



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
Electoral Commission

# MEDIA RELEASE

## DAYLIGHT SAVING NON-VOTERS ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR ERROR AND MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO STATE REVENUE

Many WA electors who did not vote in last May's Daylight Saving Referendum have acknowledged their error and paid their fine, adding over half a million dollars to State revenue.

WA Electoral Commission figures show that to date 25,101 electors have paid some \$622,000 in fines.

The Commission's non-voter program identified 133,285 non-voters after the referendum, each of whom were sent a standard "please explain" Apparent Failure to Vote notice from the Commissioner.

Following that process 69,125 electors were either excused for a variety of reasons or had their failure to vote finalised.

Currently, 25,101 have paid the \$20 or \$50 non-voting penalty – but the Commission is yet to receive a response from over 39,000 recipients of the "please explain" notices.

Commenting today WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said: "Prior to the Daylight Saving Referendum the Commission in its advertising, on its website and through the media made it quiet clear that voting was compulsory and that a penalty applied if an individual did not vote.

"That message was unequivocal and went State-wide and followed an identical message of some seven months earlier regarding compulsory voting in the State general election.

"The non-voter process and the penalties imposed are governed by the Referendums Act 1983 and the Electoral Act 1907 and the Commission is obliged to follow the letter of the law, it has no discretion in the matter.

"I am heartened however that over 25,000 people have currently recognised they had fallen short in their civic obligation to vote in the referendum and have readily accepted and paid their penalty."

In the referendum, overall 1,144,203 valid votes were cast, with 519,899 (45.44%) electors voting "Yes" and 624,304 (54.56%) voting "No" – on a turnout of 85.64% of the State's 1,341,554 enrolled electors.

**ENDS/**

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009

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