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#### **Document Control**

Version Number	Date Provided	Detail
1.0	5 July 2022	Provided to the Australian Electoral Commission
1.1		
1.2		
1.3		



## 1. STATISTICAL ASSURANCE EXCEPTIONS

1.1 The purpose of this document is to provide a collation of Stage Two statistical assurance exceptions as part of the 2022 external statistical assurance of Senate ballot papers. This document should be read in conjunction with the *External statistical assurance of the Senate ballot papers: Detailed report and statement of outcomes*, dated July 2022.

## **STAGE 2 EXCEPTIONS**

- 1.2 The Stage Two assurance testing compared the physical ballot paper to the electronic data used in counting, contained in the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) Ballot Paper Reconciliation System (BPRS). The second stage testing assessed whether:
- the electronic preference data file was an accurate reflection of the preferences recorded on the physical ballot paper; and
- the interpretation of voter intent aligned with AEC business rules as stated in the Ballot Paper Formality Policy and Ballot Paper Formality Guidelines.
- 1.3 For Stage Two assurance testing a total of 33 exceptions were identified. These exceptions related to the accuracy of the electronic preference data file (used in counting) and the interpretation of voter intent. Determination of voter intent should be in line with the AEC business rules as stated in the Ballot Paper Formality Policy and Ballot Paper Formality Guidelines.
- 1.4 The 33 exceptions have been determined and classified in accordance with the approved assurance methodology. The classification of exceptions is outlined in Table 1. An additional classification of exceptions has been included in the table below to reflect the assurance findings. The categorisation of statistical exceptions now includes where an incorrect preference type (including related preferences) was admitted to the count.

**Table 1:** Categorisation of exceptions related to the interpretation of voter intent

	CSS state and territory Location									
Categorisation of exceptions used in statistical analysis	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total	% of total
Voter disenfranchised where a vote is recorded as informal when the voter										
expressed a valid preference(s)	2	2	1	1		1	2		9	27%
Above the line voter preference sequence was broken too early within the										
first six preferences	2	2		1	1	2			8	24%
Above the line voter preference sequence was broken too early after the										
first six preferences		1	1		1				3	9%
Below the line voter preference sequence was broken too early within the										
first twelve preferences		1		1				1	3	9%
Below the line voter preference sequence was broken too early after the										
first twelve preferences						1			1	3%
Voter preference sequence was broken too late (additional preferences										
were recorded)	1				1	1			3	9%
Vote recorded as formal when it should have been informal	1	2			2				5	15%
Incorrect preference type accepted	1								1	3%
Total exceptions related to the interpretation of voter intent							2		33	100%

1.5 Of the exceptions used in the statistical analysis, 27% related to where a voter was disenfranchised from the election. Another 24% related to where the ATL voter preference sequence was broken too early within the first six preferences. 15% of exceptions related to the counting of an informal vote (i.e., where vote was informal and should have been excluded from the count).



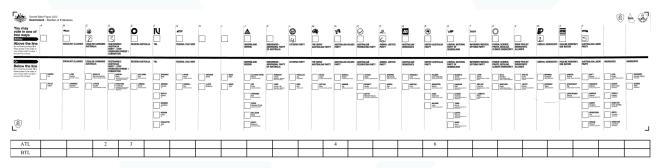
## 2. VOTER DISENFRANCHISED

2.1 A voter is disenfranchised when a vote is recorded as informal when the voter expressed a valid preference(s).

## **NSW**

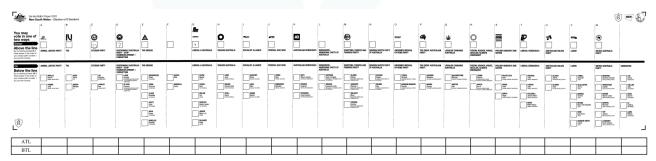
2.2 BPRS did not recognise a number 1 in column W Above the Line (ATL) and recorded the vote as informal. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 6 preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966NSWHUGH0124320000097\_01\_001



2.3 BPRS did not recognise a number 1 in column G ATL and recoded the vote as informal. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 1 preference.

