

INFOPAGE

To: All Local Governments **From:** Kirsty Martin,
Executive Manager Member Services

Date: 13 February 2026

Subject: Sector Consultation – Electoral Reform Discussion Paper

Operational Area:	Governance
Key Issues:	<p>Local Governments are requested to provide Council-endorsed feedback to inform WALGA's advocacy on Local Government electoral reforms expected to be proposed by the State Government, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • full spill elections every 4 years; and • compulsory voting at Local Government elections
Action Required:	Response to WALGA by 4:00pm Friday 27 March 2026

WALGA is undertaking sector engagement regarding Local Government electoral reforms expected to be proposed by the State Government.

In June 2025, Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government, expressed support for a four-year election cycle, citing concerns about voter fatigue and the rising costs of conducting biennial elections. These messages were repeated in Minister Beazley's address at WALGA's 2025 Local Government Convention, which also raised the possibility of compulsory voting. These comments have prompted renewed interest and discussion across the sector.

WALGA has contacted both the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulations and Safety (LGIRS) and the Minister's office seeking details of any consultation on these matters, but no further information has been provided.

By proactively progressing this consultation, WALGA is seeking to obtain sector feedback that will ensure WALGA's positions reflect the sector's current views and enable timely, well-informed and effective engagement with the anticipated State Government reform proposals.

Attached to this Infopage is a brief Discussion Paper. The Discussion Paper outlines some example considerations that Local Governments may choose to address when preparing their feedback. It is not intended to present an exhaustive or prescriptive list.

Local Governments are requested to provide Council endorsed responses to the Discussion Paper by 27 March 2026. This feedback will inform an item to be presented to State Council.

For more information, please contact Kirsty Martin on 9213 2051 or Felicity Morris on 9213 2093. Please send responses to governance@walga.asn.au