



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN Electoral Commission

**ELECTION STATISTICS FOR THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION**

DISTRICT OF MERREDIN

SATURDAY, 24 November 2001

Vacancy resulted from the resignation of
the Hon. Hendy Cowan, MLA on the 16 October 2001.

Issue of Writ:	6.00 pm Wednesday 17 October 2001
Close of Nominations:	6.00 pm Friday 26 October 2001
Close of Roll:	6.00 pm Thursday 25 October 2001
Polling Day:	Saturday 24 November 2001
Return of Writ:	Thursday 29 November 2001

Returning Officer	Martin Morris
--------------------------	----------------------

No. of electors	12,447
Total Votes Recorded	10,744
Percentage of electors who voted	86.3%

TABLE 1 – LIST OF CANDIDATES (in ballot paper order)

Name of Candidate	Political Party
MEOTTI, Jason	Democrat
GRYLLS, Brendon	National Party
WEST, Darren	ALP
BURGES, Joanne	Liberal
FALLS, Jamie	Pauline Hanson's ONE NATION

A by-election was conducted for the State Electoral District of Merredin following the resignation of the Hon. Hendy Cowan, MLA from the Legislative Assembly on 16 October 2001.

At close of nominations at 6.00 PM on Friday 26 October 2001 five candidates had nominated to contest the election as listed above.

The ballot was conducted during the hours 8.00 am – 6.00 pm on Saturday, 24 November 2001. Early (pre-poll) votes were issued from Tuesday 30 October 2001 to Friday 23 November 2001. There were no mobile polling teams for this election.

Counting the votes began at 6.00 pm on polling night, with the results being received at the Tally Room, Merredin Telecentre. As each polling place completed its count, the results were

phoned through to Merredin and were placed on the Commission's website. The ABC was able to get the outcome of the By-election on the ABC News at 7pm that night.

On Wednesday, 28 November 2001, 96 late packages were received. Phone calls on Friday 23 November and Monday 26 November indicated that long delays were encountered with mail deliveries to country areas. In the last week 410 packages were requested. The potential for mail delays in preventing votes being received by the cut-off point was high. Although a major factor for the applications being sent in the last week could have been the public's focus on the federal election.

Following the counting of the votes cast at the individual polling places on by-election night, all ballot papers were allocated on the basis of preferences for the National Party and the Liberal Party, providing an unofficial guide to two-party preferences on polling night.

The result was declared at Merredin Telecentre, 110 Barrack Street, Merredin at 3.00 pm on Wednesday 28 November 2001. Mr Brendon John Grylls representing the National Party was declared elected as the new member of the Legislative Assembly for Merredin, with a majority of 1393 votes. Mr Brendon Grylls was then sworn in to Parliament as the new member on 4 December 2001.

Election information relating to the election, which included the results on-line at polling place level, was included on the Commission's website.

POLLING PLACES FOR THE STATE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF MERREDIN

Early Voting

Early voting (Pre-poll) was conducted at the following offices during normal business hours. Early voting concluded at 6pm on Friday, 23 November 2001.

Australian Electoral Commission O'Connor, Suite 7, 210 Fitzgerald Street, Northam
Merredin Court House, 20 Mitchell Street, Merredin
Western Australian Electoral Commission, Level 2, 111 St George's Terrace, Perth
Interstate – 7 electoral offices in other Australian States and Territories
Overseas – Government of Western Australia, European Office, 5 th Floor, Australian Centre, Cnr Strand & Melbourne Place, LONDON

Polling Places

41 polling places (as listed opposite) were used for the by-election.