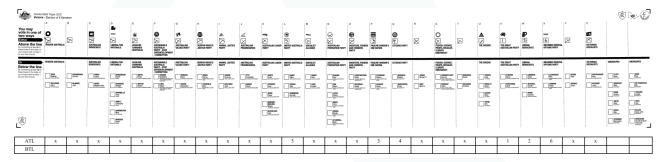
Ballot paper: 27966NSWSHOR0148651700109 01 004



## **VIC**

2.4 The voter recorded six preferences ATL on the ballot paper (columns: L, P, Q, V, W and X). They also marked all other boxes with an 'x'. BPRS rejected the vote. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 6 preferences.

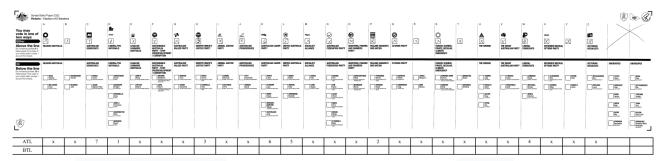
Ballot paper: 27966VICFRAS0321538200305 01 004





2.5 The voter recorded six preferences ATL on the ballot paper (columns: C, D, H, K, L, P and W). They also marked all other boxes with an 'x'. BPRS rejected the vote. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 7 preferences.

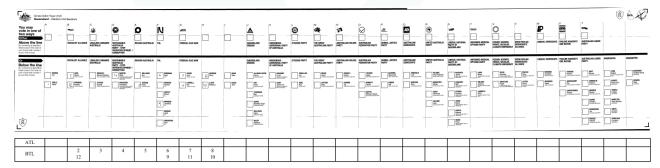
Ballot paper: 27966VICMONA0323566200401\_01\_002



## QLD

2.6 The voter recorded twelve preferences Below The Line (BTL) on the ballot paper (columns: L, P, Q, V, W and X). BPRS did not record the first preference in column A. BPRS rejected the vote. The vote should have been formal BTL admitted to 12 preferences.

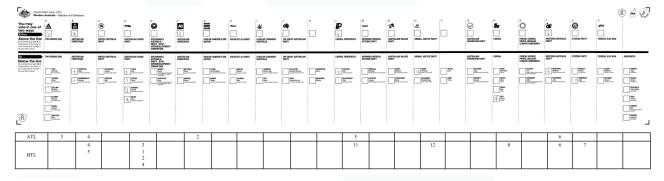
Ballot paper: 27966QLDLILL0169227400110\_01\_001



## WA

2.7 The voter recorded an unbroken sequence of 9 preferences BTL on the ballot paper (columns: B, D, L, O, R, T, U). BPRS recorded preference 9 in column D as a 4. BPRS rejected the vote. The vote should have been formal BTL admitted to 9 preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966WA-PEAR0244135200105\_01\_001

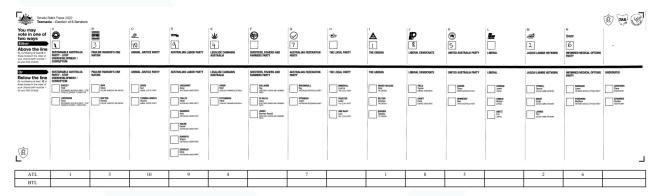




## **TAS**

2.8 The voter recorded 11 preferences ATL on the ballot paper (columns: A, B, C, D, E, G, I, J, K, M and N). BPRS recorded the preference in column A as a 1 instead of an 11. BPRS rejected the vote. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 11 preferences.

