

AN EARLY ELECTION — FROM "THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD" OF 12/5/1846:

"Voting for District Councillors—

JOHN BERRY, Esq.	59
W. W. JENKINS, Esq.	52
CAPTAIN ADDISON	46
DR. MENZIES	29

"In consequence of the comparison attending voting at elections being in some respects like that of horse racing it is not uncommon to describe events of this kind in language of the turf. We may remark in compliance with this usage, that Messrs. Berry and Jenkins cantered easily over the course with a light rein, winning easily. Captain Addison, notwithstanding whip and spur, scarcely if at all saved his distance, whilst Dr. Menzies was nowhere."

The Illawarra District Council was established in 1844 and extended from Northern Illawarra to Jervis Bay. With headquarters at Wollongong, it was the first attempt at local government being elected by the landholders. It was dissolved in the early 1850's prior to the forming of Municipal and Shire Councils some years later. J. Berry, of Shoalhaven, and W. W. Jenkins, of Berkeley, were members of the original Council.