficient | 91 (4.7%) | 172 (8.3%) |
| Numbers – deliberate | 153 (7.8%) | 140 (6.8%) |
| Numbers – other | 413 (21.2%) | 49 (2.4%) |
| Ticks/crosses – preference | 52 (2.7%) | 135 (6.5%) |
| Ticks-crosses – deliberate | 116 (5.9%) | 52 (2.5%) |
| Ticks/crosses – other | 0 (0%) | 45 (2.2%) |
| Writing – deliberate | 420 (21.5%) | 96 (4.6%) |
| Writing – other | 5 (0.3%) | 29 (1.4%) |
| TOTAL | 1,951 | 2,075 |

TABLE 2: RESULTS OF SURVEY OF INFORMAL BALLOT PAPERS CAST FOR GIPPSLAND SOUTH AT 2015 BY-ELECTION AND AT 2014 STATE ELECTION - DETAILED CATEGORIES

Blank ballot papers were the largest category of informal votes, with 577 votes, or 29.6% of the total. This was a significant reduction from the 754 blank ballot papers (36.3%) cast by Gippsland South voters at the 2014 State election.

Writing – deliberate was the second largest category of informal votes (21.5%) – an enormous increase from the 4.6% in this category at the State election.

The third largest category was ‘numbers – other’, with 21.2% of the total. In this category, voters appear to have attempted to vote correctly, but skipped or duplicated numbers. The number of votes in this category was more than eight times larger than at the State election (2.4%).

As at other by-elections, the proportion of informal ballot papers with a single 1 (6.4%) was much lower than at the State election (29.1%). Without the confusion of the Upper House ballot paper (on which most voters do vote ‘1’), very few Gippsland South by-election voters made this mistake.

Table 3 shows the results of the survey in broader categories.

| Category | 2015 by-election | 2014 State election |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Blank | 577 (29.6%) | 754 (36.3%) |
| Numbers | 781 (40%) | 964 (46.4%) |
| Ticks/crosses | 168 (8.6%) | 232 (11.2%) |
| Writing | 425 (21.8%) | 125 (6%) |
| TOTAL | 1,951 | 2,075 |

TABLE 3: RESULTS OF SURVEY OF INFORMAL BALLOT PAPERS CAST FOR GIPPSLAND SOUTH AT 2015 BY-ELECTION AND AT 2014 STATE ELECTION - BROAD CATEGORIES

There were slightly fewer numbering errors and many more in the writing category than at the State election. Ticks and crosses were a relatively small group in Gippsland South. In the State election as a whole, 13.01% of informal votes were in this category, with the incidence being higher in districts with larger proportions of recent immigrants, many of whom would have voted using a tick or cross in their former homelands.

Table 4 groups the various categories of deliberately informal votes and shows the result when the blank ballot papers are added to the marked ballot papers that were deliberately informal. It also groups the ballot papers that indicated a clear preference (either through the number “1” or a single tick or cross).

| Category | 2015 by-election | 2014 State election |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Apparently deliberate | 689 (35.3%) | 288 (13.9%) |
| Apparently deliberate including blank | 1,266 (64.9%) | 1,042 (50.2%) |
| Indicating preferences | 267 (13.7%) | 910 (43.9%) |
| TOTAL | 1,951 | 2,075 |

TABLE 4: RESULTS OF SURVEY OF INFORMAL BALLOT PAPERS CAST FOR GIPPSLAND SOUTH AT 2015 BY-ELECTION AND AT 2014 STATE ELECTION - DELIBERATELY INFORMAL AND PREFERENCE VOTES

The proportion of apparently deliberate informal votes was much higher than at the State election, and the number of preference votes was greatly diminished. There appears to be a trend to a substantial protest vote at by-elections, particularly in normally safe seats.



Victorian Electoral Commission

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