



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
Electoral Commission

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Mr Paul Martin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale  
6 Paterson Street  
MUNDIJONG WA 6123

Dear Mr Martin

### Local Government Ordinary Election: 2023

The next local government ordinary elections will be held on 21 October 2023. While this is still some distance in the future, I have enclosed an estimate for your next ordinary election (should you wish to hold a postal election) to assist in your 2023/2024 budget preparations.

The estimated cost for the 2023 election if conducted as a postal ballot is \$122,000 inc GST, which has been based on the following assumptions:

- 22,300 electors
- response rate of approximately 30%
- 5 vacancies
- count to be conducted at the offices of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
- appointment of a local Returning Officer
- regular Australia Post delivery service to apply.

An additional amount of \$4,800 will be incurred if your Council decides to opt for the Australia Post Priority Service for the lodgement of election packages.

The Commission is required by the *Local Government Act* to conduct local government elections on a full cost recovery basis. The price you have been quoted is an estimate only, and the final cost incurred may vary depending on a range of factors.

Costs not incorporated in this estimate include:

- any legal expenses other than those that are determined to be borne by the Western Australian Electoral Commission incurred as part of an invalidity complaint lodged with the Court of Disputed Returns
- the cost of any casual staff to assist the Returning Officer on election day or night

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- any unanticipated costs arising from public health requirements for the COVID-19 pandemic.

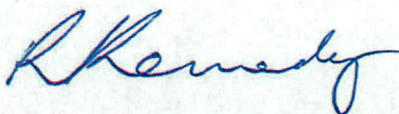
As you are aware, the Government is currently considering reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995*, which include how elections are to be conducted. In order to assist with your local government's budget planning, we have included, to the best of our knowledge, costs that will arise from the changes proposed in legislation. For example, if under the amendments your local government will be required to conduct a mayoral/presidential election this has been included.

Some local governments may also note an increase in costs from their 2021 ordinary costs. These include increases arising from inflation in recent years affecting salaries for Returning Officers and other staff, printing and packaging costs as well as the increase in postage announced by Australia Post. Additional costs from the Commission have been included arising from improved processing procedures and additional resources to supplement the Commission's education, complaints management, investigation and legal efforts.

The current procedure required by the *Local Government Act 1995* is prior to a Local Government declaring me responsible for the conduct of the election, my written agreement must be obtained before the vote is taken. I have noted that the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale at the meeting of 26/11/2018, declared me responsible for the conduct of all ordinary elections until the end of 2023.

I look forward to conducting this election for the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. If you have any further queries please contact Shani Wood Director, Election Operations on 9214 0400.

Yours sincerely



Robert Kennedy  
**ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER**

9 February 2023