

How your vote counts

To be elected, a candidate must get more than half the votes in the by-election (an absolute majority).

First, all the number '1' votes are counted for each candidate. If a candidate gets more than half the total first preference votes, that candidate is elected.

If no candidate has an absolute majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded. These votes are then transferred to the other candidates according to the second preferences shown by voters on these ballot papers.

If still no candidate has an absolute majority, again the remaining candidate with the fewest votes is excluded and these votes are transferred. This process will continue until one candidate has more than half the total votes cast and is declared 'elected'.

This voting system is called preferential voting and has been used in Australian federal elections since 1918.

Here's how it works

The following example will help show how it works. A more detailed example and more information on the preferential voting system is available on the AEC website or by calling 13 23 26.

Three candidates Nick, Tony and Jenny stand for election. After the election the ballot papers are counted and there are 60 000 formal votes. Therefore the absolute majority needed to win the seat is 30 001 (50% +1).

Nick, Tony and Jenny received the following first preference or number '1' votes.



Nick
15 000



Tony
23 000



Jenny
22 000

Nobody has gained an absolute majority so the person with the lowest number of first preferences is excluded.

This is Nick and the second preferences on his ballot papers are then distributed to either Tony or Jenny. 6 300 of the total number of people who voted for Nick put the number 2 in the box for Tony.

The remaining 8 700 put the number 2 in the box for Jenny. This gives Tony a total of 29 300 and Jenny a total of 30 700.



Tony
23 000
+ 6 300
= 29 300



Jenny
22 000
+ 8 700
= 30 700

Now that Jenny has 30 700 votes, which is an absolute majority, she becomes the elected member.

This is a very simple example. The process could involve more than the two steps shown above. If there were more than three candidates, the candidates with the fewest votes will continue to be excluded and their preferences transferred, or distributed, until one candidate has an absolute majority.

Although how-to-vote cards may encourage electors to mark their preferences in a particular order, the final choice of which order to use is up to each elector.

Your vote in Cunningham

In the Cunningham by-election there are 13 candidates, and the same process will apply to determine the winning candidate.

If after the first count no candidate has an absolute majority, the candidates with the fewest votes are excluded in order and their votes are transferred until one candidate has more than half the total votes and is declared the winner.

That's why you must number all the boxes when you vote at the Cunningham by-election.

How to contact the AEC

If you require any further information about the Cunningham by-election call us

Enquiries 13 23 26.

عربي 1300 720 132 Arabic

ខ្មែរ 1300 720 134 Cambodian

粵語 1300 720 135 Cantonese

Hrvatski 1300 720 136 Croatian

Ελληνικά 1300 720 137 Greek

Italiano 1300 720 138 Italian

Македонски 1300 720 139 Macedonian

國語 1300 720 142 Mandarin

Polski 1300 720 143 Polish

Português 1300 720 145 Portuguese

Русский 1300 720 146 Russian

Српски 1300 720 147 Serbian

Español 1300 720 148 Spanish

Türkçe 1300 720 149 Turkish

Việt-ngữ 1300 720 152 Vietnamese

1300 720 153 All Other Languages

If you require a Telephone Typewriter facility (TTY) call us on **02 9375 6305**.

Alternatively, visit our website at

www.aec.gov.au/cunningham

or drop in and see us at the Cunningham Divisional Office: 4th Floor, Corporate Square 43 Burelli Street Wollongong.

Your guide to the Cunningham By-Election



Saturday, 19 October 2002

All you need to know about voting in Cunningham



Polling day is Saturday, 19 October 2002.



Voting is compulsory.



Polling places are open from 8.00am to 6.00pm.



You can vote at any of the 45 polling places listed.



You must number every box on your ballot paper.



If you can't get to a polling place you can still vote. Contact us.



Phone 13 23 26

www.aec.gov.au/cunningham


How to vote

The full preferential voting system is used in federal elections and by-elections. This means that you need to express your preferences for all the candidates on your ballot paper by numbering every box.

It's easy to vote correctly:

1. Write the number 1 in the box of your first choice.
2. Continue to number the boxes from 2 to 13 in order of your choice.
3. Remember to number every box. (If you make a mistake, return your ballot paper to a polling official and ask for a new one.)
4. Once you have voted, place your folded ballot paper in the ballot box.

The ballot paper that you will be given on polling day will look like this:

 **BALLOT PAPER**
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NEW SOUTH WALES
ELECTORAL DIVISION OF
CUNNINGHAM

Number the boxes from 1 to 13 in the order of your choice

<input type="checkbox"/>	NANNELLI, Owen CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)
<input type="checkbox"/>	WILSON, Peter INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	JOHNSON, Hal A CITIZENS ELECTORAL COUNCIL
<input type="checkbox"/>	ORGAN, Michael THE GREENS
<input type="checkbox"/>	BIRD, Sharon AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (ALP)
<input type="checkbox"/>	FLANAGAN, John NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	CROCKER, Geoff PAULINE HANSON'S ONE NATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	HUGHES, David AUSTRALIANS AGAINST FURTHER IMMIGRATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	KEENE, James INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	SAMPSON, Meg INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	MOULDS, David INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHAPMAN, Linda AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS
<input type="checkbox"/>	WILLIAMS, Chris SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

Remember...number every box to make your vote count

Australian Electoral Commission / AEC

Where to vote

Saturday, 19 October 2002 is polling day for the Cunningham by-election.