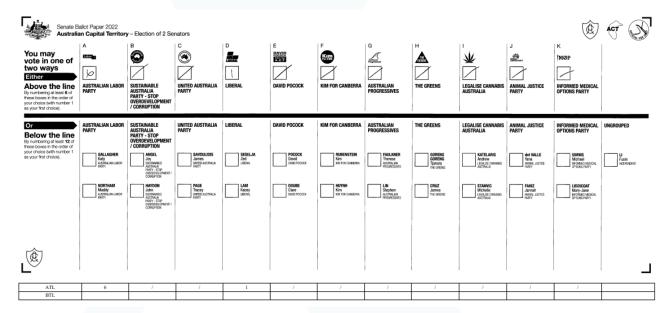
Ballot paper: 27966TASBRAD0193023900501\_01\_002



## **ACT**

2.9 The voter recorded a first preference ATL in column D on the ballot paper. The voter crossed off all other boxes (except for column A where a 6 was recorded). These crossed out boxes were recorded as / in BPRS (signalling a first preference tick). BPRS rejected the vote. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 1 preference.

Ballot paper: 27966ACTCANB0101002800103\_01\_005





2.10 The voter recorded six preferences ATL (columns: A, B, C, D, H and K). The first preference in column D was recorded as a 7 in BPRS. BPRS rejected the vote. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 6 preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966ACTBEAN0318035400236\_01\_001

Senate Ballot Paper 2022  Australian Capital Territory – Election of 2 Senators										ACT LZ		
You may vote in one of two ways Either  Above the line By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).	A LECTRIC AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	SUSTAINABLE AUSTRAILA PARTY - STOP OVERDEVELOPMENT / CORRUPTION	UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY	T LIBERAL	DAVID POCOCK	KIM FOR CANBERRA	AUSTRALIAN PROGRESSIVES	THE GREENS	LEGALISE CANNABIS AUSTRALIA	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	MØP  INFORMED MEDICAL OPTIONS PARTY	
Or  Below the line By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of	AUSTRALIAN LABOR Party	SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA PARTY - STOP OVERDEVELOPMENT / CORRUPTION	UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY	LIBERAL	DAVID POCOCK	KIM FOR CANBERRA	AUSTRALIAN PROGRESSIVES	THE GREENS	LEGALISE CANNABIS AUSTRALIA	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	INFORMED MEDICAL OPTIONS PARTY	UNGROUPED
your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).	GALLAGHER Katy AUSTEWLANN LABOR PRATTY	ANGEL JOY SUSTANUBLE AUSTRALIA PARTY STOP OVEDSHEPTENT / CORPLPTENT	SAVOULIDIS James UNITED AUSTRALIA WARTY	SESELJA Zed LIEERAL	POCOCK David DAVID POCOCK	RUBENSTEIN Kim Kim FOR CANSERSA	FAULKNER Therese AUSTRALIAN PROGRESSIVES	GORENG GORENG Tjanara The GREENS	KATELARIS Andraw Legal Se Canadas Australia	del VALLE Yana ANNAL JUSTICE EMETY	SIMMS Michael NFCRVED MEDICAL OPTIONS FRAITY	Fuxin NOEPENCENT
	NORTHAM Maddy AUSTRALINI LABOR PRITTY	HAYDON John SIGMANALE ALETHURA PORTY - SIGMANET / COPPLICTOR - SIGMANET /	PAGE Tracey LATTER AUSTRALIA INVETY	Kaney LIFERRIL	DOUBE Clare DAVID PRODOCK	HUYNH Kim Kim For Canderya	LIN Stephen ALSTRALAN PROGRESSIVES	GRUZ James the GREBIS	STANVIC Michele LEGALEC CAMPRIS ALETRALIA	FAHIZ Jannah AMMA JATROS PHRTY	LIDDICOAT Mary-Jane MYCYMEN MIDCAL OPTIONS PARTY	
Ê												١
ATL	2	6	3	7				4			5	
BTL												

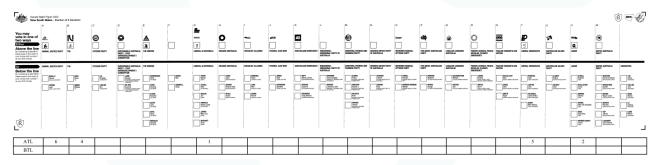


## 3. ATL PREFERENCE SEQUENCE BROKEN TOO EARLY WITHIN THE FIRST SIX PREFERENCES

### **NSW**

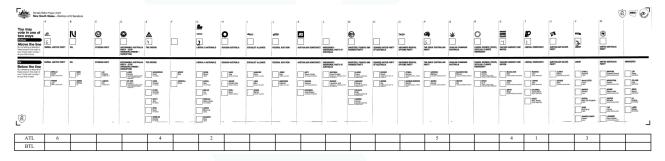
3.1 BPRS did recognise a number 3 in column E ATL. BPRS recorded the vote as admitted to 2 preferences. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 6 preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966NSWKSMI0127364301401\_01\_001



