

**9.1.2 Report of the Returning Officer for the Ordinary Election held 17 October 2015**

<b>PROPONENT</b>	Returning Officer
<b>WARD:</b>	Central, Coastal, North and West Wards
<b>DIVISION:</b>	Office of the CEO
<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	CNL 6/19
<b>LEGISLATION:</b>	Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government Elections Regulations 1997
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Andrew Campbell
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	28 October 2015
<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST:</b>	Nil
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**BACKGROUND:**

This report is to brief elected members on the conduct of the election held on 17 October 2015 and to provide an overview of statistics arising from the election.

At the Council meeting on 9 July 2015, Council resolved to hold an “in-person” election conducted by the Shire of Manjimup rather than a postal or “in person” election conducted by the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

The Shire of Manjimup district is divided into 6 Wards. Upon the close of the electoral roles, the total eligible voters for each ward were:

Ward	Residents Roll	Owners & Occupiers Roll	Consolidated Roll (total)
Central	3,130	29	3,159
Coastal	535	192	727
East	640	4	644
North	552	7	559
South	405	95	500
West	1,059	8	1,067
<b>Total 2015</b>	<b>6,321</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>6,656</b>
<b>Total 2013</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>6,642</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>(79)</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>14</b>

There has been a 0.002% (14) increase in electors since the last elections.

Vacant positions available for the 2015 elections were:

Ward	Vacancies	Nominations	Poll required
Central	3	5	Yes
Coastal	Nil	n/a	No
East	Nil	n/a	No
North	1	1	No
West	1	1	No
South	Nil	n/a	No

All applicable vacancies were four year terms finishing on 19 October 2019.

Councillors were elected unopposed for the North and West Wards. Polling was only required to be conducted for the Central Ward.

Early voting was available for 3 weeks preceding the election from the Shire Administration Office in Manjimup. "In person" polling was conducted at the Manjimup Town Hall on Saturday 17 October 2015.

A summary of the methods by which votes were issued follows:

Ward	Absentee votes	Postal votes	Early voting Manjimup Shire Admin office	Early voting other locations	In person on election day	Total votes issued	
Central	0	16	169	0	333	518	
						Less Postal ballots not returned	2
						Less Provisional ballots rejected	0
						Less informal ballots	2
						Total ballots accepted	<u>514</u>

#### **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**

A public awareness campaign of the elections was undertaken by the Shire, WALGA and the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

All statutory requirements for public notice in respect of enrolment, nomination, absentee voting, postal voting, early voting, polling places and election outcomes were complied with.

#### **COMMENT (Includes Options):**

##### Owners and Occupiers Roll Advertising

In 2015 a statutory notice was provided in the West Australian Newspaper on 12 and 26 August 2015 and the roll reviewed as required by the Act. In addition to this the Shire of Manjimup undertook non-statutory advertising in the Manjimup Bridgetown Times during this period.

##### Other Statutory and Non-Statutory Advertising

Advertising was undertaken for this election including:

- Participation in WALGA's group advertising for nominations for Council vacancies, advice on polling places and notification of election results;
- Notice of close of rolls, nominations, polling places and election results in the West Australian and Manjimup Bridgetown Times; and
- General election information in the Manjimup Bridgetown Times.

##### Choice of venue

The Manjimup Town Hall venue for polling day was selected on the basis of capacity, location and historical use for such purpose.

### Informal votes

The use of first past the post method of voting resulted in a very low level of informal votes as illustrated:

Ward	No Informal Votes	% informal
Central	2	0.4%

### Results and statistics

Ward	Candidate	Votes	Elected / term	Term expires
Central	Karamfiles, S	226	Not elected	
	Jenkins, D	326	<b>Elected</b>	<b>19 October 2019</b>
	Taylor, R	321	<b>Elected</b>	<b>19 October 2019</b>
	Daubney, L	296	<b>Elected</b>	<b>19 October 2019</b>
	Gunson, K	152	Not elected	
North	Bavich, D	<b>Elected unopposed term expires 19 October 2019</b>		
West	Herbert, V	<b>Elected unopposed term expires 19 October 2019</b>		

In the contested Central Ward, electors were eligible to cast up to 3 votes each. 1,321 valid votes were cast out of a potential of 1,548 votes by the 516 electors.

