



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
Electoral Commission

# MEDIA RELEASE

## POSTAL VOTING HITS UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS

By the time voters go to the polls on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September well over 100,000 of the State's 1.35 million electors will have already had their say, either by casting a postal vote or by voting early in person.

WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said today the demand for postal voting for this election had been unprecedented, with the Commission processing over 68,000 postal vote applications to date.

"When the current level of postal voting demand is combined with an anticipated 30,000 early in-person votes, the number of early voters is something never seen before at a State general election."

Postal voting packs containing ballot papers are being distributed by Australia Post to electors throughout Western Australia this week, and they must be completed and mailed to the Commission, postmarked prior to 6.00pm on polling day, arriving before 9.00am on the Thursday after polling day.

If electors are worried that they may have run out of time to complete and return their postal vote before the deadline, the Commission is urging electors to cast an early in-person vote at magistrate's courts or Australian Electoral Commission district offices around the State – or to attend any polling place on Saturday 6th September.

"The Commission has established early vote issuing offices across WA where electors are able to complete ballot papers immediately, and this service is available until 6.00pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September," said Mr Gately.

"Otherwise it is open to all electors to attend any polling place in the State on Saturday to have their say, and I would urge all, especially those who feel they might have missed their opportunity for a postal vote, to do so, even if it may mean an inconvenience."

Full details of all polling places and the locations where early in-person voting is available are on the Commission's website ([www.waec.wa.gov.au](http://www.waec.wa.gov.au)).

**ENDS/**

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008

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