District of Cottesloe By-election Election Report

17 March 2018







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Introduction

On Tuesday 6 February 2018 the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly issued a writ for a by-election in the Legislative Assembly electoral District of Cottesloe.

The electorate of Cottesloe is located in the North Metropolitan Region, has an area of 35 km² and includes the Shire of Peppermint Grove, the Towns of Cottesloe and Mosman Park, parts of the cities of Fremantle and Nedlands and parts of the Towns of Cambridge and Claremont.

The district had 27,831 electors at the time of the by-election.

THE RETURNING OFFICER

Mr David Payne was appointed as Returning Officer for the 2018 Cottesloe by-election. As an experienced Returning Officer and Commission employee who lives within the electorate of Cottesloe, David's local knowledge was invaluable.

COTTESLOE BY-ELECTION TIMELINE

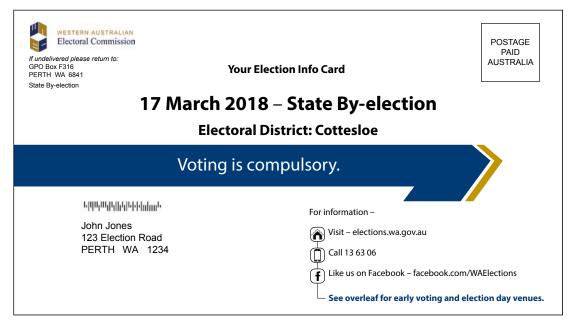
Issue of the writ		Tuesday 6 February 2018
Nominations & applications for early votes (by pos	st) open	Wednesday 7 February 2018
Electoral district roll close	(6pm)	Wednesday 14 February 2018
Close of nominations for registered parties	(12pm)	Thursday 22 February 2018
Close of nominations & draw for ballot paper posi	tions (12pm)	Friday 23 February 2018
Early votes (in person & by post) commences		Wednesday 28 February 2018
Close of written applications for early votes (by po	ost) (6pm)	Wednesday 14 March 2018
Close of issue of early votes (in person)	(6pm)	Friday 16 March 2018
Polling day (8am to 6pm)	Saturday 17 March 2018
Close of receipt of early votes (by post)	(9am)	Thursday 22 March 2018
Return of the writ		Friday 27 April 2018

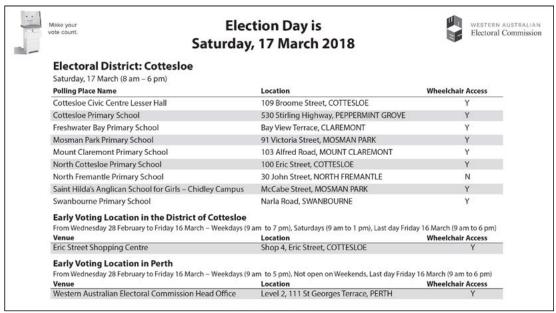
Services to Electors

ELECTION INFO CARD

A personally addressed Election Info Card was mailed to every elector within the district including details of polling place locations and wheelchair access. The use of such a form is more practicable at by-elections where they can be posted out in one go, compared with a

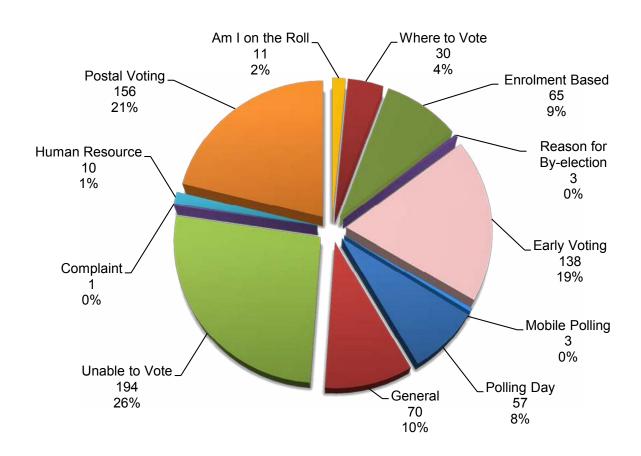
general election where they would have to be despatched sequentially over a 3 week period. The cards were sent out on Monday 26 February to ensure delivery well before polling day on Saturday 17 March 2018, sample as below.





