District of Murdoch By-Election

23 February 2008



Election Report

REPORT ON THE MURDOCH BY-ELECTION 23 FEBRUARY 2008

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit to you, for presentation to Parliament, my report on the administration of the Murdoch district by-election held on 23 February 2008 including the statistical return.

Warwick Gately AM

ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

July 2008



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SUMMARY

The result of the Murdoch by-election was declared by the returning officer, Ms Diane Roberts, on Wednesday 5 March 2008. Mr Christian Porter, one of four candidates contesting the by-election was elected, gaining 62.82% of the first preference votes. The two-party preferred majority was 38.78%, an increase of 26.92% from the 2005 State general election.

Early voting (in person) was available for electors at 37 locations throughout Western Australia, interstate and in London. In an evident trend, early voting (in person) increased by over 55% compared to the last State general election. On polling day, the same 11 polling places used in the 2005 State general election were again provided in the district in order to remove potential confusion for electors.

In an effort to maximise voter turnout on polling day, a personally addressed Easy Voter Card was delivered to every elector within the district. This carried a map of the district, information on how to cast an early vote, a list of polling places, instructions on how to fill out the ballot paper and the message that voting in the by-election was compulsory.

Voter turnout was steady, with 74.72% of eligible electors casting a vote.

The total cost of the by-election was \$147,061 excluding GST, and does not include Commission overheads including salaries. Additionally, public funding of candidates and parties may cost \$30,426.



THE MURDOCH DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

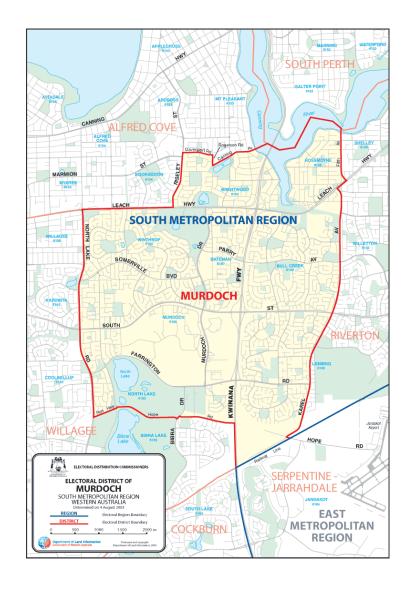
The Murdoch Electorate

Area: 27km²

Location: One of 10 districts in the South Metropolitan Region

Includes Suburbs/Towns: Bateman, Bibra Lake*, Booragoon*, Brentwood, Bull Creek*, Jandakot*, Kardinya*, Leeming*, Mt Pleasant*, Murdoch, North Lake, Rossmoyne*, Winthrop (* indicates part).

Map of the Murdoch Electorate





Former Members

The electorate of Murdoch was established in the electoral boundary distribution in 1996. Since its inception as a district of Western Australia the seat has been held by the Liberal Party, represented by the following members:

Period	Member	Party Affiliation
2008 –	Charles Christian Porter	Liberal
2005 – 2008	Trevor Raymond Sprigg	Liberal
1996 – 2005	Michael Francis Board	Liberal

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND KEY RESULTS

2008 By-election

The 23 February 2008 by- election was held due to the death of the Hon. Trevor Raymond Sprigg on 17 January 2008.

Murdoch By-election Timetable

Issue of the writ	Thursday 24 January 2008
Nomination for candidates opens	Friday 25 January 2008
Applications for Early Votes (by post) opens	Friday 25 January 2008
Electoral district roll close	6.00 pm Friday 1 February 2008
Close of nominations - political parties	12 noon Thursday 31 January 2008
Close of nominations & draw for ballot paper positions	12 noon Friday 1 February 2008
Early Votes (in person) opens	Tuesday 5 February 2008
Early Votes (by post) commences	Wednesday 6 February 2008
Mobile polling for special institutions and hospitals commences	Monday 11 February 2008
Close of written applications of Early Votes (by post)	6.00 pm Thursday 21 February 2008
Close of Early Votes (in person)	6.00 pm Friday 22 February 2008
Polling Day	8.00 am to 6.00 pm Saturday 23 February 2008
Close of receipt of Early Votes (by post)	9.00 am Thursday 28 February 2008
Return of the writ	Wednesday 5 March 2008



