

## Taupo District Council Triennial Elections 2016 Debrief

The 2016 triennial election was held on 8 October 2016 by postal voting in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Warwick Lampp was appointed as an independent Electoral Officer by the Council in 2011, and in conjunction with *electionz.com* Ltd, managed the preparation and processing work involved in conducting the election.

Council used the First Past the Post (FPP) voting system and for the first time used fully random order of candidates' names on the voting documents for the 2016 election.

Taupo District Council was also contracted by the Lakes DHB and the Waikato, Hawkes Bay and Bay of Plenty Regional Councils to process their Taupo constituency voting documents.

The progress results were available shortly before 1pm on the close of polling on 8 October 2016. There were no issues experienced with the processing of the voting documents. Votes were processed at the *electionz.com* vote processing centre in Christchurch.

In general the election ran very smoothly, there were no major candidate management or campaigning issues other than the usual signage matters that were attended to by the DEO. Excellent support was provided by Council's Deputy Electoral Officer, Tina Jakes, and the customer service staff.

### Statistics

#### Number of candidates:

Issue	2007	2010	2013	2016
Mayor	3	4	5	4
Taupo-Kaingaroa ward	14	16	19	14
Tongariro-Turangi ward	5	5	5	5
Mangakino-Pouakani	2	3	2	3
Tongariro-Turangi Comm Board	11	16	8	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>
<i>Seats: – including Mayor</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>

#### Voting papers:

	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Number of residential electors	21,265	22,038	22,454	22,528	23,243
Number of ratepayer electors	835	863	842	431	399
Number of voting packs returned	3,329	11,440	12,771	11,130	12,035
Number of special votes cast	81	68	144	152	167
% return	51.43%	50.26%	54.21%	48.29%	50.91%
Number of ratepayer electors who returned votes	619	632	671	311	335
	74.13%	73.23%	79.69%	72.15%	83.96%

NB: Ratepayer electors are those who own property in the district but live outside of it, or people nominated by businesses, who own rateable property in the district, to exercise a vote for them.

**Return by issue:**

	2007	2010	2013	2016
Mayor	50.26%	54.21%	48.29%	50.91%
Taupo-Kaingaroa ward	51.50%	55.08%	48.68%	51.53%
Tongariro-Turangi ward	49.96%	54.32%	50.32%	52.60%
Mangakino-Pouakani	35.74%	43.03%	38.46%	38.51%

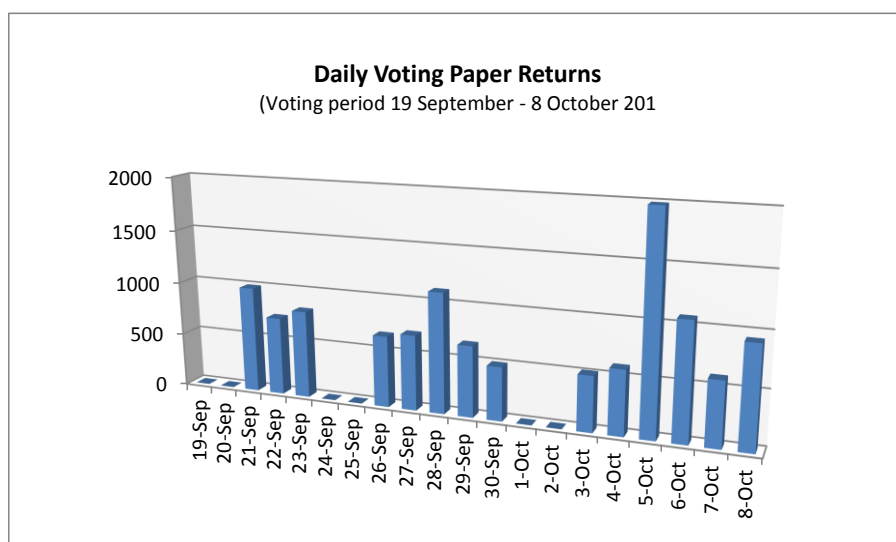
**Informal votes:**

Issue	2007	2010	2013	2016
Mayor	21	12	17	13
Taupo-Kaingaroa ward	15	29	29	15
Tongariro-Turangi ward	5	1	7	11
Mangakino-Pouakani	3	2	0	0
Tongariro-Turangi CB	10	5	5	6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>45</b>

**Blank Votes – Documents Returned Unmarked:**

Issue	2007	2010	2013	2016
Mayor	384	144	285	220
Taupo-Kaingaroa ward	130	202	169	307
Tongariro-Turangi ward	50	63	16	11
Mangakino-Pouakani	14	17	13	23
Tongariro-Turangi CB	42	23	26	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>596</b>

The pattern of returned voting papers was as follows:



## **Costs**

The total election costs in 2016 were \$152,032. The Council's share was \$75,771 compared to \$69,056 in 2013 and \$65,212 in 2010. The LDHB share of costs was \$42,015 compared to \$39,415 in 2013 and \$35,373 in 2010, and RCs were \$34,246 compared to \$28,916 in 2013 and \$28,662 in 2010. These ratios are on par with other councils, ie the council share is usually between 45-55% of the total election costs, depending on how many RC elections are contested. For this election, the WRC Taupo Rotorua Constituency was contested in 2016, it wasn't in 2013.

		<b>2016 %</b>	<b>2013%</b>
Council	\$75,771	49.83%	50.26%
LDHB	\$42,015	27.64%	28.69%
RCs	\$34,246	22.53%	21.05%

As Electoral Officer I take this opportunity to thank Council's staff for the assistance in 2016 and look forward to the next triennial election in 2019, when online voting may well be a voting option.

**Warwick Lampp – *electionz.com Ltd***  
**Electoral Officer – Taupo District Council**  
**15 February 2017**