



## Elections Bulletin N<sup>o</sup>: 01

Welcome to the first edition of the Local Government Elections 2009 Bulletin. This Bulletin and our web page ([www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/LocalGovt/Elections](http://www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/LocalGovt/Elections)) will keep local governments and the public informed in the coming months about any relevant changes to the legislation and will provide details of updated information materials, support packages and programs that will be offered to assist local governments with the elections.

### Elections Timetable

Information on the dates of the various stages of the ordinary elections may be found on the webpage referred to above.

### Possible Change to Voting Method

Local governments will be aware that it is the policy of the current State Government that local government elections in the future be conducted using the first past the post (FPP) method of voting. The Bill to progress the necessary legislative changes, in time for this voting method to be in place for the 17 October 2009 local government elections, has been introduced into the Parliament.

FPP counting processes are relatively straightforward. The Department is looking into the possibility of making a software package available for those local governments that require it.

### Advertising

The Department is planning an advertising campaign to encourage greater participation both by candidates and electors. Details will be provided in future bulletins.

### Involving the Electoral Commissioner

Those local governments that decide to declare the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner to conduct their elections first need to obtain the Commissioner's written agreement. This declaration is to be made by 29 July 2009. For more information, please contact Phil Richards, Manager Local Government Elections at the Electoral Commission, on 9214 0443 or email [phillip.richards@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:phillip.richards@waec.wa.gov.au).

### Update of Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers Register

With this year's elections now only a few months away, many CEOs, as required under section 4.34 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), have commenced the necessary task of ensuring that their non-resident owners and occupiers registers are in order by the close of rolls 5:00 pm on 28 August 2009.

**Resident owners, and resident occupiers of leased houses, apartments etc**, will appear on the State roll which will be provided to you by the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

Australian Electoral Commission Enrolment Forms and a notice about the forthcoming elections may be placed in your public areas to encourage the enrolment of residents who have recently moved into your local government district or who need to update their details.

The enrolment eligibility claims of **non-resident occupiers** of rateable property are time-limited, whilst those of **non-resident owners** expire when the claimants no longer own the relevant property [sections 4.33 (1) and 4.33 (1a) of the Act refer]. Therefore, in most cases, the registers will need a thorough overhaul.

Steps for doing this include:

- providing enrolled **non-resident occupiers** of rateable property whose eligibility has expired since the 2007 elections (ie those whose claims were accepted up to the close of enrolment for the May 2005 elections) an opportunity to re-enrol. They may be contacted either individually or via a notice in a suitable newspaper; and
- checking the enrolment claims of **non-resident owners** against the rate records for the relevant properties.

The Act has notice and appeal provisions regarding enrolment eligibility decisions and this is another reason why it is wise to commence the update of registers now [sections 4.35(1)(c), 4.35(2) and 4.35(3) refer]. Relevant forms are available on the Department's website at [www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/LocalGovt/Elections](http://www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/LocalGovt/Elections) under "[Elections Forms for Download](#)".

It may be helpful to inform people who are contacted about the register that it relates to local government elections only, and they will have to check their enrolment for State or Federal elections separately.

**For further information**, please contact either:

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