ELECTION LINE CALL CENTRE

From Wednesday 7 February 2018 until Thursday 22 March 2018 an election information telephone call centre service was available to the general public to handle general enquiries or complaints. A total of 738 calls were received, at a daily average of 23. This represents 2.65% of the electorate accessing the call centre. As evident in the following chart, the nature of enquiries varied significantly but with approximately 40% related to early voting.



WEBSITE

The Commission website featured a Cottesloe by-election specific link on the home page guiding users to information about the district, Returning Officer contact details, polling place and early voting locations and election timetable with information available in multiple languages. The website had a total of 18,546 visits during the election period, of whom 81% were new visitors.

Social media was also active with the Commission's Facebook and Twitter sites twitter.com/WAelections and facebook.com/WAelections experiencing consistent activity throughout the whole by-election period.

EARLY VOTING

Under amendments to the *Electoral Act 1907* introduced in 2016, anyone who is eligible to vote in a State election may apply for an early vote, either in person or by post. To increase elector convenience, specific requirements to vote early are no longer required.

Early voting was available from Wednesday 28 February 2018 at the offices listed below and concluded at 6pm on Friday 16 March 2018. As an innovation at this election the Eric Street early voting centre operated over extended hours, 9.00am to 7.00pm on weekdays and 9.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays.

A total of 3,549 early votes were cast in person. This represents 19% of all votes cast compared with 15% at the 2017 general election, confirming that more electors are choosing to cast their vote at their convenience, rather than on the traditional polling day. Demand is likely to increase in future.

Early Voting Locations

State-wide

ALBANY

Albany Courthouse

BROOME

Broome Courthouse

BUSSELTON

Busselton Magistrates Court

COTTESLOE

Eric Street Shopping Centre

FREMANTLE

Fremantle Courthouse

GERALDTON

Geraldton Courthouse

JOONDALUP

Joondalup Courthouse

KALGOORLIE

Kalgoorlie Magistrates Court

KARRATHA

Karratha Courthouse

MANDURAH

Mandurah Courthouse

MIDLAND

Midland Courthouse

PERTH

WA Electoral Commission

Elsewhere

There were 7 electoral offices in the other Australian States and Territories where Western Australian Cottesloe electors could cast an early vote. These were located in each of the capital cities. Early voting was also available at the New Zealand Electoral Commission in Wellington.

Postal Voting

Postal vote application forms were available online from the Commission's website and upon request from election line call centre staff. Applications opened on Wednesday 7 February 2018. Postal votes received prior to 9am on Thursday 22 March 2018 were accepted, in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act.

Of the 3,857 postal votes issued to electors 2,990 voting packages were returned and following processing, 2,654 ballot papers were admitted to the count. After vote processing, 46 ballot papers were deemed informal, resulting in 2,608 valid postal votes.

Special Institutions

One mobile team was allocated to visit 6 special institutions in the electorate before polling day. The team was responsible for providing a voting service to electors within these special institutions.

Special institutions and hospitals within the district were:

Aegis Alfred Carson

30 Bay Rd, CLAREMONT

Lisle Villages-Mount Claremont U50/57 Lisle St, MT CLAREMONT

Mercy Place – Mont Clare

9 Dean St, CLAREMONT

Regis North Fremantle

23 Harvest Rd Nth, NORTH FREMANTLE

St Louis Estate

10 Albert St, CLAREMONT

Wearne Cottesloe

1 Gibney St, COTTESLOE

A total of 186 votes were issued and collected from these locations of which 13 proved to be informal. This resulted in 173 formal votes being included in the final count.

