



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

Time running out to return postal voting papers

Saturday 15 October is local government election day and is the last chance for eligible electors to have their say over who will represent them on Council for the next four years.

WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately has urged Western Australians to get involved and to ensure they lodge their vote before 6.00 pm this Saturday.

“Local government contests in the Perth Metropolitan Area are all being conducted as postal elections. If Perth based electors haven’t posted their completed voting papers by Thursday this week, I would advise them to hand deliver these to the ballot box at their Council office. This can be done during normal business hours weekdays, and between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm on Saturday.

“Depending on where they live, country based electors generally need to post their election package one or two days earlier to ensure it reaches the Returning Officer in time,” Mr Gately said.

“If an elector has misplaced their package or for some reason they are unable to use the voting papers received, they can apply for a replacement package at their local Council office.”

The Commissioner said that at this stage it appeared that the average elector participation rate will be down on that of recent elections, however, the return in a number of country local government districts had remained strong.

“As of today, the participation rate for contests in some country districts is already above the 40% mark. These include: Albany, Ashburton, Augusta-Margaret River, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Brookton, Carnarvon, Dandaragan, Exmouth, Gingin, Jerramungup, Kent, Lake Grace, Menzies, and Ravensthorpe.

The participation rate for Council elections in the Perth Metropolitan Area is typically lower, with the City of Perth presently being one of the highest with over 34%,” said Mr Gately.

The local government with the largest number of completed voting packages returned for processing is the City of Stirling at around 30,000.

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 11 October 2011

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