



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

HALF OF WA COUNCILS SIGN UP WITH WA ELECTORAL COMMISSION FOR OCTOBER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Just over half of Western Australia's 139 local authorities have opted for the WA Electoral Commission to conduct their local council elections, to be held on Saturday October 17th.

Seventy-one local authorities, 28 in the metropolitan area and 43 from regional WA, representing over 90% of electors eligible to vote in these elections, have committed to the Commission to conduct their postal or in-person voting for them.

The Commission will conduct 69 postal elections from Esperance to Ashburton, including some populous councils in the metropolitan area, and in-person elections in Broome and Halls Creek.

Commenting today, WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said the numbers were indicative of the continuing confidence local governments had in the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the electoral services provided by the Commission and an affirmation that postal voting was a proven, secure and convenient means of voting.

"The number of councils using the Commission's services in local government elections has risen steadily from 50 in 2005 and 65 in 2007 to the very satisfying 71 we have today, and means that the Commission now provides electoral services to the majority of local government electors in Western Australia," said Mr Gately.

"That postal voting increases elector participation is well documented and it seems this factor, combined with cost-effectiveness and convenience, has resulted in this vote of confidence from local governments in the proficiency of the electoral services we can provide to them."

The electoral roll for the October 17th local government elections closes at 5:00 pm Friday 28th August, with candidate nominations opening on Thursday 3rd September and closing a week later at 4:00 pm Thursday 10th September.

The Commission will commence sending out postal voting packs during the week of 21st September.

ENDS

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner. 5th August 2009

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