



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

WA ELECTORAL COMMISSION TO CONDUCT BALLOTS TO FILL 371 VACANCIES AT 71 COUNCILS IN FORTHCOMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The forthcoming 17th October local government elections will see the Western Australian Electoral Commission conduct ballots to fill 371 vacancies at 71 client councils across the State.

With the roll for the elections closing this Friday, nominations to fill those 371 positions open on Thursday 3rd September and advertisements detailing the vacancies on each local council and where and when nominations would be taken appeared in the metropolitan, local and regional press this week.

Speaking today WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately again appealed to the public have a say in how their local community is run by turning out to vote on 17th October or by nominating as a candidate for their local council.

“In Australia’s three tiers of government it is local government that potentially has the most impact on peoples’ everyday life with councils making decisions that affect the community where they live and indeed how they live,” he said.

“It too is the one area of government where the average individual citizen having been elected to council can have a decisive voice on local issues and make a difference.

“Therefore I urge all citizens to be part of the process that determines how their community progresses in the coming years and have their say by voting on 17th October or by nominating for council if they really want to make a difference in their community.

“Such an opportunity should not be missed as it will not be available again for at least another two years.”

Over half of Western Australia’s 139 local authorities have opted for the WA Electoral Commission to conduct their local council elections on 17th October – 28 in the metropolitan area and 43 from regional WA, representing over 90% of electors eligible to vote in these elections.

For these councils the method of voting will be by postal voting (except for Broome and Halls Creek where the Commission will run in-person voting) with postal voting packs to be delivered during the week of 21st September.

ENDS

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner. 26th August 2009

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