



ELECTORAL COMMISSION INTEGRITY CHECKS IDENTIFY DATA ENTRY ERROR DURING STATE ELECTION COUNT

The completion of the Western Australian Electoral Commission's integrity check and audit of all results from September's State general election has identified one data entry error in the processing and counting of the 1.15million valid votes cast – the omission of 862 early postal ticket votes from the West Swan district in the East Metropolitan Region Legislative Council count.

This error and the subsequent inclusion of these votes into the polling figures does not change the result or the order of candidate exclusion or election in the East Metropolitan Region, where over 276,000 votes were cast.

The only consequence will be a change to the quota for the Region and a subsequent minor increase in the public funding entitlement for candidates and parties.

Commenting today WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said that whilst this human error was regretted, its detection proved the comprehensive integrity checks of all data undertaken by the Commission after each election were sound and working and auditing had not identified other errors or omissions in other Districts or Regions.

"Such verification is an integral part of the entire election process and the provision of any findings, adverse or otherwise, to all stakeholders and the public, is central to the Commission's commitment to integrity, accountability and transparency," he said.

"Whilst the Commission's procedures and processes are directed squarely at producing an error-free count, given the complexities involved in the counting and distribution of votes there is always potential for simple human error. Process safeguards have already been supplemented with an IT trip wire to prevent future occurrence."

The ticket votes were distributed as follows: ALP 454; Liberal Party 281; Greens 60; Family First 28; Independents and minor parties 39.

ENDS/

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner 19th November 2008

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