If you're enrolled to vote in the Division of Cunningham, then voting is compulsory.

Before polling day

If you're unable to get to a polling place on Saturday, 19 October 2002 then you may still be able to cast a vote now (either in person or by post). You can vote now if, on Saturday, 19 October 2002:

- you will be outside the federal Division of Cunningham
- you are seriously ill, or approaching motherhood, or caring for someone who is
- you are unable to vote because of your religious beliefs
- you are unable to leave work.

Voting in person

If you fall into one of the above categories, you can vote in person by going to the Cunningham Pre-Poll Voting Centre on weekdays from Tuesday, 8 October 2002, 9.00am to 5.00pm. The Cunningham Pre-Poll Voting Centre is located at Shop 3, 60 Burelli Street, Wollongong.

You can also vote at any AEC Divisional Office Australia wide, on weekdays 9.00am to 5.00pm. To find the office nearest to you, call us. The Cunningham Divisional Office will be open on Friday, 18 October from 8.30am to 6.00pm.

Voting by post

To vote by post, pick up a postal vote application form from any post office in the Division of Cunningham, any AEC office, the AEC website or call the AEC. Post the completed form back to us and then we'll post you your ballot paper. Please ensure that your completed ballot paper is in the post back to us by Friday, 18 October 2002.

On polling day

Saturday, 19 October 2002 is polling day. On this day you may vote at any one of the 45 polling places listed here. All polling places will be open between 8.00am and 6.00pm.

45 places to go on polling day

Austinmer Balgownie	Austinmer Primary School, 90 Lawrence Hargrave Dr ♿ Balgownie Community Centre, 113 Balgownie Rd Balgownie Primary School, Balgownie Rd
Bellambi Bulli	♿ Holy Spirit College, 2 Cawley St ♿ Bulli Hospital, Hospital Rd ♿ Bulli Primary School, Haig St ♿ Police & Community Youth Club, 253 Princes Hwy
Coalcliff Coledale	Coalcliff Community Hall, 239 Lawrence Hargrave Dr Coledale Primary School, 699 Lawrence Hargrave Dr
Coniston Cordeaux Heights Corrimal	♿ Coniston Primary School, Auburn St ♿ Unanderra Primary School, Derribong Drive ♿ Corrimal Anglican Church Hall, 121 Princes Hwy ♿ Corrimal High School, Murray Rd
Fairy Meadow	Eddy's Annexe, Cnr Towradgi Rd & Princes Hwy Fairy Meadow Demonstration School, Princes Hwy Mount Ousley Primary School, McGrath St Wollongong High School, Lysaght St
Figtree	Figtree Heights Primary School, St Georges Ave Figtree High School, Gibsons Rd
Gwynneville Helensburgh	Gwynneville Primary School, Acacia St ♿ Helensburgh Community Centre, Walker St Helensburgh Primary School, Fletcher St
Keiraville Mount Keira Mount Kembla Mount Saint Thomas Otford	Keiraville Primary School, Gipps Rd Mount Keira Demonstration School, 255 Mt Keira Rd Mount Kembla Primary School, Cordeaux Rd Mount Saint Thomas Primary School, Taronga Ave Otford Primary School, Station Rd
Russell Vale Scarborough Stanwell Park Tarrawanna Thirroul	Russell Vale Primary School, Terania St Scarborough Primary School, Lawrence Hargrave Dr Stanwell Park Primary School, Stanwell Ave ♿ Tarrawanna Primary School, Meadow St ♿ Thirroul Neighbourhood Centre, 256 Lawrence Hargrave Dr Thirroul Uniting Church, Lachlan St
Towradgi	♿ Towradgi Park Village, 17A Murranar Rd Towradgi Primary School, Carters La
West Wollongong	Lindsay Park Primary School, Thames St ♿ St Therese School Hall, Powell St
Wollongong	♿ Illawarra Inst. of Technology, Rawlinson Ave Smith's Hill High School, Cnr Campbell St & Keira St (Citadel Building) ♿ St Andrews Church Hall, Cnr Burelli & Kembla Sts ♿ Wollongong Hospital, Crown St
Wombarra Woonona	Wombarra Pre-School, Off Reef Rd Uniting Church Sunday School Hall, 446 Princes Hwy Woonona East Primary School, Royal Cres Woonona Primary School, 5 Gray St
Abolished	Sydney (Cunningham) Unanderra (Cunningham)

♿ Wheelchair access available.

♿♿ Wheelchair access available with assistance.

♿♿ This polling place is restricted to patients, genuine visitors and staff of the hospital.