



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

LGE 028

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

Attention: Mr Kenneth Parker

Dear Mr Martin

Local Government Ordinary Election: 2023

I refer to your email dated 10 February 2023 in which you request cost estimates for the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale 2023 Local Government Election to be conducted either as a postal election or a voting in-person election. In your email you also requested separate cost estimates for the following 3 different scenarios based on the number of vacancies being contested.

Scenario 1. A Shire President elected for the entire district and 1 Councillor elected for the North West and South Wards.

Scenario 2. A Shire President and 8 Councillors elected for the entire district.

Scenario 3. A Shire President elected for the entire district and 2 Councillors elected for both the North West and South Wards and 1 Councillor elected for the North Ward.

As requested, the cost estimates for both a postal and voting in-person election have been included in a simple table below.

Scenario	Postal Election	Voting In-Person
Scenario 1	\$124,000 inc GST	\$105,000 inc GST
Scenario 2	\$130,000 inc GST	\$108,000 inc GST
Scenario 3	\$126,000 inc GST	\$105,000 inc GST

The Commission is required by the *Local Government Act 1995* to conduct local government elections on a full cost recovery basis and you should note that this is an estimate only and 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 (Postal Election only)
- 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. These include increased costs from the Commission arising from improved processing procedures and additional resources to supplement the Commission's education, complaints management, investigation and legal efforts.

For the Commission to be responsible for the conduct of your election, the first step required by the *Local Government Act 1995* is my written agreement to undertake the election. I have noted that the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale at the meeting of 26/11/2018 declared me responsible for the conduct of all elections until 31 December 2023 and that that they be conducted as postal elections.

As was the case for the Section 4.15 Fresh Election held in October 2022, I hereby give my agreement, in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, to be responsible for the conduct of the local government ordinary elections in 2023 for the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, together with any other elections or polls that may also be required.

In order to have the 2023 ordinary election conducted by the Commission as a voting in person election, the next step will be for your council to pass the following motion by absolute majority:

- Declare, in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Electoral Commissioner to be responsible for the conduct of the 2023 ordinary election together with any other elections or polls which may also be required.

It would be greatly appreciated if this item was considered at your March 2023 council meeting, to enable the Commission to have sufficient time to work with you to effectively conduct the election.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Kennedy', written in a cursive style.

Robert Kennedy
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

24 February 2023