

After all of the hoopla and excitement of election night – a likely new government, a likely new Prime Minister and Tony vs Toni - New Zealand was forced to wait another three weeks until the election results were confirmed in order for coalition negotiations to begin in earnest. MPs twiddled their thumbs and the caretaker government essentially treaded water.

But this week's Auditor-General report into the election suggests the Electoral Commission was lucky to even make that final deadline.

The total number of special votes was much higher than expected and alongside the delays in processing late enrolments, the Commission found itself with a gargantuan workload in the period after the election. Some electoral staff reportedly worked 70-hour weeks.

The final quality assurance checks, which should have been done over two days, were instead pushed into the few hours before the results were released. Inevitably, the Commission made errors.

Text taken from:

<https://www.1news.co.nz/2024/05/10/jack-tame-the-case-for-keeping-election-day-voter-enrolments/>