

# COUNCIL VOTING POINTS TO CIVIC REFORM VICTORY

By PHIL GROSE, Civic Reporter

The Civic Reform Association appeared last night almost certain to romp in with a four-seat majority to control Sydney City Council. Sep '74

A first preference count of votes in yesterday's local government election

showed that Civic Reform had a majority in three of the five wards being contested.

Postal votes are to be counted next Tuesday but these are expected to be heavily in favour of Civic Reform.

The council will be the same as before if the postal votes from property owners who live outside the city are for Civic Reform.

That was 12 aldermen representing Civic Reform and eight Labor.

Observers predicted before the election that the key ward would be Fitzroy, which include Kings Cross.

When counting stopped last night, the leader of the Civic Reform ticket for four aldermen, Alderman Joan Pilone, had gathered 1,939 votes.

Supporting Alderman Pilone on her ticket are Alderman Leo Port, Alderman Barry Lewis and Mr N. J. Meers.

The leader of the ALP in the retiring council, Alderman G. Draper, had polled only 873 first preference votes.

Unless other candidates standing for the ALP poll a much stronger first preference vote, Civic Reform will have little problem in winning the ward.

The allocation of preferences and the sorting out of votes which did not follow the party ticket will not be made until later in the week.

Other first preference votes completed last night were:

Flinders Ward: L. T. Devine (ALP) 1,257; N. Rudge (CR) 959.

Phillip Ward: S. J. Fegan (ALP) 1,011; J. J. Bingham (CR) 474.

Macquarie Ward: N.

Shehadie (CR) 272; E. M. Ryan (ALP) 96.

Counting in Gipps Ward had not been completed but this area which takes in the central business district of the city is almost certain to go to Civic Reform.

Voting in Sydney was quieter than had been hoped, with fewer than 30 per cent of people eligible turning up at the polling booths.

## Tailpiece:

A bull besieged a voting booth at the South Coast town of Mogo yesterday and stopped the returning officer from claiming the 34 votes registered there.

A Eurobodella Shire spokesman said: "The bull suddenly went mad just before lunchtime and wouldn't let anybody in to vote. That accounts for the low poll."