

District of Vasse

By-election

18 October 2014



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN Electoral Commission

Election Report



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INTRODUCTION

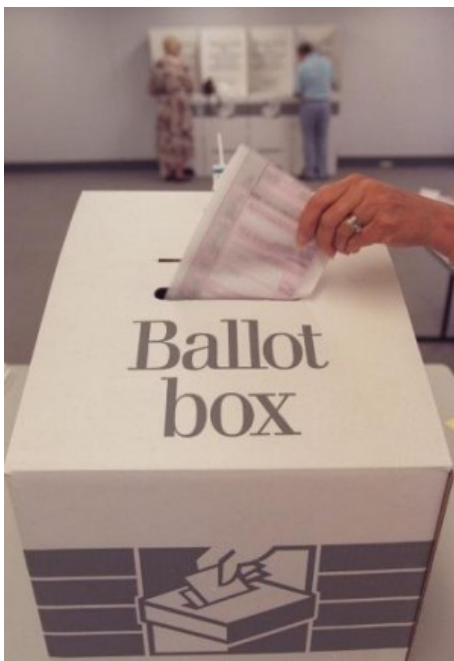
Vasse is situated in the south of the State some two and a half hours drive from Perth city, taking in an area of approximately 2,619 km² including popular tourist locations Dunsborough and Busselton.

The district currently has 24,739 electors residing throughout 54 suburbs and towns, some of which are divided between bordering electoral districts.

2014 By-election

The by-election was called in the district of Vasse as a result of former member for Vasse, the Hon. Troy Buswell MLA tendering his resignation with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday 3 September 2014.

The district's electoral roll was closed on 26 September 2014 with Commission offices remaining open until 6pm to receive last minute enrolments both electronically and in person. Once the by-election was announced, there were a total of 31 new enrolments received for Vasse prior to the roll close.



Project leaders were selected from all areas within the Commission to manage 37 projects for the by-election, along with managers and mentors assigned to assist in every aspect of the activity. Over 90 casual staff were sourced from within the local district to work throughout the election period at early voting locations and all polling places on election day.

Busselton is the regional city within the district so the local Busselton courthouse was selected as an early voting location which proved popular among electors with 4,671 votes recorded. This represented the largest number of votes taken at any single location in this by-election.

SNAPSHOT OF VASSE DISTRICT

The Vasse Electorate

Area: 2,619 km²

The above figure is for the gazetted area and may include bodies of water.

Includes Suburbs/Towns:

Abba River, Abbey, Acton Park, Ambergate, Anniebrook, Boallia, Bovell, Bramley, Broadwater, Burnside*, Busselton, Carburnup River, Chapman Hill, Cowaramup, Dunsborough, Eagle Bay, Forest Grove*, Geographe, Gracetown*, Hithergreen, Jarrahwod, Jindong, Kalgup, Kaloorup, Kealy, Ludlow*, Margaret River*, Marybrook, Metricup, Naturaliste, North Jindong, Osmington, Quedjinup, Quindalup, Reinscourt, Rosa Brook, Rosa Glen, Ruabon, Sabina River, Siesta Park, Treeton, Tutunup, Vasse, Walsall, West Busselton, Wilyabrup, Witchcliffe*, Wonnerup, Yallingup, Yallingup Siding, Yalyalup, Yelverton, Yoganup & Yoongarillup.



