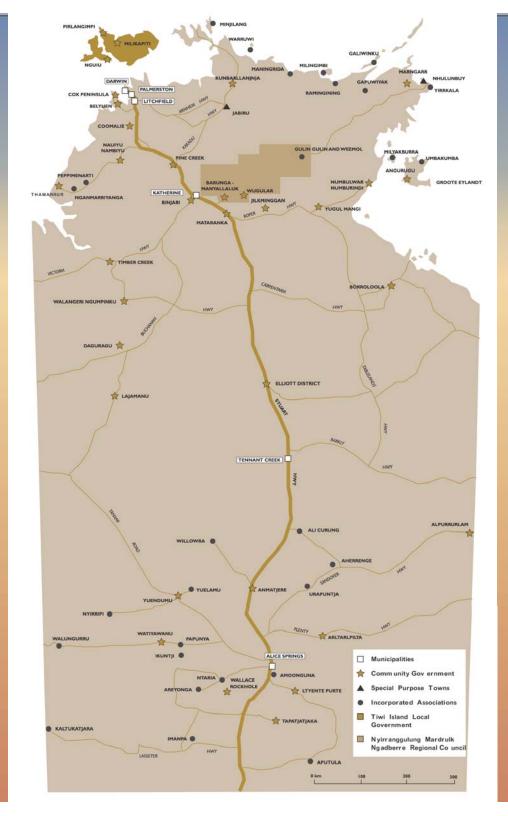
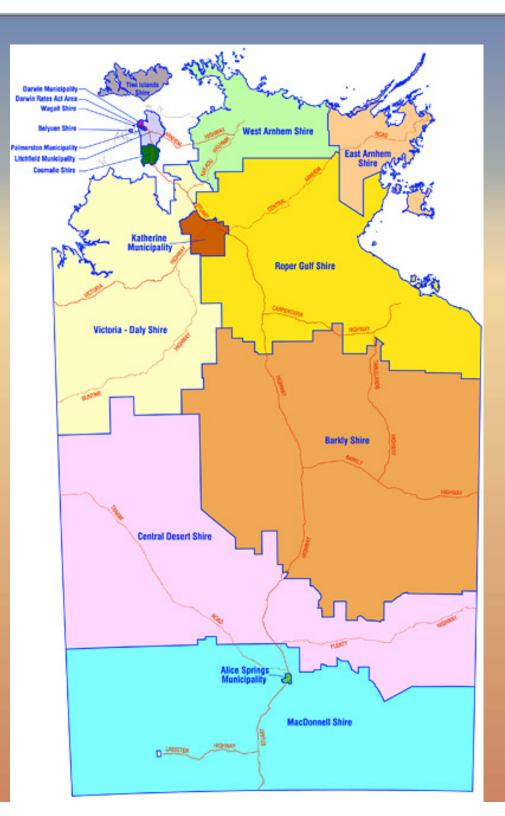
### Fueling Large Group Dominance and Repeating Past Mistakes: A Critique of the Northern Territory Local Government Electoral System

Will Sanders Australian National University Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research and Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre Sustainable Desert Settlements Project











### October 2008 inaugural NT shires elections

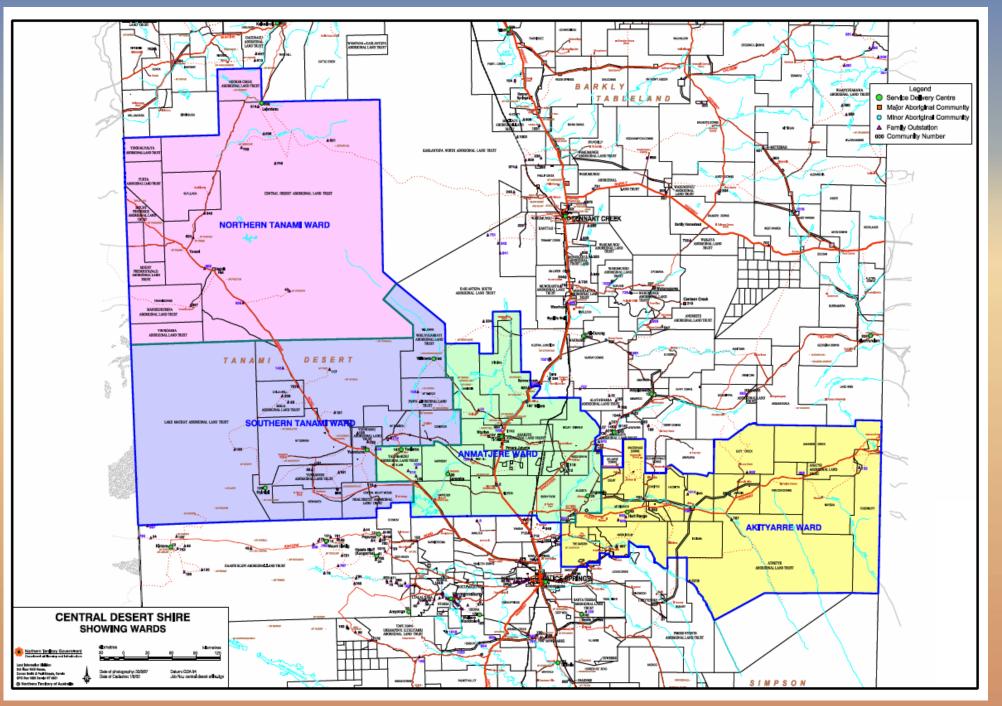
- intriguing results in multi-member wards
- candidates with low primary votes winning later seats
- coming from similar localities to early winners

