

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Re: Proof transcript - LACSC - Public hearing held 15 May 2020
Date: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 11:28:52 AM

The Secretary.

I am requesting that in response to the question below, asked by Mrs McMahon re telephone voting that my response to the committee as per the transcript be withdrawn and substitute the correct response.

The question to which I am referring is the second one asked of me by Mrs McMahon as per below.

As per my email of 18 May my sincere apologies for confusing the answer. I should have asked the member, Mrs McMahon (not Laura Gerber as indicated in Monday 18 email) for the page number of our submission as there were 2 comments in our survey responses re Brisbane and I attempted to recall from memory (one would think that I would know not to rely on memory) and chose the wrong reference. Please find below a full response from the respondent to the question in our survey. He has given permission for his name and previous electoral experience to be included.

Question

Mrs McMAHON: Looking at some of the survey results, specifically there is a comment about the telephone voting results. Your survey respondent has indicated that the results from Brisbane were slow and 'aroused suspicion when added to the count'. Are you aware of what those issues were and where that suspicion may have come from?

Respondent's full answer.

Recording of Telephone votes

Apparently the telephone voting was all done by ECQ in Brisbane.

While it may have been expected that these votes would be counted quickly and Returning Officers (RO) advised of the numbers this did not occur. In fact, ROs do not appear to have even been advised of the number of telephone votes recorded and, therefore, outstanding from the count.

With Postal Votes, ROs know how many have issued and will have some idea of how many are still outstanding as the count proceeds. With the Telephone Votes they were left in the dark and it did not do much for the ECQ credibility when a large number of votes appeared unexpectedly late in the count. This was particularly annoying in the Noosa Shire Mayoral election where the count was so close.

The ROs should have been told how many Telephone Votes had been received for each electorate or division on the Monday after the election and then the distribution of those votes shortly thereafter. These figures were unreasonably delayed by ECQ Brisbane.

Regards,

*Barry Cotterell,
Former Assistant Australian Electoral Officer for Qld, (1979-1983)*

Again, many thanks to the committee for the opportunity to participate in the Public Hearing. Giving the community the opportunity to have a say and be heard is most welcome and enhances our democracy. The manner in which the committee conducted this inquiry is also much appreciated and I thank them on behalf of our member groups

and their members and the whole community.

Regards,

Melva Hobson PSM

President

OSCAR (Organisation of Sunshine Coast Association of Residents)