(indicates that the Suburb/Town is split between more than one District)*



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Former Members of Parliament representing District of Vasse

Period	Member	Party Affiliation
1950 - 1968	William Bovell	Liberal Country League
1968 - 1971		Liberal
1971 - 1996	Barry Blaikie	Liberal
1996 - 2004	Bernie Masters	Liberal
2004 - 2005		Independent
2005 - 2014	Troy Buswell	Liberal

Vasse By-election Timeline

Issue of the Writ	Thursday 18 September 2014
Applications for Early Votes (by post) open	Friday 19 September 2014
Close of nominations for Registered Parties (12pm)	Thursday 25 September 2014
Close of nominations & draw for ballot paper positions (12pm)	Friday 26 September 2014
Electoral district roll close (6pm)	Friday 26 September 2014
PUBLIC HOLIDAY (WA)	Monday 29 September 2014
Early Votes (in person & by post) Commences	Wednesday 1 October 2014
Close of written applications for Early Votes (by post) (6pm)	Wednesday 15 October 2014
Close of issue of Early Votes (in person) (6pm)	Friday 17 October 2014
Polling Day (8am to 6pm)	Saturday 18 October 2014
Close of receipt of Early Votes (by post) (9am)	Thursday 23 October 2014
Return of the writ	Thursday 6 November 2014

SERVICES TO ELECTORS

Issue of the Writ

The writ for the by-election in the Legislative Assembly electoral District of Vasse was issued by the Governor to the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner on Thursday 18 September 2014 in accordance with section 67(2) of the *Electoral Act 1907*.

The writ specified key dates necessary for the returning officer to arrange the poll to be conducted in the electoral district.

These were:

Last day for the nomination of candidates:

Friday 26 September 2014

Polling Day:

Saturday 18 October 2014

Last day for the return of the writ:

Wednesday 17 December 2014

EasyVote Card

In an effort to maximise elector turnout a personally addressed EasyVote Card was produced and mailed to every elector within the district. This was sent 'Priority Paid' on 26 September 2014 to ensure that Vasse electors would receive it well before the election on Saturday 18 October 2014.

The design was modified slightly from previous by-election versions to have greater impact, allowing for a convenient removable card format containing the elector's details with an electoral roll page reference that



could be taken along on polling day to assist with easy mark-off. The Commission proposes to use this revised format at future parliamentary elections.

The EasyVote Card* flyer also provided multiple messages informing recipients of:

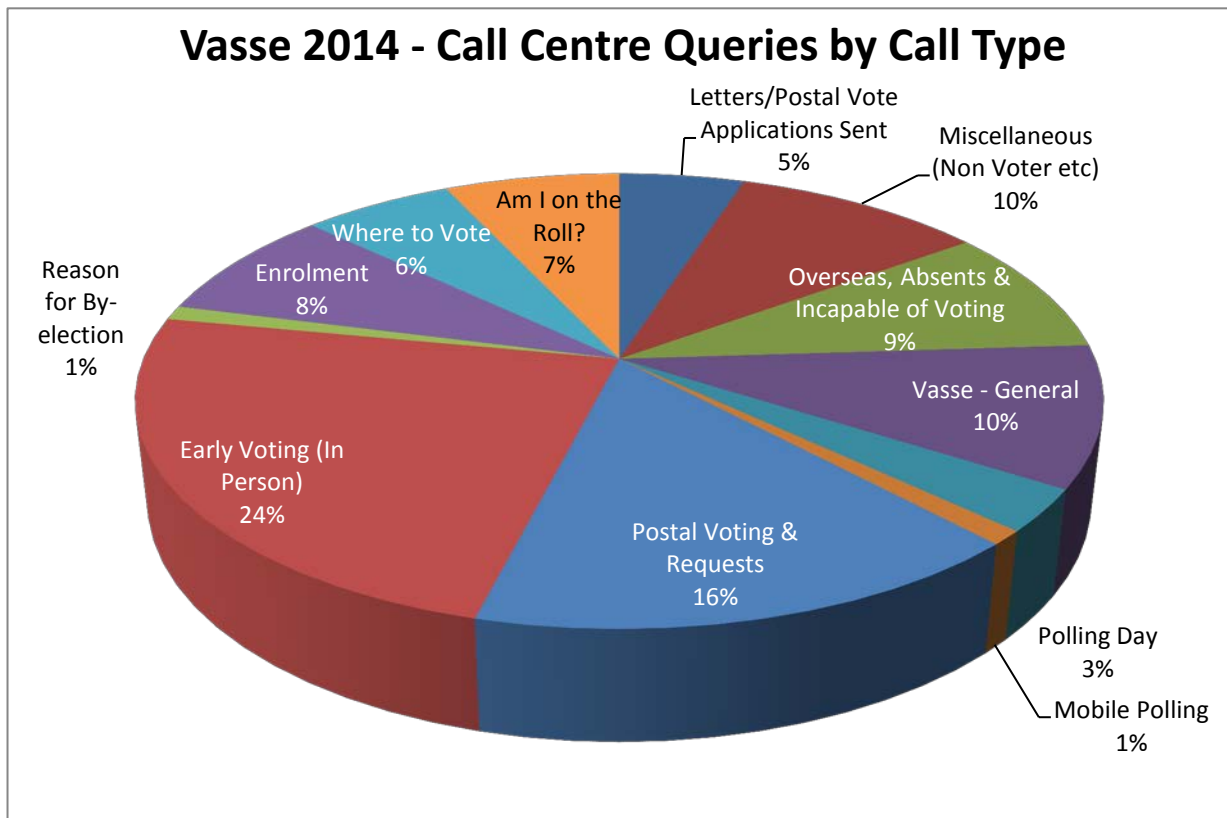
- ✓ date of the by-election & polling times
- ✓ reminder of the compulsory nature of the by-election
- ✓ list of all polling places within the district (also denoting wheelchair access & vote assist locations)
- ✓ a complete map of the district
- ✓ information on all early voting options
- ✓ details on how to complete a ballot paper
- ✓ contact details for additional information (website; interpreter services; email & election help line).

