



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

COUNTRY COUNCILS LEAD WAY IN POSTAL VOTING

The early positive trend in postal voting for the October 17th local government elections has continued, with an average of some 33,000 votes per day now being delivered to the Western Australian Electoral Commission's processing centre at Fremantle.

By this morning, with still over a week to polling day, 263,737 votes had been received.

Leading the way in percentage of ballot papers returned are country local governments – with the most notable being the Shire of Gingin Lancelin Ward that has a current return rate of 51.61%, Shire of Ravensthorpe Hopetoun Ward 49.27%, the Lake Grace Ward of the Shire of Lake Grace 44.92%, and Shire of Denmark Town Ward 41.55%.

Councils with the largest number of returned ballot papers to date include City of Gosnells 10,640, City of Wanneroo South Ward 6650, City of Bunbury 6289 and City of Rockingham Safety Bay Ward 5939.

WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately is highly satisfied with the current progress of the elections.

"The 260,000 votes received so far is marginally up on the 2007 local government elections, but what is most pleasing are the turnout figures for a number of country councils," he said today.

"Given that the turnout for the 2007 elections was 34.2%, and with eight days still to polling day, it augurs well for a reasonable turnout result on 17th October and is an affirmation that electors find the postal voting option a secure and convenient means of voting.

"Overall, the process has run smoothly, with the distribution of ballot papers in all client local councils completed – it is now up to those who have yet to vote to have their say on the local issues that matter to them and be part of the process that determines how their community progresses over the next few years.

"There is still ample time to return ballot papers, but I remind electors that they must be with the Commission by 6pm, Saturday 17th October to be included in the count.

"If any electors are yet to received a postal voting pack, or have other questions about postal voting, they should immediately call the Commission's Call Centre on 1300 661 136."

...ENDS/.

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 8th October 2009

Contact: Peter Villiers, WAEC Manager Communications and Corporate Strategy
9214 0484 0417 936 171 peter.villiers@waec.wa.gov.au