



Media release

Issued on behalf of the Electoral Commission of Queensland

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Wednesday 13 July 2016

Toowoomba South By-Election, Saturday 16 July 2016: Counting the Votes!

Full preferential voting (FPV) is now the system of voting at all Queensland State elections. The Toowoomba South by-election is the first State election to use FPV.

Electoral Commissioner of Queensland, Mr. Walter van der Merwe said: "The system of voting for Queensland State elections has changed. Full preferential voting requires that every box on the ballot paper must be numbered in order of preference for a vote to be counted."

The new voting system will also change the way ballots are counted and results published on the Commission's website progressively after 6pm on polling night.

The Commission will not be conducting a notional count on polling night. As this is the first election conducted under FPV, the Commission's focus will be on delivering timely and accurate results under changed counting procedures.

The count will commence after close of polls on Saturday. Ballots which do not mark all preferences will be excluded from the count as informal votes. The remaining formal votes will be counted in order of preference with only first preference votes being counted on polling night.

Following the count on polling night, the remaining votes will be counted. A result will be declared when one candidate has an absolute majority.

The Commission's results page will display an Exhausted Vote category even though this is no longer required under FPV. This category will display a zero result.

Results of the by-election will be published here:

<http://results.ecq.qld.gov.au/elections/state/TS2016/results/summary.html>

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