



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
Electoral Commission

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Nominations for Council Open this Week

Nominations for the local government October elections open this week. The nomination period opens this Thursday the 1 September 2011 and closes at 4.00 pm Thursday 8 September 2011.

WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately recommended that people considering running for Council vacancies should fully investigate what the role entails and speak to people in 'the know'.

"A great place to start is to talk with their local government's Chief Executive Officer or another suitable staff member. Alternatively arrange to meet with a Councillor whose term of office is not expiring at these elections."

The best source of information about the election process and how to nominate is the Returning Officer. For elections being run by the Western Australian Electoral Commission, the name and contact details of all Returning Officers are listed on the Commission's website at [www.waec.wa.gov.au](http://www.waec.wa.gov.au).

"Decisions made by local Councils can have a major bearing on the well-being and lifestyle of Western Australians across the State - from the least populated country shires with just a couple of hundred electors, to the large metropolitan city councils with tens of thousands of electors," said Mr Gately.

The Electoral Commission and the Department of Local Government are running a joint advertising campaign in the community press, under the theme *Your Vote – Your Community*.

"Local government elections represent 'grass roots democracy' in action. But like any democracy, it is only as good as the people prepared to take a stand and run for election. The rest is in the hands of the electors who will have their say in October," Mr Gately said.

For those local governments holding postal elections, election packages containing ballot papers will start arriving in mail boxes from mid September.

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 30 August 2011

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