



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

LGE 028

Mr Greg Powell
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Merredin
PO Box 42
MERREDIN WA 6415

SHIRE OF MERREDIN	
DATE RECEIVED	24 OCT 2018
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Dear Mr Powell

Local Government Ordinary Election: 2019

The next local government ordinary elections are being held on 19 October 2019. While this is still some distance in the future, I have enclosed an estimate for your next ordinary election to assist in your 2019/2020 budget preparations.

The estimated cost for the 2019 election if conducted as a postal ballot is \$20,000 inc GST, which has been based on the following assumptions:

- 2,250 electors
- response rate of approximately 50%
- 5 vacancies
- count to be conducted at the offices of the Shire of Merredin
- appointment of a local Returning Officer
- regular Australia Post delivery service to apply for the lodgement of the election packages.

An additional amount of \$450 will be incurred if your Council decides to opt for the Australia Post Priority Service for the lodgement of election packages. The Commission is of the view that the regular service is adequate for outgoing mail for most local governments, particularly in the metropolitan area.

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 in a Court of Disputed Returns
- one local government staff member to work in the polling place on election day
- any additional postage rate increase by Australia Post.

The Commission is required by the *Local Government Act* 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 Act 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 2019 for the Shire of Merredin 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. My agreement is subject to the proviso that the Shire of Merredin also wishes to have the election undertaken by the Western Australian Electoral Commission as a postal election.

In order to achieve this, your council would 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 2019 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.

I look forward to conducting this election for the Shire of Merredin in anticipation of an affirmative vote by Council. If you have any further queries please contact Phil Richards Manager, Election Events on 9214 0400.

Yours sincerely



David Kerslake
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

19 October 2018