ELECTION DAY POLLING

The 9 ordinary polling places listed below were open on polling day from 8am to 6pm. All were the same venues as used in the 2017 State General Election.

Cottesloe Civic Centre Lesser Hall 109 Broome St, COTTESLOE

Cottesloe Primary School 530 Stirling Hwy, PEPPERMINT GROVE

Freshwater Bay Primary School Bay View Tce, CLAREMONT

Mosman Park Primary School 91 Victoria St, MOSMAN PARK

Mount Claremont Primary School 103 Alfred Rd, MOUNT CLAREMONT

North Cottesloe Primary School 100 Eric St, COTTESLOE

North Fremantle Primary School 30 John St, NORTH FREMANTLE

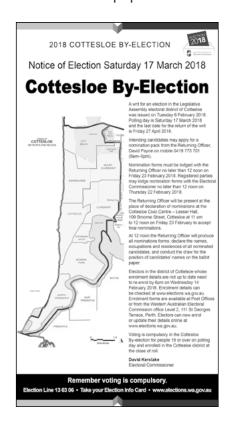
St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls McCabe St, MOSMAN PARK

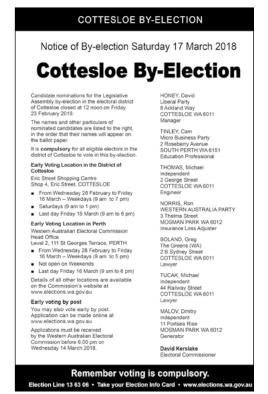
Swanbourne Primary School Narla Rd, SWANBOURNE

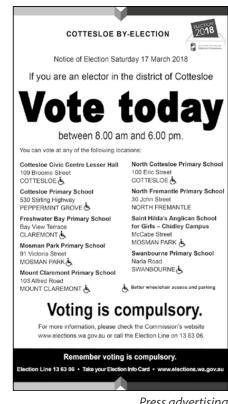
On polling day in addition to the Returning Officer who was based at the Eric Street Shopping Centre, the Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner visited polling places to review and assist polling staff and electors.

ADVERTISING

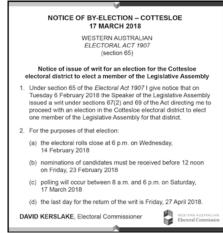
In accordance with legislative requirements, advertisements were placed in the state-wide newspaper The West Australian together with local newspapers within the Cottesloe district: Post Newspapers and Western Suburbs Weekly.







Press advertising



Government Gazette



Early voting centre signage

Nominations and Ballot Paper Draw

Nominations opened on Wednesday 7 February 2018.

The registered parties lodged the relevant nomination forms with the Electoral Commission centrally and independent candidates lodged their forms with the Returning Officer prior to the close of nominations.

The close of nominations and the draw for ballot paper positions were conducted by the Returning Officer at the Lesser Hall located in the Cottesloe Civic Centre, Broome Street Cottesloe.

By the close of nominations at 12 noon on Friday 23 February 2018 the following seven candidates had nominated, listed below in ballot paper order:

Candidate	Party
HONEY, David	Liberal Party (LIB)
TINLEY, Cam	Micro Business Party (MBP)
THOMAS, Michael	Independent (IND)
NORRIS, Ron	WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PARTY (WAP)
BOLAND, Greg	The Greens (WA), (GRN)
TUCAK, Michael	Independent (IND)
MALOV, Dmitry	Independent (IND)

BALLOT PAPER COTTESLOE DISTRICT
Western Australia Ballot Paper Election of one member of the Legislative Assembly
COTTESLOE DISTRICT
Number the boxes from 1 to 7 in the order of your choice.
HONEY, David Liberal Party
TINLEY, Cam Micro Business Party
THOMAS, Michael Independent
NORRIS, Ron WESTERN AUSTRALIA PARTY
BOLAND, Greg The Greens (WA)
TUCAK, Michael Independent
MALOV, Dmitry Independent
REMEMBER Number every box to make your vote count.