*A sample copy of the EasyVote Card is attached at the end of this report.

Election Information Services – Election Line and Website

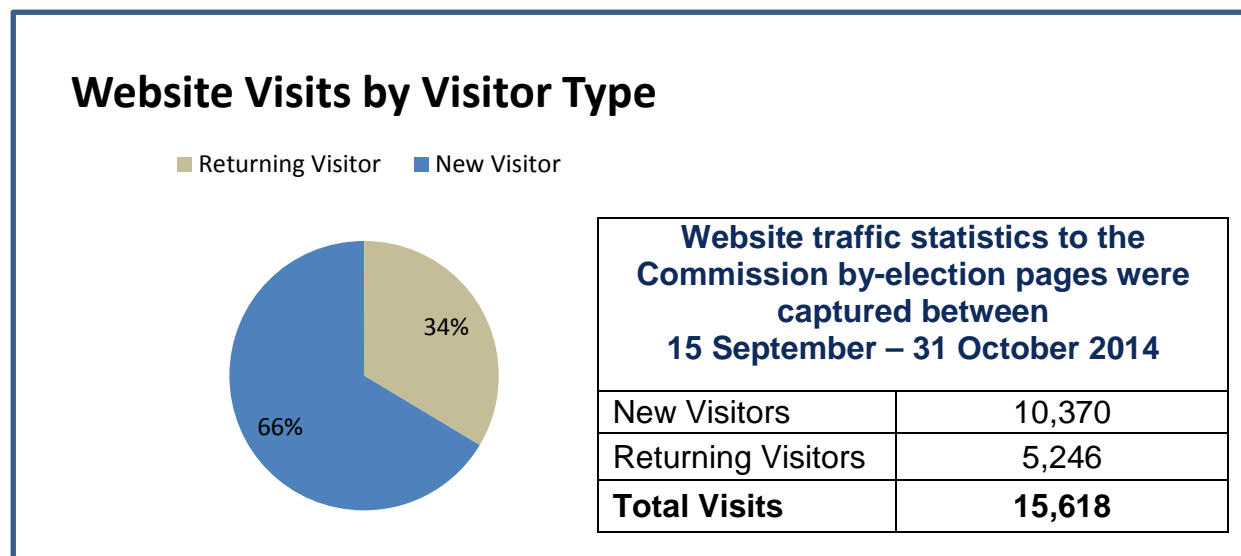
From 19 September 2014 the day after the writ was issued, an election information telephone call centre service to the general public was established in-house at the Commission offices to handle general enquiries and to direct any complaints received throughout the by-election period. Commission call centre staff also responded to all by-election related emails that were received via the main information email address, which amounted to approximately 350 during the period.

