



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

FASTER AND EASIER VOTING FOR OUT-OF-DISTRICT ELECTORS ON SATURDAY 6TH

Many WA electors who are out of their electoral district on polling day Saturday 6th September, such as holidaymakers, travellers and workers, will find it easier and faster to cast an absent vote at selected polling places across the State.

Following a successful trial during the 2005 state general election, the WA Electoral Commission has set up a computerised Easy Absent Voting service at 37 locations which were identified as having a high number of out-of-district voters.

Locations include holiday spots such as Broome, Coral Bay, Margaret River, Dunsborough and Esperance, centres servicing a large population of out of town workers such as Karratha and Tom Price, and of course the Perth metropolitan area.

It is anticipated that Broome and Perth City will have the greatest demand for the service and five computers and 10 staff have been dedicated to Easy Absent Voting at each location.

WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said the Easy Absent Voting service was based on the loading of the State electoral roll onto a computer within a polling place, thus enabling absent voters to be marked off the roll electronically.

“Normal absentee voting requires the out-of-district voter to complete a written declaration stating their address and eligibility to vote and involves a more detailed checking and confirmation process which can in some cases create delays and lead to longer queues,” he said.

“The Easy Absent service makes the process quicker and easier, with the aim of reducing the time that people spent in queues on election day.”

For security and privacy reasons the electoral roll is loaded and entirely erased by Electoral Commission staff on election day; with the erasure process using specialised software that permanently erases the roll from computer hard drives.

ENDS/

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner 3 September 2008

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