Sample copy of Cottesloe By-election ballot paper

Services for Candidates

Party and Candidate Support and Training

An information letter and nomination form were sent to all political parties prior to the close of nominations.

All candidates and prospective candidates were provided with:

- A brochure titled Eligibility for Membership of State Parliament
- · Candidates guide Legislative Assembly
- Election timeline
- Political finance timeline
- Funding and Disclosure guidelines
- Other Income and Electoral Expenditure guidelines
- District map
- Formality of ballot papers information
- Form for the supply of rolls
- Appointment of an agent and scrutineer appointment forms
- Scrutineer guide
- Election return.

Commission electoral liaison staff were available throughout the by-election to offer support and guidance to parties and candidates, offering assistance with nomination procedures and to review any feedback following the by-election.

Counting of the Votes

Counting of ordinary votes at all polling places had concluded by 8.00pm. Results were available progressively on the election website and all materials had been returned to the Returning Officer by 9.30pm on polling night.

A fresh scrutiny was conducted by the Returning Officer and Commission staff at the Commission's office on Monday 19 March.

On Thursday 22 March, final early votes and provisional votes were verified and counted at the Commission's office. A full distribution of preferences on Friday 23 March confirmed the Two Candidate Preferred count conducted on election night.

Candidates, scrutineers and officials were invited to all of these instances where ballot papers were handled, however none were in attendance.

Declaration of the Poll

At 10.00am on Tuesday 27 March 2018, the Returning Officer formally declared the poll at the Cottesloe Groyne in the presence of members of the public and three candidates. Dr David Honey representing the Liberal Party was declared the new member with a majority of 70.17% of the Total Valid Vote Preference Count.

Information relating to the by-election which included all of the results at polling place level, were published on the Commission's website. They are also detailed on pages 12 – 15 of this report.

Stakeholder Feedback

The Commission received 16 complaints over the course of the election campaign, all relating to the conduct of candidates rather than the Commission itself. The main issues related to matters regarding authorisation of election material, misleading and deceptive publications, candidate signage and the use of political party postal vote application forms. All were able to be resolved informally, mainly by explanation.

Cottesloe By-election Results

Enrolment: **27,831**

Formal Votes: 18,159

Informal Votes: 364 (1.96 % of total votes)

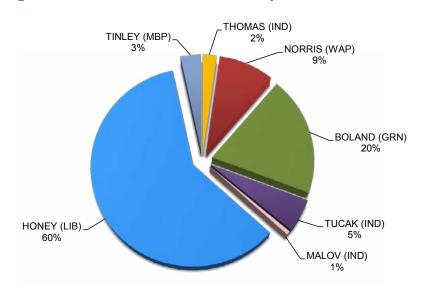
Total Votes: 18,523 (66.56 % of enrolled electors)

Results

Two Candidate Preferred (after full distribution of preferences)						
Candidate	Votes	% Votes				
HONEY - LIB	12,738	70.17%				
BOLAND - GRN	5,416	29.83%				

Candidate	Party	Votes Counted	% Valid Votes	
HONEY	LIB	10,872	59.87%	
TINLEY	MBP	605	3.33%	
THOMAS	IND	402	2.21%	
NORRIS	WAP	1,636	9.01%	
BOLAND	GRN	3,555	19.58%	
TUCAK	IND	977	5.38%	
MALOV	IND	112	0.62%	
Total Valid Vote	es	18,159		
Informal		364		
Total		18,523		

