



## Information for Overseas Electors:

### Western Australian State General Election – 13 March 2021

Please note all dates and times in this document refer to Australian Western Standard Time (AWST).

Electors living or travelling overseas for an extended period can apply for a postal vote.

With the exception of the New Zealand Electoral Commission in Wellington, there will be no in-person voting options available at overseas locations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) encourages overseas electors to apply for a postal vote as soon as possible, to allow sufficient time for dispatch and return of ballot papers. This is particularly important given the impact of COVID-19 on postal services in many countries.

#### Postal Voting

Any elector can apply online for a postal vote via WAEC's website to have their ballot papers mailed to a nominated postal address.

Online applications for postal votes are open from 15 January. Once applications have been processed, ballot papers will be mailed out from 22 February. To be included in the count, postal votes must be posted before 6.00pm on election day (13 March) and received by WAEC no later than 9.00am on 18 March.

#### Steps for an elector completing a postal vote:

1. Visit: [www.elections.wa.gov.au/postal-vote-apply](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au/postal-vote-apply) and complete an application for a postal vote (you can also track your application here).
2. Nominate the overseas address where you want your ballot papers sent.
3. Ballot paper packages will be posted out from **Monday 22 February**.
4. Applications for a postal vote close at **6.00pm Wednesday 10 March** (note this would be too late for most overseas locations).
5. Completed postal vote packages must be received at the Commission by **9.00am Thursday 18 March** to be included in the count.

Note: Under the *Electoral Act 1907* ballot papers can only be sent out via the post and cannot be emailed.



### Telephone Assisted Voting

Electors with insufficient literacy skills, a vision impairment or who are otherwise incapacitated and therefore unable to vote independently without assistance, are eligible to cast a telephone assisted vote by calling +61 8 9214 7290.

To maintain elector anonymity, this is a two-stage process. It involves separate 'Vote Application' and 'Vote Cast' call centres.

When votes are cast, WAEC staff verbally read the voting instructions and ballot paper information to the elector, who in turn instructs the operator confidentially how they want their ballot papers marked. Ballot papers are then placed directly into a sealed ballot box.

### For more information

- Further information: [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au)
- General telephone enquiries: 13 63 06 (WA only) or +61 8 9214 0400
- General email enquiries: [waec@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:waec@waec.wa.gov.au)
- Postal voting email enquiries: [postalvote@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:postalvote@waec.wa.gov.au)

### For electors who want to be kept on the roll and/or are unable to vote whilst overseas

- If you plan to be overseas for some time, you can complete an *Overseas Notification Form*.
- The form can be accessed via the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website [https://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling\\_to\\_vote/overseas/](https://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/overseas/).
- Completing this form notifies the AEC and WAEC that you are temporarily absent from Australia and may not be able to vote while overseas.