Recent Results

2008 By-Election - District of Murdoch

Enrolled electors	28,882	
Total votes	21,582	74.72%
- Formal votes	20,886	96.78%
- Informal votes	696	3.22%
Non voters	7,045	24.39%

First Preference Results

Christian Porter (Liberal)	13,121	62.82%
Ka-ren Chew (Christian Democratic Party WA)	1,604	7.68%
Neil Gilmour (ONE NATION)	659	3.16%
Hsien Harper (Greens (WA))	5,502	26.34%

Two Candidate Preferred Result

Christian Porter (Liberal)	14,488	69.39%
Hsien Harper (Greens (WA))	6,392	30.61%

2005 State General Election - District of Murdoch

Enrolled electors	28,372	
Total votes	26,057	91.84%
- Formal votes	24,848	95.36%
- Informal votes	1,209	4.64%
Non voters	2,315	8.16%

First Preference Results

Damian Bramanis	452	1.82%
Jackie Ormsby (Australian Labor Party)	8,823	35.51%
Trevor Sprigg (Liberal)	12,024	48.39%
Michael Dunjey (Christian Democratic Party WA)	833	3.35%
Ursula Stone (ONE NATION)	240	0.97%
Jan Currie (Greens (WA))	1,821	7.33%
Shayne Weller (Family First Party)	655	2.64%
Total	24,848	100.00%



Two Candidate Preferred Result

Jackie Ormsby (Australian Labor Party)	10,945	44.07%
Trevor Sprigg (Liberal)	13,892	55.93%

2001 State General Election - District of Murdoch

Enrolled electors	23,967	
Total votes	21,913	91.43%
- Formal votes	21,123	96.39%
- Informal votes	790	3.61%
Non voters	2,054	8.57%

First Preference Results

Carole Pastana (DEMOCRATS)	1,442	6.83%
Gavin Waugh (Australian Labor Party)	6,943	32.87%
Mike Board (Liberal)	10,430	49.38%
Felicity McGeorge (Greens (WA))	2,308	10.93%

Two Candidate Preferred Result

Gavin Waugh (Australian Labor Party)	9,144	43.44%
Mike Board (Liberal)	11,906	56.56%

SERVICES TO ELECTORS

Issue of the Writ

The writ for the by-election in the Legislative Assembly electoral district of Murdoch was issued by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner on Thursday 24 January 2008.

The writ laid out key dates necessary for the returning officer to arrange the poll to be conducted in the electoral district, these were:

Close of Roll: 6 pm Friday 1 February 2008
Close of Nominations: 12 noon Friday 1 February 2008
Polling Day: Saturday 23 February 2008

Return of Writ Not later than Wednesday 23 April 2008



Advertising

The Commission placed a number of advertisements in the State-wide newspaper, *The West Australian*, and many in the local newspaper in the district, the *Melville Times*. The advertisements were designed to notify electors of important information leading up to polling day. The advertising undertaken represented that which is required to be provided as specified in the *Electoral Act 1907* and campaign advertising chosen to be undertaken at the discretion of the Commission.

Type of Advertisement	Newspaper	Date of Publication
Notice of issue of the writ and details	Government Gazette	29 January 2008
Notice of Election	The West Australian Melville Times	25 January 2008 29 January 2008
Close of enrolment	Melville Times	29 January 2008
Details of Returning Officer, place of declaration of nominations, polling places, declared special institutions, declaration of boundaries of a poling area, list of registered political parties	Government Gazette	1 February 2008
Details of Candidates	The West Australian	4 February 2008
	Melville Times	5 February 2008
Polling place locations	The West Australian Melville Times	4 February 2008 12 &19 February 2008
Voting is compulsory	Melville Times	19 February 2008
How to vote	Melville Times	19 February 2008
Vote Today	The West Australian	23 February 2008
By-election Results	Melville Times	11 March 2008

Media Alerts

Five media alerts were sent to all Western Australian metropolitan media at various stages of the by-election period.

