



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
Electoral Commission

# MEDIA RELEASE

## WILLAGEE ELECTORS URGED TO TURN OUT THIS SATURDAY

By polling day Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November some 10% of Willagee's 23,082 eligible electors will already have taken the opportunity to have their say in the by-election to fill the seat vacated by former Premier Alan Carpenter.

To date, some 2,035 postal voting packs have been sent out by the WA Electoral Commission – with 1,666 already returned.

Early in-person voting has been steady with 542 electors so far casting a vote; the majority at Australian Electoral Commission offices in Booragoon and Spearwood and at the Fremantle courthouse.

Commenting today WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said: "The number of early votes augurs well for a solid turnout next Saturday, however historically elector turnout at by-elections is often lower than that at general elections or referenda.

"For example the turnout for WA's last three 'stand-alone' by-elections has been Murdoch 74.7%, Peel 79.54% and Victoria Park 64.04%; whilst the Fremantle by-election when run conjointly with the daylight saving referendum saw a turnout of 87.2%.

"The 86.12% turnout of Willagee electors at the last State general election was consistent with the overall State turnout of 86.48%, and for this important by-election I appeal to electors not to be complacent but ensure that figure is sustained or improved upon.

"Hence, I would remind the electors of Willagee that voting is compulsory and urge them to have their say on who is to represent them in State Parliament.

"By now all should have received an Easy Voter Card to assist them in locating a convenient polling place and in correctly completing their ballot paper when casting a vote on the day.

"Taking that card to the polling place on the Saturday will assist in making voting quick and easy."

Any Willagee elector with queries or concerns should contact the WA Electoral Commission information line on (08) 9214 7240.

**ENDS/.**

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009

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