

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Electoral Officer
REFERENCE: E314
DATE: 4 August 2006
SUBJECT: 2006 Golden Bay Community Board By-Election

The 2006 By-Election was conducted under the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001.

The following details are now provided for Councillor's information.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Residential Electoral Roll

The residential electoral roll received from the Electoral Roll Centre consisted of 3 527 residential electors (ie people who are registered as parliamentary electors).

Ratepayer Electoral Roll

The ratepayer electoral roll consists of people who reside outside the Ward who have enrolled or been nominated as an elector in respect of a property within the Golden Bay Ward. There were 99 on the ratepayer roll.

SPECIAL VOTES

A total of 15 special votes were issued and of these 12 were completed and returned with 10 voting papers being subsequently allowed and included in the official count.

PUBLICATION OF FINAL RESULTS

All results were published in The Nelson Mail on Saturday 5 August 2006 and were as follows:

Cashman Barry James	1 021
Symmons Mike	1 164
Informal	9

VOTING PAPERS

The number of voting papers issued and the returns are shown below with the comparative figures from the 2004 elections:

Election	Papers Issued		Papers Returned		% Returned	
	2006	2004	2006	2004	2006	2004
Golden Bay Ward	3 626	3 539	2 194	2 380	60.50%	67.25%

PRINTING

All voting papers, envelopes and profile statements were produced by Moore Gallagher Ltd Auckland and as part of this process all voting papers were sorted by computer into postal order.

PROGRESSIVE PROCESSING

We commenced opening and processing the voting papers on Wednesday 2 August 2006. One person was employed during this period with part time assistance from three internal staff members. A Justice of the Peace was present at all times during the early processing of voting papers.

Both the first and second counts were completed during this time which meant that on election day we only had to process one day's mail and all the papers hand delivered up to 12 noon.

The final results were provided to the candidates and the media soon after 12.30 pm.

A new software system was used for the first time and this By-Election provided an ideal opportunity to trial the system before the 2007 Local Authority Elections. The system worked extremely well and is very user friendly.

COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

The Justice of the Peace who was appointed to observe the processing on receipt of the returned voting documents signed a certificate confirming that he was satisfied that the relevant sections of the legislation were complied with in full.

CONCLUSION

The By-Election went very smoothly and using Progressive Counting meant that the pressures normally associated with Election Day were minimal and staff again adapted well to the system and produced the results well ahead of schedule.

Finally I would like to thank Sandra Hartley and all the staff who helped in any way with the By-Election for the excellent work they did.

RECOMMENDATION

That this information be received.

L L Kennedy
Electoral Officer

<http://tdctoday:82/Shared Documents/Meetings/Council/Full Council/Reports/2006/RCN060824 Report 2006 Golden Bay Community Board By-Election.doc>