

Media release

Issued on behalf of the Electoral Commission of Queensland

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TOOWOOMBA SOUTH BY-ELECTION NOTIONAL COUNT

The Electoral Commission of Queensland continues with the count today for the Toowoomba South By-election.

Over the weekend, the Commission counted the primary vote of 81.36% of the total roll of 34,715 electors. This included all polling booths, pre-polling booths and all declaration votes including postal ballots on hand.

Electoral Commissioner Mr Walter van der Merwe said “Our energies over the weekend concentrated on ensuring the count was conducted accurately and in a timely manner. The volume of ballots counted on polling night is a fantastic effort by staff.”

He says that due to the closeness of the first preference count, the count will now proceed to a notional count this afternoon which will provide the two leading candidates a good indication of the flow of preferences.

After the conclusion of the notional count, the Commission will continue to count the first preference votes of the remaining approximate 1,000 postal votes expected to be delivered early this week. A full preference count may be delayed until 10 day after polling day when the final date for postal votes to be received has passed.

Mr van der Merwe comments “This is one of the products of the new full preferential voting system, in that the Commission must have to hand all ballots cast for the election prior to commencing a full preference count. Any outstanding ballots could affect the last placed candidate exclusion and therefore the flow of preferences.”

The Commission is committed to delivering a declaration of the poll as soon as practicably possible.

ENDS

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Website www.ecq.qld.gov.au

Enquiries media@ecq.qld.gov.au