



Elections Bulletin N°: 02

Welcome to the second edition of the Local Government Elections 2009 Bulletin. This Bulletin and our website (www.dlg.wa.gov.au) will continue to keep local governments and the public informed about any relevant changes to the legislation, and will provide further details of information materials, support packages and programs that will be offered to assist local governments with the elections.

Change to Voting Method

In keeping with the policy of the current State Government, amendments have been passed to the *Local Government Act 1995* ensuring that local government elections in the future will be conducted using the first past the post (FPP) method of voting. The Bill to progress the necessary legislative changes was passed by the Legislative Council on 12 August 2009, in time for this voting method to be in place for the 17 October 2009 local government elections.

The Department is currently finalising updated information materials to reflect the change, and is developing a software package in association with the Western Australian Electoral Commission for local governments that require it.

Elections Timetable

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

Election forms

The change to FPP voting will necessitate a number of regulatory amendments, including changes to election forms.

Form 10 (Ballot Paper), Form 11 (Absent Vote Ballot Paper), Form 13 (Postal Voting Instructions), Form 19 (Results of Election) and Form 20 (Report to Minister), will now be modified to reflect the new system. Updated versions will be available for download from the DLG

website as soon as possible, along with other forms for scrutineers and returning officers.

Future editions of this bulletin will provide further updates on the progress of these changes.

Candidate information sessions

The Department will continue to provide support to any local government wishing to conduct candidate information sessions. A number of sessions are already being conducted and will continue throughout August to early September, with nominations closing at 4.00pm on 10 September 2009.

Advice and support is available for any local government wishing to conduct such sessions, and the Department will shortly be distributing a Candidate Information Kit for CEOs and Returning Officers wishing to hold sessions within their districts.

Close of rolls

Applications for voters to be included on the local government electoral roll close at 5.00pm on 28 August 2009. Local government officers are reminded to ensure that their rolls for non-resident owners and occupiers are brought up to date for the preparation of any consolidated rolls.

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