Throughout the election period a total of 895 calls were received with a daily average of 36 calls. The nature and volume of call enquiries varied significantly over the election timetable.



How the Vasse by-election Call Centre activity compares with other by-elections	Vasse 2014	Armadale 2010	Willagee 2009
Total Calls	895	1241	1150
Operating Days	25	37	36
Daily Call Average	36	34	32
Electors	24,739	24,314	23,082
Percentage of electorate accessing Call Centre	3.62%	5.10%	4.98%

The Commission website featured a Vasse by-election specific link on the home page which guided users through to information pages regarding the district, returning officer contact details, polling place and early voting locations. Additional pages also displayed the election timetable and featured how to vote information together with multilingual references to assist electors.



A snapshot of the top-ten Commission Website pages viewed by visitors during the Vasse by-election

Top-ten pages visited	Page Views
1 Home Page	8,561
2 Vasse By-election	7,977
3 Check your enrolment	3,943
4 Update your enrolment	1,440
5 Find your Electorate	995
6 Contact Us	875
7 Election Day	817
8 Marking Ballot Papers	641
9 Past Elections	611
10 Electorates	555

Social media was also active with the Commission's Facebook and Twitter sites experiencing consistent activity throughout the whole by-election period.

www.twitter.com/WAelections

www.facebook.com/WAelections



Vote Assist

Following the successful launch of the Vote Assist innovation during the 2013 State General Election, this initiative designed specifically to assist electors with a vision impairment allowing them to vote independently and in secret was also used during the Vasse by-election.



To use Vote Assist the elector listens to audio instructions and casts their vote using a numeric keypad, the completed ballot papers are then printed for placing into the ballot box.

The Vote Assist system was set up for the convenience of Vasse electors at the

early voting location within the Busselton Courthouse for the two-week period in the lead up to the election.

VisAbility WA (formerly the Association for the Blind of WA) communicated with their members living within the Vasse district to advise them of this convenient service.

Although the use of the service was low by electors this may highlight more of an access issue as it was only provided from one location. We have put forward a proposal to develop an internet based voting system geared towards providing vision impaired electors with a secret vote in a more accessible way for future elections.

Early Voting (by post)

Early voting (by post) was available to electors who were unable to visit a polling place on polling day.

Application forms were available for download from the Commission's website, or via Australia Post outlets in the district and upon request from election line staff.

Applications were also available for Vasse electors within the United Kingdom from the Government of Western Australia European Trade Office in London.

Applications for early voting (by post) commenced on Friday 19 September 2014. Final postal votes received prior to 9am on Thursday 23 October 2014 bearing a postmark prior to 6pm on 18 October 2014 were accepted, in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act.

Processing of all postal vote applications was performed centrally at Commission offices. A total of 2,156 postal votes were issued, two were replaced and twenty three applications were rejected (19 were enrolled outside of the district and 4 were not on the roll). From the postal votes issued, 1,749 voting packages were returned and following processing, 1,570 ballot papers were sent to the count area. After which 24 ballot papers were deemed informal, resulting in 1,546 valid votes being admitted to the count.

Increases in early voting can be attributed to a greater awareness amongst electors of the availability of such services and demand is likely to continue to grow in the future. Another contributory factor in the rise of early voting, in particular by post, is the practice of some political parties to encourage postal voting in the literature they send to electors. The Liberal Party was the only political party in this by-election who chose to distribute postal vote applications to electors within the Vasse district.