#### **Explanation offered**

- 'exhaustive preferential' electoral system
- what is this electoral system?
- how does it produce this pattern of results?

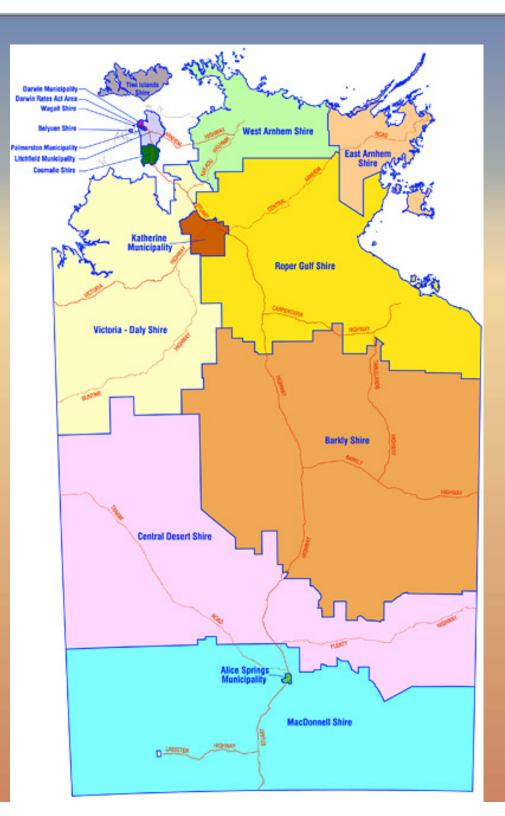
-Look briefly at results in three wards in two shires
-Look at common Australian electoral systems
-Look in more detail at results in two wards
-Suggest problem of 'fueling large group dominance'
-Suggest also a problem in NT municipal elections
-Point to past mistakes, repeated
-Cite others on need for forms of democracy beyond 'majoritarianism' in social situations like the NT



