

Scytl Australia Pty. Ltd.

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PO Box 7529, Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153

www.scytl.com

The Executive Officer, Electoral Matters Committee,

**Re: Inquiry into the conduct of the 2014 Victorian State Election
Submission:**

Scytl Secure Electronic Voting, through its partner HP Australia, supplied an electronic voting system for use during the 2006 and 2010 Victorian State Elections. Scytl is a company that specialises in the supply of software and services to assist in the delivery of secure transparent elections, and is pleased to see that the trial has continued, albeit in an alternate form, to provide benefits to eligible voters into the 2014 State Election. Scytl conducts significant research in the electronic voting space.

Scytl is proud to have worked on these earlier innovative and successful projects with the VEC in order to enable visually impaired voters to cast a private and secure ballot, and later to assist non English speaking voters. Those projects were recognised by the Zero Project in 2015. The mission of the Zero Project is to work for a world without barriers, according to the principles and the Articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UN CRPD). The solution in 2010 was delivered to a higher number of locations than was provided in the most recent state election:

Every year, the Zero Project recognizes the most innovative practices in favor of persons with disabilities. Scytl's eVoting implementation for the Victorian State Elections in 2006 and 2010 were awarded a certificate for 2015 Innovative Policies and Practices for its outstanding contribution in the support of persons with disabilities in the State of Victoria, Australia. The project was selected from over 250 projects nominated from across the globe.¹

The supply of electronically assisted voting solutions to assist those who would otherwise find it difficult to vote remains a key area of focus for Scytl. Scytl Australia recently implemented the iVote project in NSW which successfully collected over 286,000 votes from eligible voters. There is a recognisable overlap in the definition of eligible voters between Victoria and NSW, and learnings from the iVote project may be of value in Victoria regarding scalability and usability of the solution.

Scytl believes that online and attendance based polling solutions need to meet the requirements of the electoral body, and leverage the opportunities presented by utilising technology in such a way as to enhance the voting experience. Addressing the requirements of the postal voter, taking into account the risk profile of a postal ballot compared to that of an internet delivered ballot, is a healthy discussion to have in light of the risks associated with the modes of ballot delivery, and the impending potential changes to the Postal system which may make the receipt of postal ballots within the allowed timeframe difficult.

As an early customer of Scytl in Australia, the Victorian Electoral Commission purchased a perpetual license to use the Scytl electronic voting application. Scytl is enthusiastic to see if there is a way to assist voters in Victoria by reviewing this license and its use so as to grow the number of locations that voters can vote in privacy. This may be a better alternative to further expenditure on the in-house vVote system when taking into account such factors as scalability and usability.

Scytl would be pleased to provide an aural presentation to the Committee if requested.

Yours Sincerely,

Sam Campbell,
Director, Scytl Australia Pty. Ltd.

¹ Quotation from Scytl press release, with further information available at:
<http://zeroproject.org/practice/scytl-secure-electronic-voting-s-a-australia-state-of-victoria/>