### Voter participation

A summary of voter participation levels for Shire of Manjimup in person elections is:

Ward	Election	% voter participation
Central	2015 Ordinary	16.3%
	2013 Ordinary	19.8%
	2011 Ordinary	No poll required
	2010 Extra Ordinary	9.3%
	2009 Ordinary	17.4%
	2007 Extra Ordinary	13.3%
	2005 Ordinary	16.3%
	2001 Ordinary	17.5%
Coastal	2015 Ordinary	No vacancy
	2014 Extra Ordinary	53.7%
	2013 Ordinary	No poll required
	2011 Ordinary	No vacancy
	2009 Ordinary	60.8%
	2007 Ordinary	52.2%
	2001 Ordinary	70.5%
West	2015 Ordinary	No poll required
	2013 Ordinary	No poll required
	2011 Ordinary	24.1%
	2009 Ordinary	26.7%
	2007 Ordinary	25.4%
	2001 Ordinary	44.3%
North	2015 Ordinary	No poll required
	2013 Ordinary	No vacancy
	2011 Ordinary	No poll required
	2007 Ordinary	No poll required

	2003 Ordinary	20.9%
East	2015 Ordinary	No vacancy
	2013 Ordinary	No poll required
	2011 Ordinary	No vacancy
	2009 Ordinary	No poll required
	2005 Ordinary	No poll required
	2001 Ordinary	22.9%
South	2015 Ordinary	No vacancy
	2013 Ordinary	No poll required
	2011 Ordinary	No vacancy
	2009 Ordinary	No poll required

### Comparison of 2015 participation levels with postal voting

In 2015, the WA Electoral Commission conducted 82 postal voting and 6 “in person” polls for local governments in Western Australia.

2015 Shire of Manjimup “In Person” Voting Results	% voter participation
Central ward	16.3%

2015 WAEC Postal Voting Results (may be limited to wards where wards are used)	% voter participation
---	-----------------------

Results for South West Zone Council elections run by the WAEC in 2015 were:

- Augusta Margaret River	39.4%
- Bridgetown-Greenbushes	39.4%
- Busselton	33.6%
- Bunbury	29.2%
- Capel	23.9%
- Collie	33.6%
- Dardanup	25.7%
- Donnybrook-Balingup	42.5%
- Harvey	23.1%

### **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:**

This election was conducted by the CEO as the Returning Officer in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government Elections Regulations 1997.

### **POLICY / STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:**

Strategic Community Plan (2015-2025):

Theme: Our Civic Leaders “Our Councillors and community leaders have a vision for the community, are accessible, operate with transparency and integrity, and act in good faith on behalf of their constituents”

Strategy 5.3: Engage in transparent decision-making processes and promote individual accountability.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The estimated total cost of the 2015 Ordinary election involving was \$4,819. The 2015/16 annual budget had an allocation of \$10,000 however the expenditure incurred was significantly less primarily due to efficient practices and the need for only one polling booth on election day. Direct costs do not include any cost of employees involved during ordinary working hours nor does the Returning Officer make any financial claim for conducting the election on election day.

It has been previously estimated that the use of the Western Australian Electoral Commission for the purpose of conducting a postal voting election would be in excess of \$25,000 and it is likely that if the Western Australian Electoral Commission was to conduct an “in person” election this cost would be considerably higher without a probable increase in voter turnout.

**SUSTAINABILITY:**

Environmental: Nil

Economic: Nil

Social: Nil

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS:                      SIMPLE MAJORITY**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council receive the Returning Officer report for the election held on 17 October 2015.**

**ATTACHMENTS****APPENDICES**

Nil