



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

Local Government Postal Elections Proving to be Popular

At the 15 October 2011 ordinary local government elections the Western Australian Electoral Commission will conduct the highest number of postal elections since postal ballots were first introduced in the mid 1990s.

The Commission will conduct 74 postal elections and two in person elections, involving about 95% of enrolled electors across the State.

The Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said today that if all vacancies in the 206 individual district and ward elections being run by the Commission were contested, nearly 1.3 million election packages will be distributed by post.

“This is a significant number and reflects the growing acceptance of postal elections as an effective means of encouraging greater voter participation in local government elections, where voting is not compulsory,” said Mr Gately.

“By opting to use the Commission’s services to conduct postal ballots, Councils are also recognising the convenience that postal elections offer their electorates, and the expertise, independence and impartiality that the Electoral Commission brings to the table.”

The Commission will conduct all but one of the metropolitan area’s council elections, and will run country council elections from Halls Creek in the north to Esperance in the south.

Mr Gately believed there would be considerable interest in the City of Greater Geraldton’s inaugural election, involving 14 vacancies for Councillor and a popularly elected Mayor. The position of Lord Mayor at the City of Perth is also up for election.

“Importantly, eligible citizens have until 5.00 pm Friday 26 August 2011 to ensure they are correctly enrolled for this year’s ordinary local government elections, Mr Gately said.

“People can obtain enrolment forms from post offices, offices of the Western Australian and Australian Electoral Commissions and most local government offices. Alternatively they can check their enrolment on the State Roll or download a new enrolment form at www.waec.wa.gov.au.”

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 16 August 2011

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