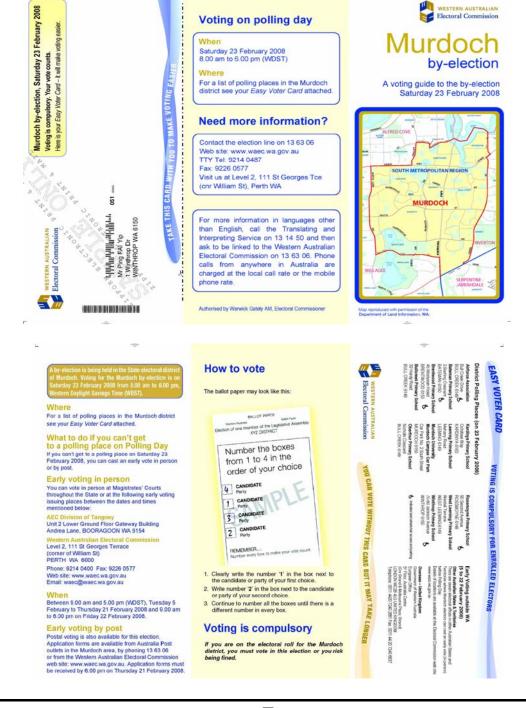
Subject	Date of Release
Election announcement and enrol now	24 January 2008
Candidates	1 February 2008
Early voting options	8 February 2008
Results alert	22 February 2008
Polling night results	23 February 2008



Easy Voter Card

In an effort to maximise elector turnout a personally addressed Easy Voter Card was produced and mailed to every elector within the district in the week commencing 11 February 2008. The messages in the Easy Voter Card reminded electors that voting was compulsory, gave the date and time of polling, provided an address list of all polling places within the district as well as details of how to cast an early vote, how to fill in ballot papers and a map of the district.

The Easy Voter Card concept resulted from elector feedback following the Victoria Park by-election in March 2006 where a postcard with similar information was distributed to every household. Electors felt the postcard was too generic and expressed the desire for such information to be personally addressed in the future.





Election Information Services - Election Line and Web Site

From 29 January 2008 until 28 February 2008, the Western Australian Electoral Commission provided a telephone enquiry service to the general public through a 1300 number (13-63-06) which had previously been established for elector enquiries. The election line was staffed from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm every weekday and from 8.00 am until 6.00 pm on polling day.

A total of 1,195 calls were made to this service over the election period. The majority of enquiries were with regard to enrolment status (36%), early voting (in person), early voting (by post) and polling place locations.

A substantial number of calls related to geographic locations and the new electoral boundaries for the Murdoch district. In addition, there were many enquiries from electors who were unsure if they were in the Murdoch district due to some of the candidate promotional materials being sent to areas outside the district.

The Commission web site also contained contact details of the returning officer, information regarding the timetable of the by-election, early voting (by post) application forms, details of early voting (in person) locations, polling places, a colour map of polling places within the district, electorate profile and at the conclusion of polling was continuously updated with election results.

Electors with Disabilities

All polling places and early voting (in person) issuing offices were equipped with magnifying sheets, large 2B pencils with a triangular grip and hearing impairment information desk cards.

On polling day, five of the 11 polling places provided best wheelchair access and parking. At the Murdoch University location, a drive-in polling place was set up in the car park. Additionally, polling place managers were trained and prepared to issue a vote to electors unable to come into a polling place.

Early Voting (by post)

Early voting (by post) was available to electors who were unable to visit a polling place on polling day.

