



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

POSITIVE RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Electors across the State have responded positively to the October 17th local government elections with the Western Australian Electoral Commission's processing centre at Fremantle now receiving some 30,000 postal votes per day.

By this morning, over 104,000 postal votes had already arrived at the processing centre from electors in the Commission's 59 client councils.

The returned envelopes and their contents are rigorously checked and then separated at the centre and the ballot papers placed in sealed ballot boxes to be returned to the respective Returning Officers in readiness for the count on Saturday 17th after 6.00pm.

To date the standout councils were the City of Bunbury where 4440 envelopes (or 21%) of 21,054 packages issued have been returned; City of Wanneroo South Ward 4749 returns (16.24%) of 29,241; and City of Mandurah East Ward from where 3246 envelopes of 11,041 issued (or 29%) have arrived for processing.

Commenting today WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said that the election material printing, packaging and distribution process has gone well and the early return of so many postal votes was encouraging.

"My imperative was to accurately print, package and distribute throughout the State over 1.1 million postal voting packs – complete with a voting guide, ballot paper for the election of councillors and/or mayor, profiles of all local candidates, elector certificate, and reply paid envelope – in just over two weeks, and this has been accomplished, which is a significant achievement for the Commission and its service providers," he said.

"The printing and distribution schedule was only completed earlier this week and the receipt of some 100,000 votes to date is a good start to these important elections."

The Commission has urged electors to keep an eye out for the postal voting pack in their letterbox and recommends that if electors have not received a pack by the end of this week, or they have other questions about postal voting, they should call the Commission's Call Centre on 1300 661 136.

Completed ballot papers need to be returned by 6pm, Saturday 17th October to be included in the count.

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Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 1st October 2009

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