3.2 BPRS recorded a 4 in column S ATL when it was a 7. BPRS recorded the vote as admitted to 3 preferences. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 7 preferences.

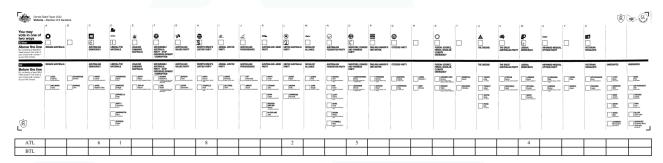
Ballot paper: 27966NSWGREE0122305900015\_01\_005



## **VIC**

3.3 BPRS recorded an 8 in column H ATL instead of a 3. BPRS recorded the vote as admitted to 2 preferences. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 6 preferences.

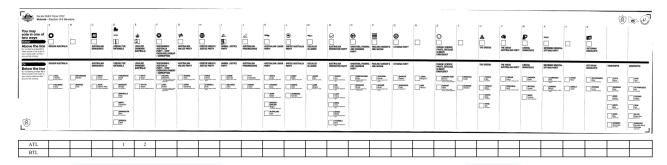
Ballot paper: 27966VICLTRO0223351600882\_01\_006





3.4 BPRS did not recognise a number 3 in column I ATL. BPRS recorded the vote as admitted to 2 preferences. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 3 preferences.

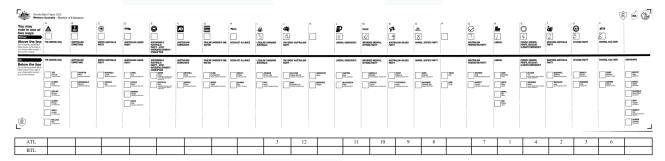
Ballot paper: 27966VICCASE0204080600154\_01\_004



### WA

3.5 BPRS recorded a 3 in column U ATL instead of a 5. BPRS recorded the vote as admitted to 2 preferences. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 12 preferences.

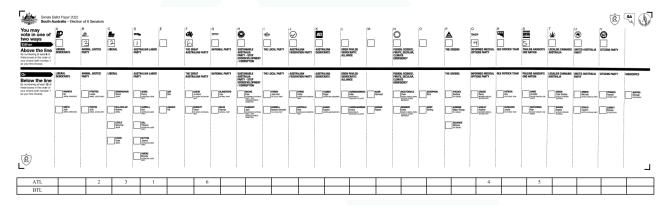
Ballot paper: 27966WA-SWAN0247169100018\_01\_003



## SA

3.6 BPRS did not accurately record the preferences on the ballot paper. BPRS recorded a 2 in column B and 3 in column C. This did not match the ballot paper where a 3 was in column B and a 2 in column C. BPRS recorded the vote as admitted to 6 preferences. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 6 for different preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966SA-SPEN0325170601603\_01\_001

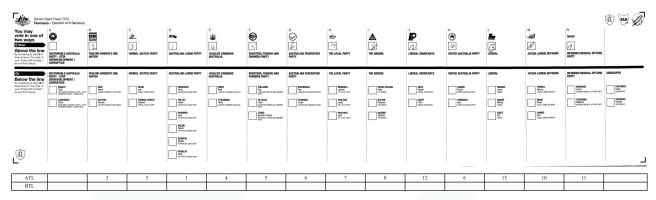




## **TAS**

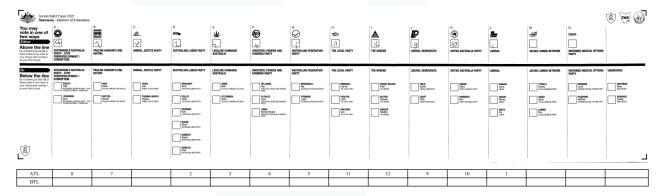
3.7 BPRS recorded a 6 in column K ATL instead of a 9. BPRS recorded the vote as admitted to 5 preferences. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 13 preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966TASBRAD0193023500202\_01\_002



