

Report No:	RCN11-10-05
File No:	
Date:	13 October 2011
Information Only – No decision required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Full Council
Meeting Date: 20 October 2011
Report Author: Electoral Officer
Subject: Report on 2011 Golden Bay Ward By-Election

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the results of the 2011 Golden Bay Ward By-Election for the election of a Councillor for the Golden Bay Ward.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Tasman District Council receives the report RCN11-10-05.

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The 2011 Golden Bay Ward By-Election was conducted under the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001.
- 1.2 The following details are now provided for Councillors' information.

2. ELECTORAL ROLL

2.1 Residential Electoral Roll

The residential electoral roll received from the Electoral Roll Centre consisted of 3,694 residential electors (ie people who are registered as parliamentary electors and reside in the Tasman District).

2.2 Ratepayer Electoral Rolls

The ratepayer electoral roll consists of people who reside outside the District who have enrolled or been nominated as an elector in respect of a property within the District. There were 77 on the ratepayer roll.

3. VOTING PAPERS

- 3.1 The number of voting papers issued to residential and ratepayer electors and the returns were as follows:

Election	Papers Issued		Papers Returned		% Returned	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
Golden Bay Ward	3,737	3,771	2,346	2,211	62.78%	58.54%

4. PRINTING

- 4.1 All voting papers, envelopes and profile statements were produced in Christchurch and as part of this process all voting papers were sorted by computer into postal order.

5. PROGRESSIVE PROCESSING

- 5.1 The counting of voting papers was contracted out to Electionz.com, a Christchurch company.
- 5.2 All voting papers were counted twice during the three weeks up to election day which meant that on election day we only had to process the papers hand delivered up to 12 noon.
- 5.3 The preliminary result was available by 12.30 pm and the final result was received the following day.

6. SPECIAL VOTES

- 6.1 A total of 13 special votes were issued and of these eight were completed and returned with three voting papers being subsequently allowed and included in the official count.

7. PUBLICATION OF FINAL RESULTS

- 7.1 The final results were published in The Nelson Mail on Friday 7 October 2011 and a copy of these are attached.

8. INFORMAL VOTES/UNEXERCISED VOTES

- 8.1 The informal votes (those where the voter's intention is not clear) and the blank votes (where issues are left completely blank) were recorded separately.
- 8.2 The following were the number of blank voting papers for each issue for the 2007 and 2010 elections and the 2011 by-election:

	2007	2010	2011
Golden Bay	6	8	8

9. COSTS

- 9.1 As charges are still coming to hand, it will be some time before the final cost of the election is known.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The 2011 Golden Bay By-Election went very smoothly and contracting out the Progressive Counting of votes meant that the pressures normally associated with counting and Election Day were minimal and the results were produced in a timely manner.
- 10.2 Finally I would like to thank all the staff who helped in any way with the election for the excellent work they did and in particular Sandra Hartley for accepting greater responsibilities at the start of the by-election as I was overseas at that time.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Tasman District Council receives the report RCN11-10-05.

L L Kennedy
Electoral Officer

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