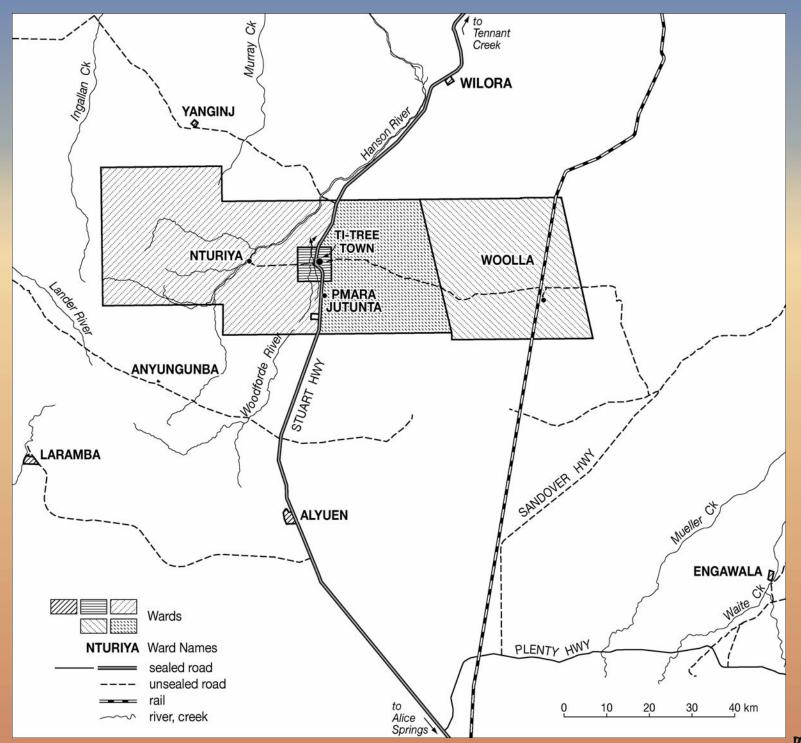






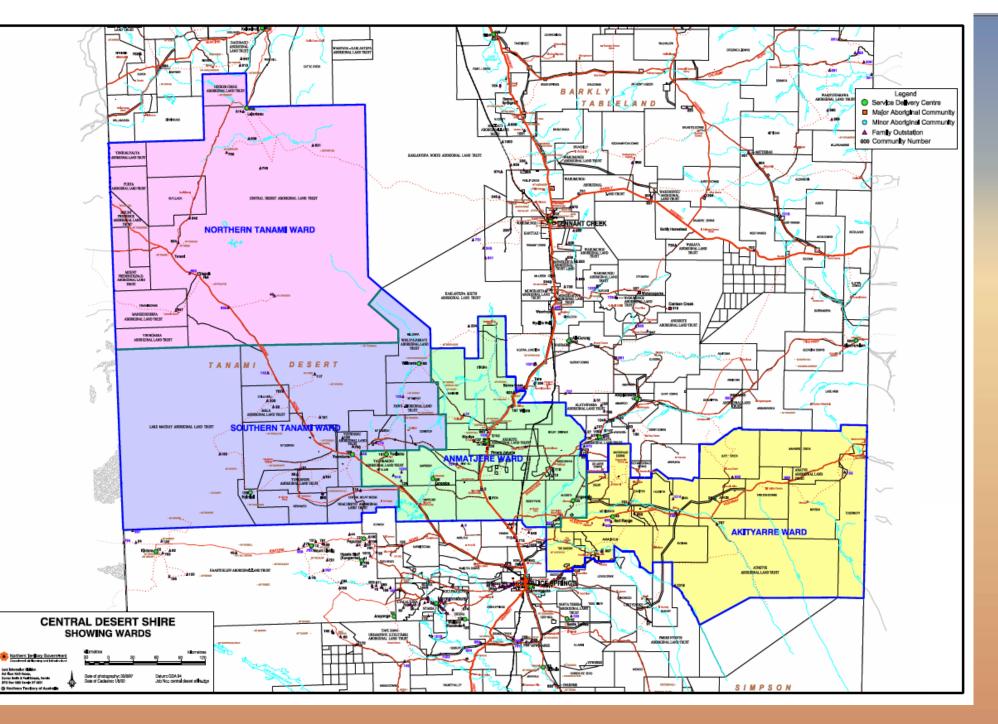












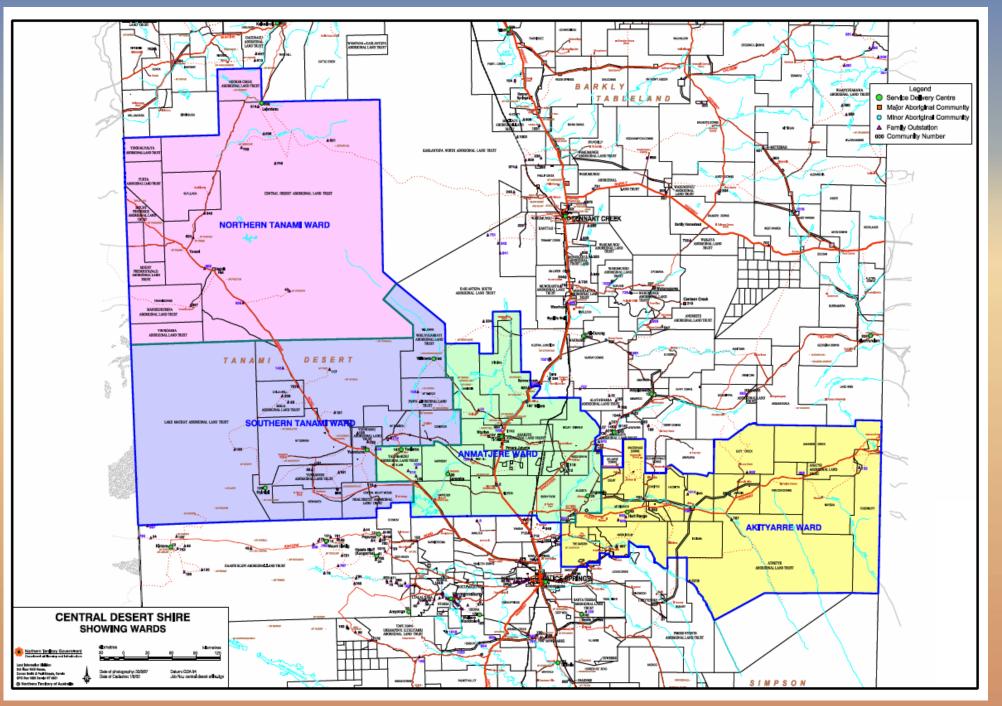


### Table 1: Anmatjere ward of Central Desert Shire, candidates, primary votes, results, places of association

Candidate/ Elected (N)		Place of Association
Haines, Jasper (1)	103	Nturiya/ Ti Tree
Dixon, Adrian (2)	84	Laramba
Frances, Ant	45	Pmara Jutunta/ Ti Tree
Bird, Benedy	41	Mulga Bore/ Angula
Lechleitner, Walter Japangardi	40	Yuelumu
Bloomfield, Patrick	37	Engawala
Glenn, James Jampajimpa (3)	25	Ti Tree
Heenan, Noel (4)	24	Yuelumu
Carter, Ted	16	Ti Tree
Formal Votes	415	
Informal Votes	142	
Total Votes	557	
Enrolment	998	











#### Table 2: Southern Tanami ward of Central Desert Shire, candidates, primary votes, results, places of association

Candidate/ Elected (N)	Primary	
	Votes	Association
Gibson, Teddy Jakamarra	53	Nyirripi
Kitson, Julie	42	Willowra
Hargraves, Ned (2)	42	Yuendumu
Juttner, Tony	37	Yuendumu
Brown, Jean (1)	36	Yuendumu
Williams, Freddy	31	Yuendumu
Spencer-Wilson, Georgina	23	Yuendumu
Poulson, Christopher	21	Yuendumu
Walit, Robbie (3)	10	Yuendumu
Wayne, Maisie (4)	7	Yuendumu
Walit, Connie	1	Yuendumu
Formal Votes	303	
Informal Votes	59	
Total Votes	362	
Enrollment	946	





### Table 3: Ljirapinta ward of MacDonnell Shire, candidates, primary votes, results, places of association

Candidate/ Elected (N)	Primary Votes	Place of Association
Williams, Gus	93	Hermannsburg/
		Ntaria
Inkmala, Mildred (1)	60	
Abbott, Barry	36	
Inkamala, Carl (2)	28	
Kenny, Roxanne (3)	25	
Abbott, Bernard	22	
Braybon, Sonya	18	
Williams, Baydon	11	
Formal Votes	293	
Informal Votes	23	
Total Votes	316	
Enrollment	677	

