

[REDACTED]

From: Sharon Walsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 31 December 2021 10:18 AM
To: DLGSC Act Review
Subject: Feedback - Voting for Local Councillors

Importance: High

Categories: Jen

To Whom It May Concern

As an active community member of the Shire of East Pilbara community for over 15 years, in my town of Newman, I am providing comment on the low levels of rate payers voting in the local government elections.

I can only converse to you my experience but in relation to the most recent local government election, my postal voting slips only arrived in my letter box on the Thursday before the due date.

The irregularity of our postal service is often documented and I firmly believe this fact, coupled with the high levels of residents working a variety of shift rosters, deters them from filing out a voting slip, taking it to the local Post Office to be poste back to the AEC offices in Perth. Quite often you make the effort to go to the Newman Post Office to post item and the office is shut, with no notice given other than a hand written note on the door to say they are closed. And the option of putting any item in the red mail box out of the front of the Post Office is not appealing as the box is often damaged, vandalised and not secure.

I strongly encourage the Department of Local Government need to lobby for urgent changes be made to the Local Government Act, that allows the option for electronic voting for local elections by local residents, similar to the new method we now all use for the Census.

Please feel free to contact me if you need me to discuss my ideas with you in more detail.

Thank you

Sharon



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