



**Minister for Local Government; Heritage;
Citizenship and Multicultural Interests**

Our Ref: M0901459

TO ALL MAYORS AND PRESIDENTS

CIRCULAR N^o 3-2009

**CHANGES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOTING SYSTEM**

In light of recent announcements made at Local Government Week, and a formal request by the Western Australian Local Government Association, I would like to formally advise all local governments that an extension has been granted for submission of reform proposals.

I look forward to receiving those submissions that are completed by the original 31 August 2009 deadline. However, an extension to 30 September 2009 will be granted to those local governments who may wish to re-evaluate their current position, and require additional time to consult with their communities and develop their proposals.

In addition, it gives me great pleasure to formally advise you that the first-past-the-post (FPTP) legislation completed its passage through State Parliament on Thursday, 13 August 2009. This will enable the FPTP system of voting to be implemented in time for local government elections on 17 October this year.

The change of voting method had been consistently requested by the local government sector, and the Government has worked to secure this important outcome for you.

The return to FPTP voting is an important step in protecting local government from the influence of major political parties and the rise of political factions within councils. Compared to the PPV system, FPTP is more timely, fairer and simpler. This makes the electoral process easier to understand and more accessible to people with a genuine interest in serving their local communities.

**Hon G M (John) Castrilli MLA
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT; HERITAGE;
CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**

18 August 2009