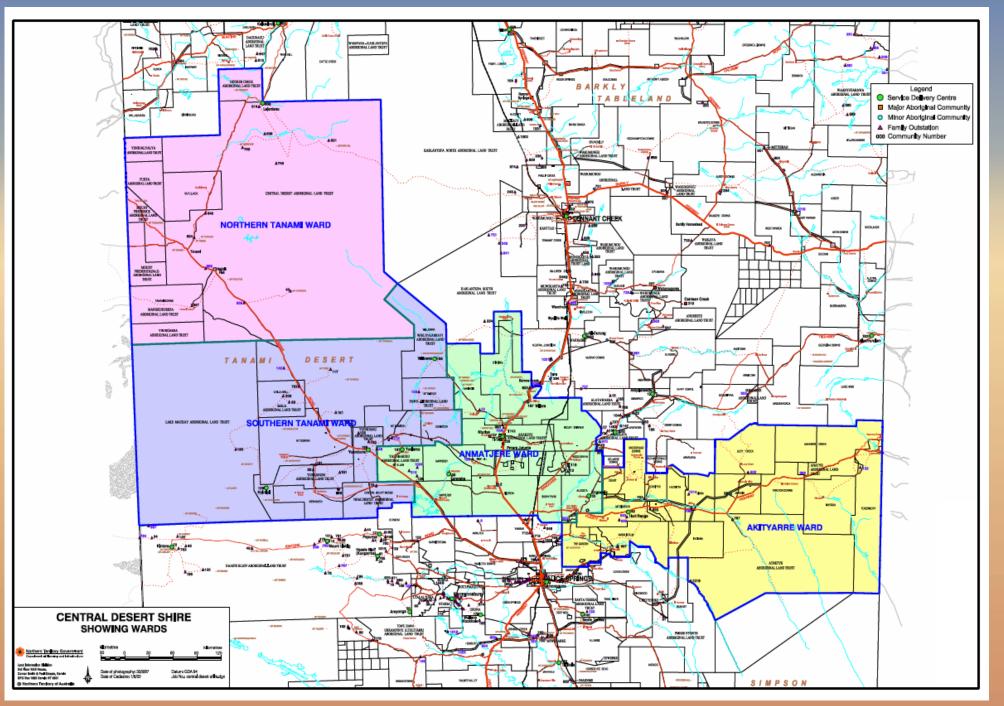




Table 4: Number of member to be elected and quotas in proportional representation electoral systems

No members	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
to be elected								
Quota of	1/9 <sup>th</sup>	1/8 <sup>th</sup>	1/7 <sup>th</sup>	1/6 <sup>th</sup>	1/5 <sup>th</sup>	1/4 <sup>th</sup>	1/3 <sup>rd</sup>	1/2 <sup>nd</sup>
Votes	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1
Required								









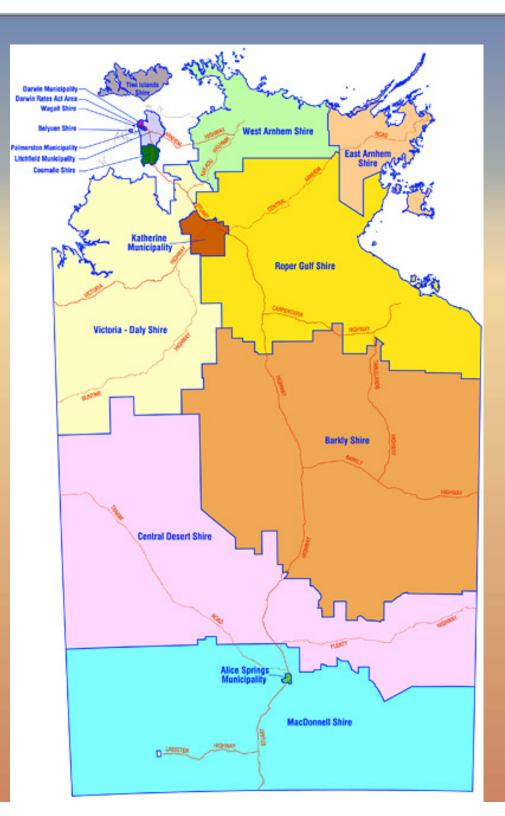




Table 5: Southern Tanami ward of Central Desert Shire, candidates, primary votes, results, places of association primary votes in four repeat elections with 50%+1 vote counting rule

Candidate/ Elected (N)	Primary Votes				Place of Association
Gibson, Teddy Jakamarra	53	53	57	59	Nyirripi
Kitson, Julie	42	45	49	51	Willowra
Hargraves, Ned (2)	42	44	Е	Е	Yuendumu
Juttner, Tony	37	37	40	41	Yuendumu
Brown, Jean (1)	36	Е	Е	Е	Yuendumu
Williams, Freddy	31	32	39	43	Yuendumu
Spencer-Wilson, Georgina	23	31	33	34	Yuendumu
Poulson, Christopher	21	22	27	30	Yuendumu
Walit, Robbie (3)	10	14	27	Е	Yuendumu
Wayne, Maisie (4)	7	23	28	33	Yuendumu
Walit, Connie	1	2	3	12	Yuendumu
Formal Votes in Count	303	303	303	303	
Majoritarian Quota	152	152	152	152	



# Table 6: Southern Tanami ward of Central Desert Shire,table for results under proportional representation

Candidate/ Elected	Primary Votes			es	Place of Association
Gibson, Teddy Jakamarra	53				Nyirripi
Kitson, Julie	42				Willowra
Hargraves, Ned	42				Yuendumu
Juttner, Tony	37				Yuendumu
Brown, Jean	36				Yuendumu
Williams, Freddy	31				Yuendumu
Spencer-Wilson,	23				Yuendumu
Georgina					
Poulson, Christopher	21				Yuendumu
Walit, Robbie	10				Yuendumu
Wayne, Maisie	7				Yuendumu
Walit, Connie	1				Yuendumu
Formal Votes in Count	303	242	181	120	
PR Quota	61	61	61	61	