Application forms were available for download from the Commission's web site, AEC divisional offices, Australia Post offices in the district, the GPO in Perth and upon request from the election line staff.

Applications for early voting (by post) commenced on Friday 25 January 2008 and closed on Thursday 21 February 2008. Final postal votes received prior to 9.00 am on Thursday 28 February 2008, bearing a postmark prior to 6.00 pm on 23 February 2008 were accepted, in accordance with the Act.

Processing of all applications was performed centrally at Commission offices. Of the 1,243 postal votes issued, 955 were returned. Of those returned 815 were deemed to be valid votes.



Early Voting (in person)

Early voting (in person) was available to Murdoch electors from Tuesday 5 February 2008 at the following offices during normal business hours and concluded at 6.00 pm on Friday 22 February 2008.

ARMADALE BOORAGOON FREMANTLE

Armadale Court House Australian Electoral Commission Fremantle Court House

Division of Tangney

JOONDALUP MANDURAH MIDLAND

Joondalup Court House Mandurah Court House Midland Court House

PERTH PERTH ROCKINGHAM

Western Australian Electoral Central Law Courts Rockingham Court House

Commission

ALBANY BROOME BUNBURY

Albany Court House Broome Court House Bunbury Court House

BUSSELTON CARNARVON COLLIE

Busselton Court House Carnarvon Court House Collie Court House

DERBY ESPERANCE GERALDTON

Derby Court House Esperance Court House Geraldton Court House

KALGOORLIE KARRATHA KATANNING

Kalgoorlie Court House Karratha Court House Katanning Court House

KUNUNURRA MANJIMUP MERREDIN

Kununurra Court House Manjimup Court House Merredin Court House

MOORA NARROGIN NORTHAM

Moora Court House Narrogin Court House Northam Court House

SOUTH HEDLAND ROEBOURNE

South Hedland Court Housek Roebourne Court House

Other Australian States and Territories

There were seven electoral offices in the other Australian States and Territories where Western Australian electors could cast an early vote (in person) before polling day.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL VICTORIA NORTHERN TERRITORY
TERRITORY Victorian Electoral Commission Northern Territory Electoral

Elections ACT Commission

QUEENSLAND SOUTH AUSTRALIA TASMANIA

Electoral Commission Queensland State Electoral Office South Tasmanian Electoral Office

Australia

NEW SOUTH WALES New South Wales Electoral

Commission



Overseas

There was one office outside Australia where Murdoch electors could cast an early vote (in person) before polling day.

UNITED KINGDOM

Government of Western Australia European Office

A total of 1,289 early votes (in person) were made of which 21 were informal. This resulted in 1,268 formal votes being included in the count.

Hospitals and Special Institutions

One mobile team was allocated to visit seven special institutions and hospitals within the electorate before polling day. The team had the use of a new tablet PC which could be operated by pen or by keyboard.

The PC, a Fujitsu LifeBook P1510, weighed only one kilogram and could be used with either the keyboard or by rotating the screen, folding it over the keyboard and operating it via a stylus on the screen. The handwriting recognition software proved to be very user friendly and members of the mobile team gave the PC a very positive report.

The PC has a three hour battery life, was easy to operate in both standing (tablet usage) or sitting (keyboard) usage modes.

Summary: For portable use, the tablet PC is a significant improvement for polling staff who are required to be 'on the move'. It is recommended that the tablet PC be utilised for future by-election mobile polling teams and by the busier mobile polling teams (visiting large hospitals) at the next State general election.

The details of the special institutions and hospitals within the district were:

Name	Address
Avalon Apartments (St Ives Murdoch)	22 Windelya Road, MURDOCH
Dean Lodge	Bull Creek Drive, BULL CREEK
Frederick Guest Village	25 Gleddon Road, BULL CREEK
Freeman Nursing Home/ Shewin Lodge	31 Webb Street, ROSSMOYNE
Gordon Lodge, Air Force Association Estate	Bull Creek Drive, BULL CREEK
Regents Garden Nursing Home and Hostel	2 Amur Street, BATEMAN
St John of God Hospital	Murdoch Drive, MURDOCH

A total of 335 votes were issued and collected from these locations of which 12 were informal. This resulted in 323 formal votes being included in the count.