3.8 BPRS did not record a 6 in column C ATL. BPRS recorded the vote as admitted to 5 preferences. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 12 preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966TASLYON0196052400106\_01\_004



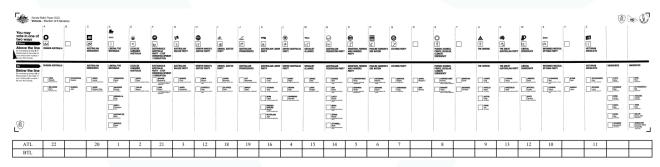


## 4. ATL PREFERENCE SEQUENCE BROKEN TOO EARLY AFTER THE FIRST SIX PREFERENCES

### **VIC**

4.1 BPRS recorded a 12 in column H ATL instead of a 17. BPRS recorded the vote as admitted to 11 preferences. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 22 preferences.

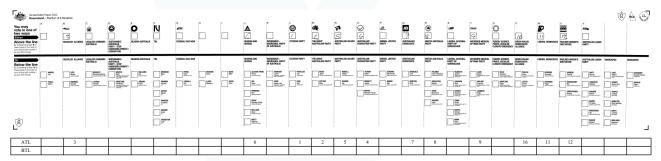
Ballot paper: 27966VICNICH0324582101812\_01\_002



## QLD

4.2 BPRS recorded a 16 in column V ATL instead of a 10. BPRS recorded the vote as admitted to 9 preferences. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 12 preferences.

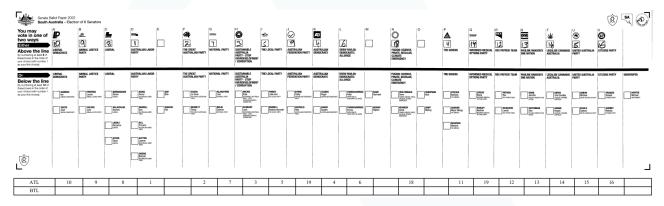
Ballot paper: 27966QLDBLAI0304420800117\_01\_005



## SA

4.3 BPRS recorded a 19 in column Q ATL instead of a 17. BPRS recorded the vote as admitted to 16 preferences. The vote should have been formal ATL admitted to 19 preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966SA-BARK0180027901502\_01\_003



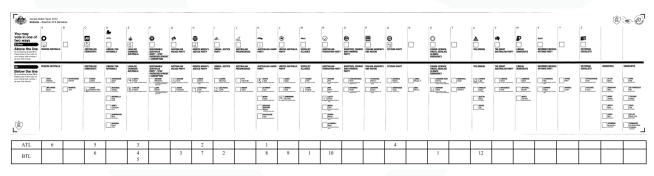


# 5. BTL PREFERENCE SEQUENCE BROKEN TOO EARLY WITHIN THE FIRST TWELVE PREFERENCES

## **VIC**

5.1 BPRS recorded a 1 in column S BTL instead of an 11. This made the ballot paper BTL informal. BPRS then admitted ATL preferences to 6. The vote should have been BTL formal admitted to 12 preferences.

