



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION POSTAL VOTING PACKS IN THE MAIL NEXT WEEK

The October 17th local government elections enter their next major phase this coming Monday when the Western Australian Electoral Commission begins the distribution of over one million postal voting packages to electors across the State.

Households in fifty-nine local authorities from Albany to Ashburton, including some large councils in the Perth metropolitan area, and representing over 90% of electors eligible to vote in these elections, will start receiving their postal voting packages from Monday 21st September.

It is planned that from Monday 21st the Commission will mail packages to electors in country areas of WA, and commencing Tuesday 22nd to the inner and outer metropolitan areas.

The postal pack contains a voting guide in a number of languages, a ballot paper with candidates' profiles attached, an elector certificate in the form of an envelope that must be signed and into which the completed ballot paper should be inserted, and a reply paid envelope in which to mail the ballot paper and certificate back to the Returning Officer.

Speaking today WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said: "With over one million packages to be distributed from next week in regional, rural and metropolitan areas I encourage all electors to look out for their package.

"In their package electors will notice a new initiative trialled with great success by the Commission earlier this year, in that the candidate profiles are now attached to the ballot paper.

"This assists electors to readily assess the candidates and then cast their vote on the ballot paper while able to read the candidates' profiles alongside.

"It is then simply a matter of tearing off the ballot paper, inserting it in the elector certificate envelope, signing the elector certificate and placing it in the reply paid envelope.

"That envelope needs to be returned by 6pm, Saturday 17th October to be included in the count and I urge all electors to cast their vote and return it as soon as possible so that they do not miss out on the chance to have a say on who will represent them on their local council."

Electors are urged to carefully read the instructions in the guide and on the ballot paper; however should an elector make a mistake they can cross out the error and mark the ballot paper correctly or alternatively go into their local government office and request another ballot paper.

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Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 16th September 2007

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