



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

City of Perth Election

The WA Electoral Commissioner, Warwick Gately has responded to a story on page one of today's edition of The Weekend West regarding a police investigation into possible vote tampering in the City of Perth election.

Mr Gately said that the potential problem came to the Commission's attention late Wednesday and after some preliminary investigations by Commission staff, it was felt that there was sufficient cause for concern to have the matter referred to the Police.

"The issue involves a small number of postal voting packages that appear to have been interfered with at a single street address within the City of Perth.

"Up to six postal votes may have been completed and returned by a person or persons other than the elector to whom it was sent. These packages were all issued to residents in the same block of apartments," said Mr Gately.

Mr Gately stressed that the City of Perth Mayoral and Councillor elections will proceed as normal and that the Police will continue their investigation into this matter.

"Votes will be counted after 6.00 pm today as is normally the case and the results will be declared.

"There is provision under the Local Government Act for any person who is dissatisfied with the result of an election or with the way the election was conducted to make an invalidity complaint to the Court of Disputed Returns. It is then up to a Magistrate to determine whether or to what extent the election outcome was impacted by the matter of concern.

"At present I have no reason to believe this problem extends beyond a single street address. It is likely to have been an opportunistic act," Mr Gately said.

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 15 October 2011

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