Early Voting (in person)

Early voting (in person) was available to Vasse electors from Wednesday 1 October 2014 at the offices listed overleaf during normal business hours and concluded at 6pm on Friday 17 October 2014.

A total of 4,838 early votes (in person) were made of which 89 were informal. This resulted in 4,749 formal votes being included in the final count which was undertaken at the Commission offices in the presence of scrutineers.

Appointed electoral staff working from the Busselton Courthouse issued most of the early votes (in person) and marked off the names of each elector from a central copy of the electoral roll provided by



wireless telecommunications to a netbook computer. This initiative worked particularly well given the high volume of votes taken at this location.



Early Voting (in person) Locations

Metropolitan Locations

FREMANTLE

Fremantle Court

JOONDALUP

Joondalup Magistrates
Court

MIDLAND

Midland Courthouse

PERTH

WA Electoral Commission

ROCKINGHAM

Rockingham Magistrates
Court

Country Locations

ALBANY

Albany Courthouse

BROOME

Broome Courthouse

BUNBURY

Bunbury Courthouse

BUSSELTON

Busselton Magistrates
Court

CARNARVON

Carnarvon Courthouse

COLLIE

Collie Courthouse

DERBY

Derby Courthouse

ESPERANCE

Esperance Court House

GERALDTON

Geraldton Courthouse

KALGOORLIE

Kalgoorlie Magistrates
Court

KARRATHA

Karratha Courthouse

KATANNING

Katanning Magistrates
Court

KUNUNURRA

Kununurra Temporary
Court

MANDURAH

Mandurah Court

MANJIMUP

Manjimup Courthouse

MERREDIN

Merredin Courthouse

MOORA

Moora Magistrates Court

NARROGIN

Narrogin Magistrates
Court

NORTHAM

Northam Magistrates
Court

SOUTH HEDLAND

Justice Complex

Other Australian States and Territories

There were eight electoral offices in the other Australian States and Territories where Western Australian Vasse electors could cast an early vote (in person) before polling day. These were located in each of the capital cities with two in the Northern Territory located at Alice Springs and Darwin.

Overseas

Vasse electors were also able to cast an early vote (in person) before polling day at the Government of Western Australia European Trade Office in London and from the Australian Consulate-General location in Bali, Indonesia.

Hospitals and Special Institutions

One mobile team was allocated to visit 3 special institutions or hospitals in the electorate before polling day. The team was responsible for providing a voting service to electors within these special institutions.

The details of the special institutions and hospitals within the district were:

Name	Location
Busselton District Hospital	Mill Rd, BUSSELTON
Ellenvale Aged Care	450 Bussell Hwy, BUSSELTON
William Carey Court Village	Cnr Broadwater Blvd & Bell Dve BROADWATER

A total of 124 votes were issued and collected from these locations of which 6 ultimately proved to be informal. This resulted in 118 formal votes being included in the final count.

Polling Places

There were 13 polling places provided for electors within Vasse on polling day. All but two of these places were the same venues used in the 2013 State General Election. Due to venue commitments two previously used hall locations at Churchill Park and Dunsborough were unavailable so replacement locations were included at nearby venues, denoted * below.



All polling places were open from 8am to 6pm on polling day and those locations with the best wheelchair access and parking are indicated below.

Polling Place Location	Address	
Acton Park Hall	804 Acton Park Road	
*Busselton Community Resource Centre	21 Cammilleri Street	♿
Busselton Primary School	23-25 Avocet Boulevard	♿
Busselton Senior High School	136–156 Bussell Highway	♿
Carbunup Hall	3 Wildwood Road	
Cowaramup Primary School	Waverley Road	♿
*Dunsborough Primary School	40 Turner Street	
Naturaliste Community Centre	Dunsborough Lakes Drive	♿
Rosa Brook Hall	Rosa Brook Road	
Vasse Primary School	29 Kaloorup Road	♿
West Busselton Primary School	11-17 Bower Road	♿
Yallingup Hall	2305 Caves Road	♿
Yoongarillup Hall	Vasse Highway	

Returning Officer Liaison Officers (ROLO)

On polling day in addition to the returning officer who was based locally within the district, two Commission staff with considerable election experience from the Perth office were also mobile within the Vasse district as liaison officers visiting all of the polling places to review and assist polling staff and electors.

