



Our ref:  
Your ref: 2020 Local Government Elections  
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11 May 2020

Committee Secretary  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

**Email: [lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)**

Dear Sir / Madam

**Submission – Inquiry into the Electoral Commission of Queensland online publication of preliminary and formal counts of the votes cast in the local government elections**

Thank you for providing Council the opportunity to provide a submission to the above inquiry.

The Central Highlands Regional Council would like to provide the following comments:

1. Counting of our votes and providing updates to the website was irregular:
  - a. 30 March 2020 and 2 April 2020
  - b. 2 April 2020 to 6 April 2020
  - c. 6 April 2020 to 7 April 2020
  - d. 7 April 2020 to 9 April 2020
  - e. 9 April 2020 to 16 April 2020 (declared)
2. The cut off for the return of the postal ballot was Tuesday 7 April 2020. Our polls were not declared until approx. 7.00pm on Thursday 16 April 2020, which was a full 9 days after the closure of the postal ballots.
3. Our Council had received notification on 9 April 2020 that there were 165 phone votes and a remaining 69 postal votes yet to be counted. It is hard to understand why the phone votes had not yet been counted prior to this date and that it had still taken over a week to count 234 votes. Council suggests a need for process improvement.
4. On a lesser note, the informative and helpful enhancements to the website were made progressively. It would have been beneficial if improvement works were undertaken earlier.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully



**Scott Mason**  
Chief Executive Officer

11/5/20