Polling Places

There were 11 polling places provided for electors on polling day. These polling places were the same venues which were available to electors at the State general election in 2005.

All polling places were open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on polling day. Polling places with the best wheelchair access and parking are indicated.

Polling Place Location	Address	
Bateman Primary School	2 Bartling Crescent, BATEMAN	Ġ
Brentwood Primary School	45 Moolyeen Road, BRENTWOOD	Ŗ
Air Force Association	Bull Creek Drive, BULL CREEK	Ġ
Bull Creek Primary School	32 Hardy Street, BULL CREEK	
Oberthur Primary School	Nicholls Crescent, BULL CREEK	
Kardinya Primary School	Ochiltree Way,KARDINYA	
Leeming Primary School	Meharry Road, LEEMING	
West Leeming Primary School	Westall Terrace, LEEMING	
Murdoch University Campus	Car Park No 2, South Street, MURDOCH	
Rossmoyne Primary School	90 Second Avenue, ROSSMOYNE	Ŗ
Winthrop Primary School	70–80 Jackson Avenue, WINTHROP	Ġ

Electoral Rolls

Paper electoral rolls (Certified Lists) were used in all polling places. Electors who presented themselves to vote at the polling place were marked off on the roll. A total of 66 rolls were printed. When returned, these rolls were electronically scanned to determine who had voted at the polling places.

Copies of the roll were loaded onto two laptop computers which were provided to the Australian Electoral Commission Division of Tangney in Booragoon for early voting (in person). This allowed electors to be checked and marked off the roll without completing a declaration envelope.



SERVICES TO REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

The Returning Officer

Ms Diane Roberts was appointed returning officer for the Murdoch by-election and worked from her home office.

Under the direction of the Electoral Commissioner, a State returning officer performs specific duties and tasks, some of which are listed below.

General Administrative Duties & Tasks

- Provide ongoing security and safe-keeping for polling materials
- Maintain records (including correspondence, accounts and other relevant documents)
- Maintain staff payment records in accordance with requirements
- Respond to enquiries from candidates, potential candidates, public and polling site authorities

Prior to Issue of the Writ

- Become familiar with polling requirements and historical records for the district
- Prepare and dispatch provisional offers of appointment to polling staff
- Liaise with potential candidates regarding nomination procedures and their obligations

On Issue of the Writ

- Inspect polling places (including mobile polling sites)
- Complete and forward polling place profiles for each polling place
- Attend training session
- Select and appoint staff
- Confirm polling place bookings

Between Issue of the Writ and Nomination Day

- Receive local nominations
- Follow-up outstanding hire of premises

On Nomination Day

Attend place for nomination between 11 am and 12 noon to receive nominations

12

- Conduct draw for positions on ballot paper
- Conduct candidate information sessions



Between Close of Nominations and Polling Day

- Arrange premises and notify staff regarding face-to-face training sessions
- Conduct face-to-face training session for polling place managers and assistant polling place managers
- Conduct face-to-face training session for mobile polling teams
- Receive and check staff packs
- Dispatch polling official appointments, manuals and workbooks
- Receive and reconcile ballot papers received
- Receive and check other polling place materials
- Allocate materials to polling places
- Supply materials to polling place managers

On Polling Day

- Visit polling places during polling hours
- Respond to candidate and public enquiries
- Receive and monitor the receipt of primary vote and notional count figure from polling places
- Transmit progressive polling place figures to the Commission
- Check-in polling place materials returned by Polling Place Managers

On the Sunday after Polling Day

- Reconcile polling place managers' returns
- Complete statistical returns
- Check and verify staffing records used for payment of polling officials
- Complete staff returns and assessments for polling place and casual staff
- Sort and package all used and unused materials for return to the Commission's store
- Record number of unused ordinary ballot papers
- Sort and reconcile all provisional votes issued at polling places in district

After Polling Weekend

- Conduct full distribution of preferences/two unexcluded candidate preference count
- Conduct informal vote survey
- Declare the poll



Nominations and Ballot Paper Draw

The close of nominations and the draw for ballot paper positions was conducted at the Western Australian Electoral Commission, Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000 by the returning officer.

