



Mr David Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Nannup
PO Box 11
NANNUP WA 6275

Dear Mr Taylor

Councillor vacancy – Local Government Extraordinary Election – Cost Estimate

I refer to an email of 2 April 2024 enquiring if the Commission can provide a Cost Estimate to undertake an extraordinary election for the Shire of Nannup due to the resignation of Councillor Chris Buckland.

As you are aware, if a declaration has been made under section 4.20(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the local government is required to meet the expenses of the Commissioner in connection with the election to the extent required by regulations.

As such, to assist with the Council's decision under section 4.20(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Commission has estimated the cost to conduct your Council's election as a postal election at approximately \$16,000 (inc GST) which is based on the following assumptions:

- 1,230 electors;
- response rate of approximately 50%;
- appointment of a local Returning Officer; and
- count to be conducted at your office using CountWA.

Costs not included in this estimate:

- non-statutory advertising (i.e. 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;
- local government staff members to issue replacement votes; and
- the cost of any casual staff to assist the Returning Officer on election day or night

This cost estimate is **not** to be taken as my written agreement to be responsible for the conduct of the local government extraordinary election for the Shire of Nannup in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

I will provide that written agreement upon receiving written confirmation from you that:

- A. Your Council agrees to the costs estimate of approximately \$16,000 as set out above; and
- B. You agree that, upon receiving my written agreement, the following two motions will be presented to your Council (**unchanged**):
 1. 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 extraordinary election;
 2. decide, in accordance with section 4.61(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the method of conducting the extraordinary election will be as a postal election.

For the Commission to conduct the extraordinary election as a postal election, your Council will then need to pass the above two motions (**unchanged**) by an absolute majority *after* receiving my written agreement.

If you have any queries, please contact lgelections@waec.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Robert Kennedy
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

2 April 2024