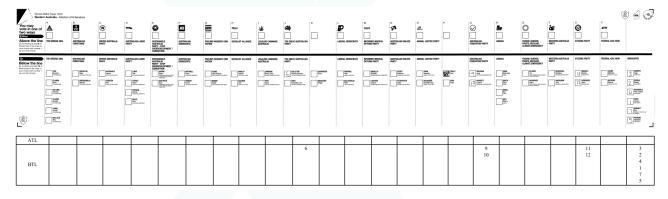
Ballot paper: 27966VICCHIS0205095700375\_01\_003



## WA

5.2 BPRS did not record an 8 in column P BTL. BPRS admitted BTL preferences to 7. The vote should have been BTL formal admitted to 12 preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966WA-COWA0237036600204\_01\_003

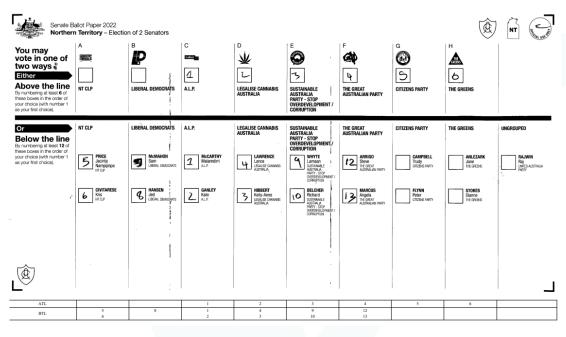




## NT

5.3 BPRS did not record a 7 in column B BTL. BPRS admitted BTL preferences to 6. The vote should have been BTL formal admitted to 10 preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966NT-LING0306001800108\_01\_004



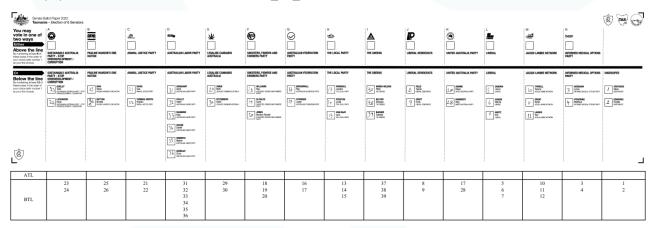


# 6. BTL PREFERENCE SEQUENCE BROKEN TOO EARLY AFTER THE FIRST TWELVE PREFERENCES

## **TAS**

6.1 BPRS recorded a 27 in column K BTL instead of a 17. BPRS admitted BTL preferences to 16. The vote should have been BTL formal admitted to 39 preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966TASLYON0196058500119\_01\_002



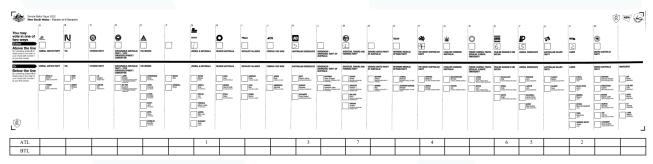


## 7. VOTER PREFERENCE SEQUENCE BROKEN TOO LATE

### **NSW**

7.1 BPRS recorded a 7 in column M ATL instead of a 2. BPRS admitted ATL preferences to 7. The vote should have been formal admitted to 1 preference.

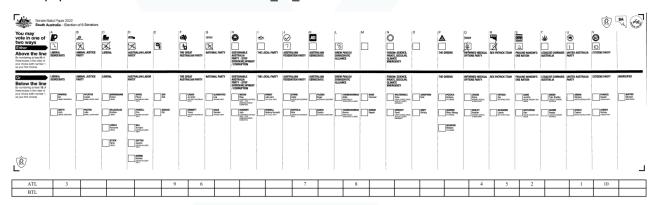
Ballot paper: 27966NSWCOOK0112135000098\_01\_002



### SA

7.2 BPRS recorded a 4 in column Q and 5 in column R ATL which had been crossed out. BPRS admitted ATL preferences to 10. The vote should have been formal admitted to 3 preferences.

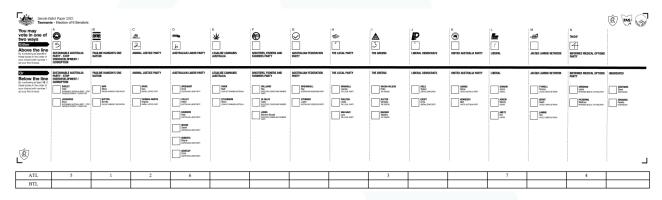
Ballot paper: 27966SA-BOOT0182040400292\_01\_003



## **TAS**

7.3 BPRS recorded an unusual mark as a 7 in column L. BPRS admitted ATL preferences to 7. The vote should have been formal admitted to 6 preferences.