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.

At the close of nominations at 12 noon on Thursday 31 January 2008 four candidates had nominated to contest the election.

List of Candidates (in ballot paper order and ballot paper name)

PORTER, Christian Liberal

CHEW, Ka-ren Christian Democratic Party WA

GILMOUR, Neil ONE NATION
HARPER, Hsien Greens (WA)

Party and Candidate Support and Training

An informational letter was sent to all political parties prior to the close of nominations.

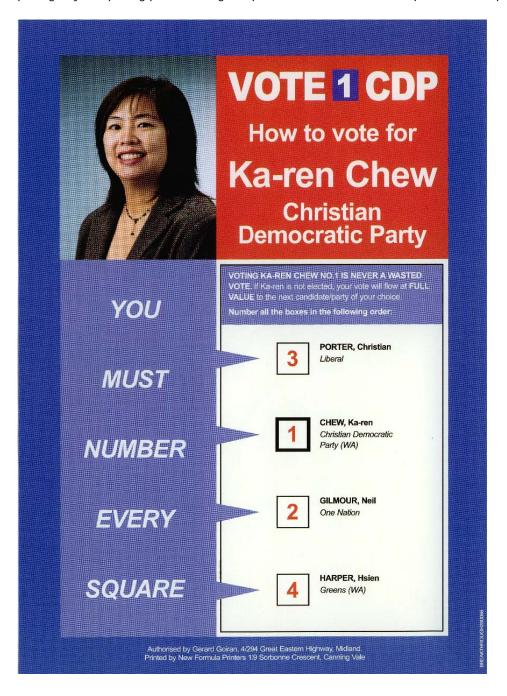
All candidates, and prospective candidates, were provided with a pack which included a brochure titled Eligibility for Membership of State Parliament, a Candidates Guide Legislative Assembly, a Disclosure of Gifts, Other Income and Electoral Expenditure Guidelines, a nomination form and receipt, and various other forms nominating ballot paper particulars, appointment of an agent and scrutineer appointment forms. These items were also available to download from the Commission's web site.



Posters and Signage

There are certain requirements under section 191A and 192 of the *Electoral Act 1907* which registered political parties and candidates are required to adhere to in regard to any advertisement, handbill or pamphlet which they produce. They must contain the name and address of the person authorising it, and the name and place of business of the printer.

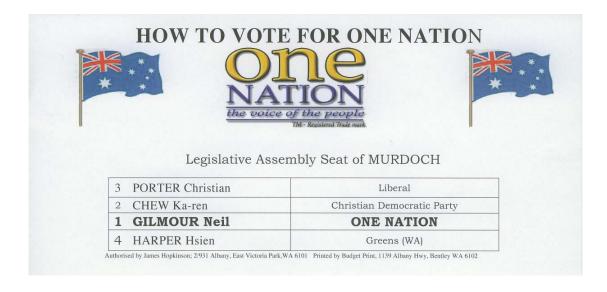
Additionally no electoral advertising is permitted within six metres from the entrance to a polling place on polling day. No polling place manager reported a breach of these requirements on polling day.



