

## **BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF BY-ELECTIONS HELD 8 APRIL 2017**

### **A. NORTH SHORE AND MANLY**

#### **1. SAFE LIBERAL SEATS**

Before the State By-elections held on 8 April 2017 these seats were two of the safest Liberal seats in NSW, North Shore requiring a swing of 21.2% versus The Greens who previously came second, and Manly a swing of 24.5% also versus The Greens.

#### **2. THE BY-ELECTION 8 APRIL 2017**

Two strong and genuine Independents ran in these seats – Carolyn Corrigan in North Shore and Kathryn Ridge in Manly. In the North Shore (NS) electorate, the local government areas of Mosman and North Sydney are being threatened with forced council amalgamations and their councils are in court fighting for survival with considerable community support. Manly (M) has recently been forcibly amalgamated and its community denied a plebiscite in the process.

Labor did not contest these two by-elections, however The Greens and a number of minor parties and independents did.

#### **3. SIGNIFICANT NUMBER DID NOT VOTE**

In both electorates over 20% of those enrolled to vote (NS 54,762 & M 55,090) did not vote at all (NS 21% & M 20.2%).

#### **4. MASSIVE FIRST PREFERENCE SWING AGAINST THE LIBERALS**

At the By-election in North Shore on first preferences (primary votes) there was a swing against the Liberals of 15.3%, and in Manly 24.2%.

#### **5. SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF PREFERENCES EXHAUSTED**

In relation to the distribution of preferences, over 40% (44.2%) in North Shore and over 60% (64.4%) in Manly exhausted, that is there was no preference given to be distributed.

#### **6. MASSIVE AFTER PREFERENCE SWING AGAINST THE LIBERALS**

After the distribution of preferences that did flow, the swing against the Liberals in North Shore was 16.5% and in Manly 14%.

#### **7. TWO INDEPENDENTS POLLED WELL**

On a two party preferred basis scaled to 100%, the Independent Carolyn Corrigan in North Shore was on 45% (45.29%) and the Liberal Felicity Wilson on 55% (54.71%), and in Manly the Independent Kathryn Ridge was on 40% (39.5%) and the Liberal James Griffin on 60% (60.5%).

## 8. LIBERAL CANDIDATES RECEIVED A VOTE OF 36% OF THOSE ENROLLED TO VOTE

In North Shore the Liberal candidate Felicity Wilson received after distribution of preferences a vote of 36% of the total number enrolled (NS Wilson 19,733 votes out of 54,753). In Manly James Griffin received after preferences 36.5% of the total number enrolled (M Griffin 20,187 votes out of 55,090).

## 9. CONFUSION OVER OPTIONAL PREFERENTIAL VOTING

The Liberal Party in both seats handed out how-to-vote cards saying just vote 1 Liberal and had posters at polling places saying 'you can just vote 1' - with no reference to the Liberal Party having authorised the posters. Information on how preferences can impact on an election and what optional preferential voting really means, was not adequate at these by-elections and there was confusion amongst voters on election day.

## 10. INDEPENDENTS COULD HAVE WON WITH PREFERENCES

In North Shore all independents preferreded each other on their how to vote cards and the Greens preferreded Corrigan ahead of the Liberals. In Manly the Greens preferreded Ridge ahead of the Liberals. It is clear that as the Liberal candidates only received 36% of the total roll, an increased number of voters exercising their right to give preferences and to vote could have resulted in these two seats now being in the hands of Independents.

It should be noted that the Government issued the writs for the by-elections on 17 March for a three week campaign with election day in school holidays. It spent a large amount of money on the Sydney by-elections, with the independents ability to raise funds being limited by comparison.

## B. GOSFORD

### 1. MARGINAL LABOR SEAT

Before the State By-elections held on 8 April 2017 Gosford was the most marginal seat in NSW, held by Labor with a margin of 0.2%.

### 2. MASSIVE SWING TO LABOR AND AGAINST THE LIBERALS

In the By-election the Labor candidate Liesl Tesch on first preferences (primary vote) received a swing of 11%, and the Liberals a swing against of 12%. After preferences the swing to Labor was 12.3% and the swing against the Liberals 12.3%. This is a significant victory for the Labor Party.

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Save Our Councils Coalition (SOCC) 16 April 2017  
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