



LGE 028

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN Electoral Commission

Mr Graeme Simpson  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of York  
PO Box 22  
YORK WA 6302

Dear Mr Simpson

**Local Government Ordinary Election: 2015**

I refer to your email of 12 May 2015 in which you requested cost estimates for the Western Australian Electoral Commission to conduct the 2015 Ordinary Elections as either postal or voting in person elections.

The estimated cost for the 2015 election if conducted as a postal ballot is \$18,000 inc GST, which has been based on the following assumptions:

- 2,600 electors
- response rate of approximately 50%
- 5 vacancies
- count to be conducted at the offices of the Shire of York
- appointment of a local Returning Officer
- standard Australia Post delivery service to apply.

An additional amount of \$182 will be incurred if your Council decides to opt for the Australia Post Priority Service for the lodgement of election packages.

Costs not incorporated in this estimate include:

- non-statutory advertising (ie any additional advertisements in community newspapers and promotional advertising)
- any legal expenses other than those that are determined to be borne by the Western Australian Electoral Commission in a Court of Disputed Returns
- one local government staff member to work in the polling place on election day
- Any additional postage rate increases by Australia Post.

The estimated cost for a 2015 voting in person election is \$19,000 inc GST. This is based on a response rate of approximately 45% the appointment of a local Returning Officer and three polling places open on polling day.

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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 including the cost of materials or number of replies received. The basis for charges is all materials at cost and a margin on staff time only. Should a significant change in this figure become evident prior to or during the election you will be advised as early as possible.

The current procedure required by the *Local Government Act 1995* is that my written agreement has to be obtained before the vote by Council is taken. To facilitate the process, you can take this letter as my agreement to be responsible for the conduct of the ordinary elections in 2015 for the Shire of York 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 a 2015 postal election, your council will now need to pass the following two motions 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 2015 ordinary elections together with any other elections or polls which may be required
- Decide, in accordance with section 4.61(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the method of conducting the election will be as a postal election.

In order to have the 2015 ordinary election conducted by the voting in person method, your council will now need 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 2015 ordinary election together with any other elections or polls which may also be required.

I look forward to conducting this election for the Shire of York in anticipation of an affirmative vote by Council and await your advice on the method to be adopted.

Yours sincerely



David Kerslake  
**ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER**

13 May 2015