

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION – SCANNING OF BALLOT PAPERS		
Overview	Elections ACT scans all paper ballots to ascertain voter preferences on their ballot papers for the ACT Legislative Assembly election. This occurs in the week following Election Day. In the scanning process, all ballot papers are examined by the scanning system according to established business rules relating to formality. All ballot papers are also manually verified, and any discrepancies are identified in potentially three phases of verification involving different casual staff and/or senior electoral officials prior to determining their final formality. Preference data obtained from the scanning system is then uploaded to Elections ACT electronic voting and counting system to be included in the final election results.	
PHASE	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF BALLOTS
Verification Phase 1	All ballot papers are manually checked after the ICR (intelligent character recognition – handwriting) conversion of each ballot paper. Individual digits are presented to the operators for fast checking. All ballot papers that fail the business rules are sent to the Verification Phase 2 queue for ACT Supervisor operators for further checking.	77,885
Verification Phase 2	Preferences are checked in the context of the whole ballot paper image. ACT Supervisors are presented with ballots that do not meet the business rules. e.g. missing preferences, missing sequence, duplicate preferences, etc  <i>Note: ACT Supervisors are not the same operators as the Verification Phase 1 operators. The system will not allow operators from Phase 1 to verify ballots that are sent to this job queue.</i>  Of the 3,126 ballots papers, 944 ballots were corrected. Any ballots that do not meet the business rules or have been changed by the operator at V2 remain as unverified and are sent to Verification Phase 3 queue for ACT senior election officers to make a final decision.	3,126



Verification Phase 3	Ballot papers reviewed at V3. ACT Senior Election Officers to make a final decision on written preferences.  <i>Note: ACT Senior Election Officers are not the same operators as the Verification Phase 1 &amp; Phase 2 operators. The system does not allow operators from Phase 1 &amp; Phase 2 access to the V3 portal.</i>	2,182
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