Percentage of First Preference Votes – By Candidate



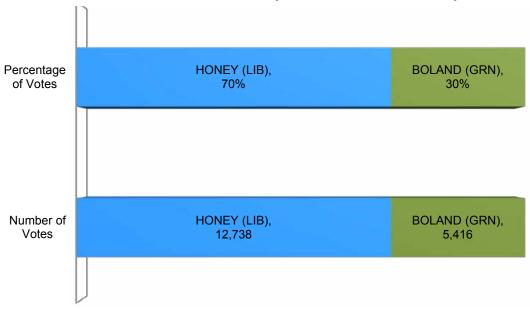
First Preference Votes for each Candidate – By Polling Place

Results by Polling Place									
Polling Place	HONEY LIB	TINLEY MBP	THOMAS IND	NORRIS WAP	BOLAND GRN	TUCAK IND	MALOV IND	Informal	Total Votes
Cottesloe Civic Centre Lesser Hall	755	37	32	106	251	115	7	22	1,325
Cottesloe Primary School	785	37	15	89	217	55	3	25	1,226
Freshwater Bay Primary School	762	78	31	118	252	74	13	29	1,357
Mosman Park Primary School	581	42	33	176	355	62	4	28	1,281
Mount Claremont Primary School	1,166	82	45	165	122	98	16	17	2,041
North Cottesloe Primary School	854	43	41	76	287	118	6	21	1,446
North Fremantie Primary School	346	32	28	98	305	76	7	28	920
Saint Hilda's Anglican School for Girls - Chidley Campus	577	29	16	102	132	26	3	21	906
Swanbourne Primary School	980	54	26	91	326	101	11	26	1,615
Special Institutions, Hospitals & Remotes	126	8	3	14	20	1	1	13	186
Absent Votes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Early Votes (by Post)	1,729	82	67	259	358	87	26	46	2,654
Early Votes (In Person)	2,202	81	64	342	623	164	15	58	3,549
Provisional Votes	9	0	-1	0	7	0	0	0	17
Total Votes	10,872	605	402	1,636	3,555	977	112	364	18,523

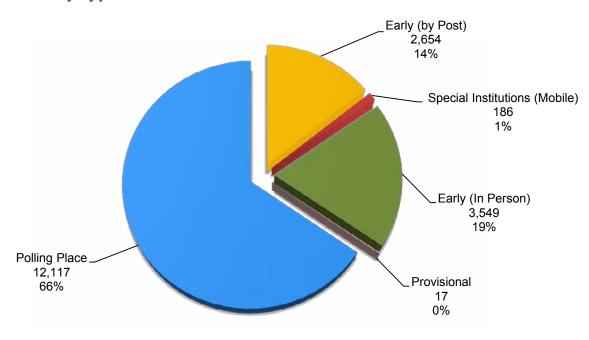
Distribution of Preferences

Distribution Level	HONEY LIB	TINLEY MBP	THOMAS IND	NORRIS WAP	BOLAND GRN	TUCAK IND	MALOV IND	Valid Votes	Exhausted	Total Votes
First Preference	10,872	605	402	1,636	3,555	977	112	18,159	0	18,159
Distribution 1	14	5	4	7	7	74	-112	-1	1	0
Progressive Total 1	10,886	610	406	1,643	3,562	1,051	0	18,158	1	18,159
Distribution 2	/1	46	-406	66	94	128	U	-1	1	0
Progressive Total 2	10,957	656	0	1,709	3,656	1,179	0	18,157	2	18,159
Distribution 3	334	-656	0	141	83	96	0	-2	2	0
Progressive Total 3	11,291	0	0	1,850	3,739	1,275	0	18,155	4	18,159
Distribution 4	369	0	0	269	637	-1,275	0	0	0	0
Progressive Total 4	11,660	0	0	2,119	4,376	0	0	18,155	4	18,159
Distribution 5	1,078	0	0	-2,119	1,040	0	0	-1	1	0
Total	12,738	0	0	0	5,416	0	0	18,154	5	18,159

Two Candidate Preferred Results (after full distribution)



Total Votes by Type



Total Informal Votes by Type

