



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

Electors encouraged to return their voting papers now

The WA Electoral Commissioner has encouraged Western Australians across the State to get involved and vote in the 2011 local government ordinary elections.

“There is not much credibility in sitting back in six months time complaining about a decision by your local Council if you opt out of voting at local government elections,” said Mr Gately.

“While voting in local government elections is not compulsory in WA, that doesn’t mean decisions made are not important. Local Councils have a significant impact on our daily lives. So get involved!”

Mr Gately said that the 1.1 million electors in the 66 local government districts with contested ballots that are holding postal elections, should have all received their election packages by now.

“If someone believes they are eligible and has not received a package as yet, they can contact the Commission’s Call Centre on 13 63 06 to enquire whether they were on the electoral roll for this election.

“If they have misplaced their package or perhaps the snails got to their letter box before them, they can visit their local Council Office to apply for a replacement. If a replacement package is issued, their original package will be cancelled to ensure they only receive their voting entitlement.”

Mr Gately said that as of this morning, the Commission has received nearly 220,000 returned voting papers for processing at the central Scanning Centre in Perth.

“Work at the Scanning Centre involves electronically scanning the elector’s details to record that they have voted, before removing the signed declaration certificate from the ballot paper envelope. The ballot paper envelope is opened separately to ensure voter secrecy, and the ballot paper is then placed without inspection into a ballot box. Each local government’s ballot boxes are distributed to the relevant Returning Officer in time for vote counting after polls close at 6.00 pm on Saturday 15 October,” said Mr Gately.

The Electoral Commissioner encouraged all electors who haven’t voted and returned their completed voting papers as yet to do so as soon as possible.

“If an elector has not posted their voting papers by midway through next week, then depending on where they live, they should drop them into the ballot box at their local Council Office by 6.00 pm election day – Saturday 15 October.”

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 5 October 2011

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