Southern Tanami ward of Central Desert Shire, Graphic representation with bundles of ten votes

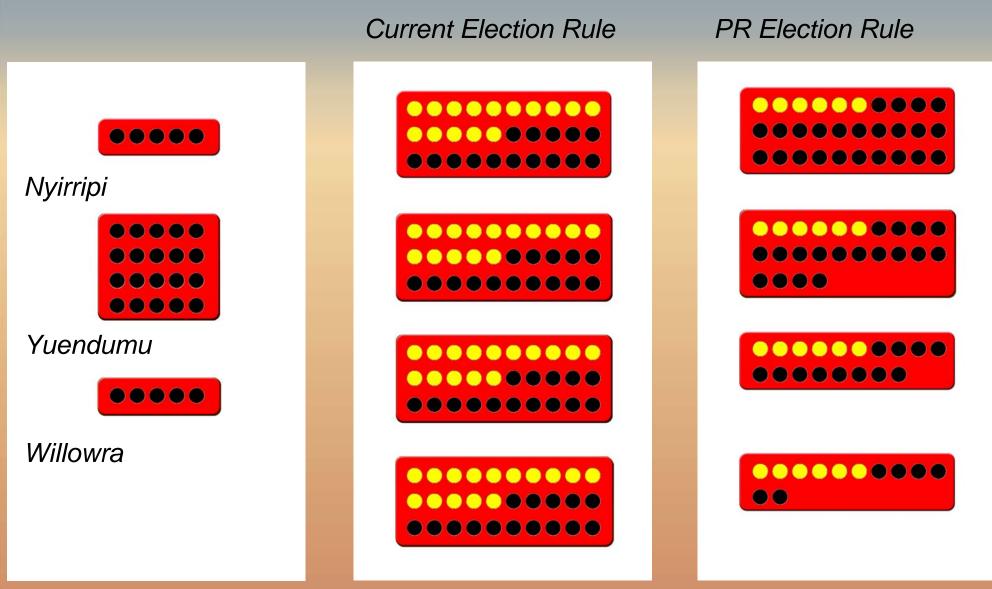






Table 7: Anmatjere ward of Central Desert Shire, candidates, primary votes, results, places of association primary votes in four repeat elections with 50%+1 vote counting rule

Candidate/ Elected	Primary Votes			Place of Association	
(N)	100		_		
Haines, Jasper (1)	103	E	E	E	Nturiya/ Ti Tree
Dixon, Adrian (2)	84	99	E	E	Laramba
Frances, Ant	45	64	69	100	Pmara Jutunta/ Ti Tree
Bird, Benedy	41	44	55	72	Mulga Bore/Angula
Lechleitner, Walter Japangardi	40	41	49	70	Yuelumu
Bloomfield, Patrick	37	44	53	60	Engawala
Glenn, James	25	80	119	Е	Ti Tree
Jampajimpa (3)					
Heenan, Noel (4)	24	27	53	86	Yuelumu
Carter, Ted	16	16	17	27	Ti Tree
Formal votes in Count	415	415	415	415	
Majoritarian Quota	208	208	208	208	





# Table 8: Alice Springs Town Council, March 2008 election candidates, primary votes, results

Candidate/Elected (N)	Primary Votes
Steward, Murray (1)	1,989
Clark, Jane (3)	1,339
Heenan, Brendan (2)	1,006
Habib, Samih (4)	846
Shaw, Barbara	642
Rawnsley, John (5)	549
Brown, Stephen	481
Taylor, Sandra (7)	407
Martin, Liz (6)	367
van Haaren, Melanie (8)	360
Ociones, Miguel	279
Aronston, Lenny	240
McIvor, Angus	181
Harrison, Marie	161
Hall, Lisa	139
Luchich, Sally	115
Chewings, David	112
Formal Votes	9,213
Informal Votes	1,108
Total Votes	10,321
Enrollment	14,654



**Concluding Comments** 

-Repeats a mistake made in the Senate electoral system from 1919 to 1946

-Repeats a mistake made in Victorian local government from late 1990s to 2003.

-The need for models of democracy beyond majoritarianism in circumstances of social diversity