Ballot paper: 27966TASBASS0192001400107\_01\_001



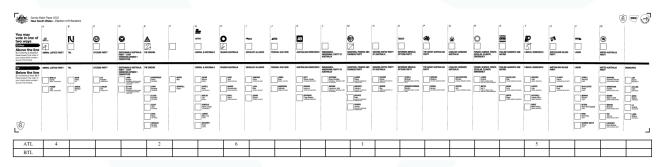


# 8. VOTE RECORDED AS FORMAL WHEN IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMAL

### **NSW**

8.1 BPRS recorded a 7 in column M ATL as a 1. BPRS admitted ATL preferences to 2. The vote should have been informal and rejected from the count.

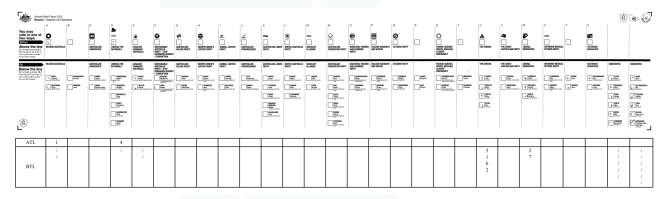
Ballot paper: 27966NSWLIND0128379500216 01 005



## **VIC**

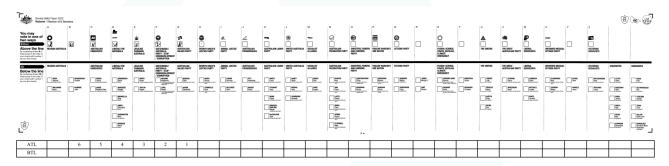
8.2 BPRS recorded an unusual mark in column A ATL as a 1. BPRS admitted ATL preferences to 1. The vote should have been informal and rejected from the count.

Ballot paper: 27966VICMELB0228417500315\_01\_005



8.3 BPRS recorded an unusual mark in column G ATL as a 1. BPRS admitted ATL preferences to 6. The vote should have been informal and rejected from the count.

Ballot paper: 27966VICSCUL0232447300204 01 003

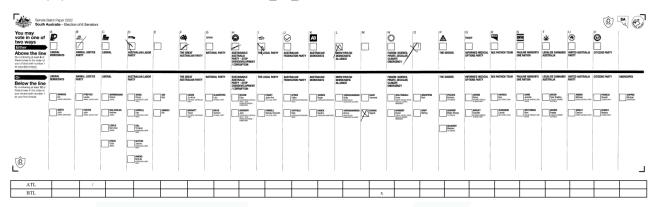




## SA

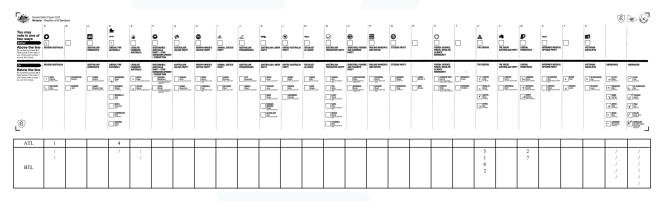
8.4 BPRS recorded an unusual mark in column B ATL as a 1. BPRS admitted ATL preferences to 1. The vote should have been informal and rejected from the count.

Ballot paper: 27966SA-GREY0183069601108\_01\_005



8.5 BPRS recorded an unusual mark in column A ATL as a 1. BPRS admitted ATL preferences to 1. The vote should have been informal and rejected from the count.

Ballot paper: 27966SA-KING0186097800275\_01\_004





## 9. INCORRECT PREFERENCE TYPE ACCEPTED

## **NSW**

9.1 BPRS recorded unusual marks as BTL preferences in column E. BPRS admitted BTL preferences to 7. The vote should have been admitted ATL formal to 7 preferences (different set of preferences to those recorded BTL).

Ballot paper: 27966NSWNENG0135486100247\_01\_003

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