Advertising

The Commission placed a number of advertisements in the state-wide newspaper *The West Australian* together with local newspapers within the Vasse district: *Augusta & Margaret River Times*, *Busselton Dunsborough Times* and *Busselton Dunsborough Mail*.

The advertisements were designed to notify electors of important information leading up to polling day and represented legislative requirements as specified in the *Electoral Act 1907* and general advertising at the discretion of the Commission.

Type of Advertisement	Newspaper	Date of Publication
Notice of Issue of the Writ	<i>WA Government Gazette</i>	19 September 2014
	<i>The West Australian</i>	20 September 2014
Notice of Election	<i>The West Australian</i>	25 September 2014
	<i>Augusta & Margaret River Times</i>	26 September 2014
	<i>Busselton Dunsborough Times</i>	26 September 2014
Last Day to Enrol	<i>The West Australian</i>	26 September 2014
Details of Returning Officer, place of declaration of nominations, polling places, declared special institutions, declaration of boundaries of a polling area, list of registered political parties	<i>WA Government Gazette</i>	24 September 2014
Details of Candidates	<i>The West Australian</i>	29 September 2014
	<i>Augusta & Margaret River Times</i>	3 October 2014
	<i>Busselton Dunsborough Times</i>	3 October 2014
	<i>Busselton Dunsborough Mail</i>	1 October 2014
Early Voting	<i>Augusta & Margaret River Times</i>	3 October 2014
	<i>Busselton Dunsborough Times</i>	3 October 2014
	<i>Busselton Dunsborough Mail</i>	1 October 2014
Ballot Papers - Number every box	<i>Augusta & Margaret River Times</i>	10 October 2014
	<i>Busselton Dunsborough Times</i>	10 October 2014
	<i>Busselton Dunsborough Mail</i>	8 October 2014
Polling places	<i>Augusta & Margaret River Times</i>	10 October 2014
	<i>Busselton Dunsborough Times</i>	10 October 2014
	<i>Busselton Dunsborough Mail</i>	8 October 2014
Vote Today	<i>The West Australian</i>	18 October 2014
By-election Results	<i>Busselton Dunsborough Mail</i>	5 November 2014

SERVICES TO REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES



The Returning Officer

Ms Catherine Smallwood was contracted as returning officer for the 2014 Vasse by-election. An experienced returning officer who lives locally in the Dunsborough area, Catherine's local knowledge was invaluable.

Training

Training of key polling place staff was conducted by Catherine and Commission staff from two locations in Busselton and Dunsborough in the week leading up to the election. This in-person training was supplemented with access to an online training programme undertaken by all polling place managers and assistant managers.

Additional training in the use of the Electronic Recording System (ERS) which was used at two of the Early Voting locations, was delivered on location in the Busselton Courthouse and the Commission's Perth office.

Nominations and Ballot Paper Draw

Nominations for the Vasse by-election commenced on Friday 19 September 2014 attracting six candidates.

The registered parties lodged the relevant nomination forms with the Electoral Commission centrally and independent candidates lodged their forms with the returning officer prior to the close of nominations.

The close of nominations and the draw for ballot paper positions was conducted by the returning officer at the St John Ambulance Hall located on Marri Drive in Dunsborough.



By the close of nominations at 12 noon on Friday 26 September 2014 the following six candidates had nominated to contest the Vasse by-election.