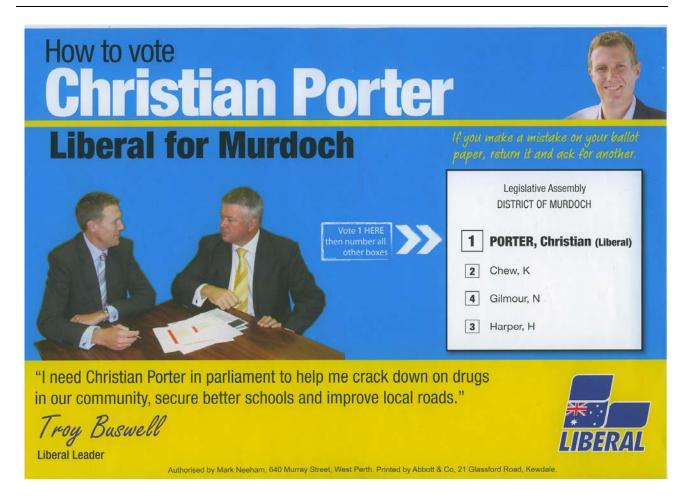












Provision of Election Results

Election results were progressively available to electors, media and the general public via the Commission's web site at www.waec.wa.gov.au and from www.electionswa.com through a virtual tally room.



COUNTING OF THE VOTES AND DECLARATION OF THE POLL

Counting of votes commenced at 6.00 pm on polling night with the results being received by the Commission periodically until approximately 8.30 pm when the final results for the night were received. The notional results were transmitted periodically and relayed onto the Internet.

On Thursday 28 February 2008 final postal votes and provisional votes were verified and counted.

On Thursday 2 March 2008 a full distribution of preferences was conducted at the returning officer's home office. This count expanded and refined the notional distribution of preferences conducted on election night, and resulted in a very similar outcome.

The returning officer formally declared the poll on Wednesday 5 March at the Perth Transit Centre, East Perth Mr Christian Porter, representing the Liberal Party, was declared elected as the new member for the Legislative Assembly district of Murdoch with a majority of 8,096 votes. Mr Porter was sworn into Parliament as the new member on Tuesday 11 March 2008.

Information relating to the by-election, which included the results at polling place level, was included on the Commission's web site.

Complaints Handling

No formal complaints were received relating to the Murdoch by-election. A small percentage of electors rang in with queries and concerns after promotional materials from a candidate were distributed to electors located outside the Murdoch district.

Non Voters

A total of 7,045 electors were identified as apparent non voters. At the time of writing this document, 2,865 electors were excused for valid reasons. This included the elector being absent from the State, personal illness or having changed address.

Costs

The total cost of the by-election was \$147,061 excluding GST, and does not include Commission overheads including salaries. This cost comprises of \$68,058 for remunerations, \$41,728 for advertising and communications, \$20,551 for services and contracts and \$16,724 for materials and administrative costs.



MURDOCH BY-ELECTION RESULTS

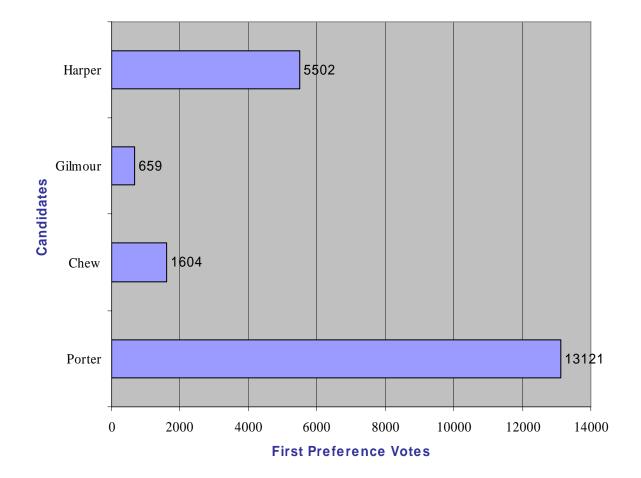
Enrolment: 28,882

Formal Votes: 20,886

Informal Votes: 696 (3.22% of total votes)

Total Votes: 21,582 (74.72% of enrolled electors)

