

## **Optional Preferential: Beware – your vote may not count!**

In NSW Council Elections, an Optional Preferential voting system applies. That is, for your vote to be valid, you only need to put the number “1” in one square if voting above the line; and "1" and "2" in squares if voting below the line.

You can number more squares if you wish (i.e. it's optional).

If you don't allocate preferences, your vote may not be counted. This could happen if and when the group or candidates you voted for are eliminated from the count, your ballot paper is “exhausted” - that is, it is no longer included in the count.

### **What to do to make sure your vote is counted**

1. Always read your ballot paper carefully as voting differs in Federal, State and Council elections.
2. If voting above the line, number most, if not all, squares.
3. If voting below the line, number most, if not all, squares.

***Make your vote count!***