First Preference Votes by Candidate



First Preference Votes Polled for Each Candidate at Each Polling Place

₽ <u>8</u>	Poliing Place	PORTER Christian LIB Votes	CHEW Ka-ren CDP Votes	GILMOUR Neil ONP Votes	HARPER Hsien GRN Votes	Total Formal Votes	Informal Votes	Total Votes	POR Chri	PORTER Christian LIB	HAF Hs G	HARPER Hsien GRII
_	Airforce Association	692	106	38	217	1053	33	1086	784	74.45%	269	25.55%
2	Bateman Primary School	1044	135	25	452	1688	22	1745	1153	68.31%	535	31.69%
ന	Brentwood Primary School	1182	110	45	554	1891	63	1954	1281	67.74%	610	32.26%
ব	Bull Creek Primary School	098	105	61	385	1421	09	1481	296	88.05%	454	31.95%
D.	Kardinya Primary School	1109	167	116	722	2114	82	2196	1278	60.45%	836	39.55%
و	Leeming Primary School	1198	117	72	542	1929	22	1986	1287	86.79%	640	33.21%
7	Murdoch University - Murdoch Campus Car Park	247	33	15	163	458	20	478	279	60.92%	179	39.08%
00	Oberthur Primary School	683	96	23	388	1190	42	1232	770	64.81%	418	35.19%
o	Rossmoyne Primary School	854	103	39	298	1294	40	1334	941	72.72%	353	27.28%
10	West Leeming Primary School	1178	132	90	490	1850	74	1924	1289	69.71%	560	30.29%
Ξ	Winthrop Primary School	2325	344	53	748	3470	115	3585	2583	74.46%	988	25.54%
Pollin	Polling Place Totals	11372	1448	569	4969	18358	643	19001	12612	68.72%	5740	31.28%
	Early Votes (by post)	616	44	38	236	934	20	954	858	70.45%	278	29.55%
	Early Votes (in person)	858	101	42	267	1268	21	1289	932	73.50%	336	26.50%
	Provisional Votes	2	0	0	_	ന	0	ന	2	86.67%	7	33.33%
	Special Institutions & Remote	273	1	10	29	323	12	335	284	87.93%	38	12.07%
Decla	Declaration and Mobile Votes Total	1749	156	06	533	2528	53	2581	1876	74.21%	652	25.79%
Total	Total First Preferences Votes	13121	1604	629	5502	20886	969	21582	14488	%68'39%	6392	30.61%
%Tota	%Total Valid Votes	62.82%	7.68%	3.16%	26.34%	100.00%						

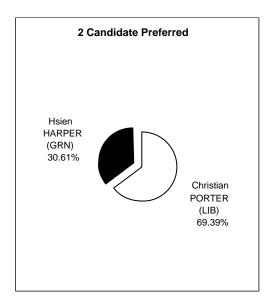


	PORTER	CHEW	GILMOUR	HARPER	Votes		Total
Preference Distribution	Christian Votes	Ka-ren Votes	Neil Votes	Hsien Votes	remaining in count	Exhausted Votes	Formal Votes
First Preference Votes	13,121	1,604	629	5,502	20,886		20,886
GILMOUR Excluded	170	195		293	658	-	629
Total	13,291	1,799		5,795	20,885		20,886
CHEW Excluded	1,197			265	1,794	2	1,799
District Total	14,488			6,392	20,880	9	20,886
	%66.69			30.61%			
					Abs	Absolute Majority = 10441	rity = 1044



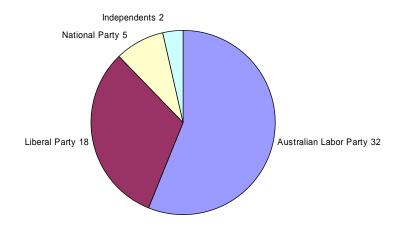
Two Candidate Preferred Votes

Christian Porter Liberal Party elected as the member for MURDOCH with a majority of 8,096 votes





Composition of the Legislative Assembly following the By-election



First Preference Results by Type of Vote