List of Candidates (in ballot paper order and ballot paper name)

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Party</u>
BARNETT, Wayne	Australian Christians
GORDON, Peter	THE NATIONALS
JOHNSON, Peter	Independent
METTAM, Libby	Liberal Party
BALDOCK, Michael	The Greens (WA)
VAN LIESHOUT, Teresa	Independent

Party and Candidate Support and Training

An information letter was sent to all political parties prior to the close of nominations.

All candidates and prospective candidates were provided with a pack which included:

- ✓ A brochure titled Eligibility for Membership of State Parliament
- ✓ Candidates Guide – Legislative Assembly
- ✓ Disclosure of Gifts
- ✓ Other Income and Electoral Expenditure Guidelines
- ✓ Nomination form, receipt and various other forms nominating ballot paper particulars
- ✓ Appointment of an agent and scrutineer appointment forms

These items were also available to download from the Commission's website.

Commission electoral liaison staff were available throughout the by-election to offer support and guidance to parties and candidates, they also met with interested parties at various stages to offer assistance with nomination procedures and to review any feedback following the by-election.

Signage

In accordance with the *Electoral Act 1907* sections 187(1) a & b, 191A and 192 there are certain requirements to which registered political parties and candidates are required to adhere regarding advertisements, handbills or pamphlets they produce. These must all contain the name and address of the person authorising it as well as the name and place of business where it is printed.

Additionally, no electoral advertising is permitted within six metres from the polling place entrance on polling day. No polling place manager reported a breach of these requirements on polling day.

A combination of different signage options were used by the candidates at this election ranging from the long rolls of plastic wraparound signage through to smaller placard signs on wooden stakes. At some locations the use of the long wraparound signs limited access to fence spaces for other's campaign signage, however it did enable the placard signs on stakes to occupy greater spaces on grassed and walkway areas.



Counting of the Votes and Provision of Election Results

Counting of ordinary votes commenced at 6.00pm or thereabouts on polling night within the polling places at Vasse. Progressive first preference results and the notional distribution of preferences were transmitted directly by the returning officer, using an encrypted remote connection to the Commission's results system. Alternative options were put in place in the event of connectivity or transmission problems on the night however these options were not required. The Commission's election management system (EMSWA) performed as expected with no reported deficiencies.

The Commission results team were monitoring the data and progressively uploading directly to the Commission's election website www.elections.wa.gov.au where the voting public, media, candidates and political parties could view the results for each polling place as they became available.

With the high number of early votes received in person, these were counted at the Commission's Perth office on election night at 6.00pm in the presence of scrutineers and officials.

On Thursday 23 October 2014 final early votes (by post) and provisional votes were verified and counted at the Commission's office.

On Saturday 25 October 2014 a full distribution of preferences was conducted by the returning officer within the district of Vasse. This count confirmed the notional distribution of preferences conducted on election night.

Declaration of the Poll

On Saturday 1 November 2014, the returning officer formally declared the poll at the Busselton Show, Churchill Park Busselton. Ms Libby Mettam representing the Liberal Party was declared the new member for the Legislative Assembly District of Vasse with a majority of 1,192 votes.

Information relating to the by-election which included all of the results at polling place level, were published on the Commission's website. They are also detailed between pages 21 -24 of this report.



Complaints Handling

Two informal complaints were received relating to the late arrival of postal votes.

The first related to a postal vote application that was generated from political party literature. Some delay in the transmittal of party applications is inevitable given the Commission receives these from the party workers in batches. With any applications received after the postal vote cut off period, where possible the affected electors were contacted and advised of other voting options.

The second was feedback from an elector claiming the Commission had posted out postal vote application packages too late to be returned. When the matter was investigated the evidence suggested that all postal packages were sent out by the Commission prior to Tuesday 14 October and all packages processed in the last week were sent using Australia Post's Express Post service. The Commission is ultimately still reliant on Australia Post's delivery schedules to the Vasse district.

Non-Voters

A total of 3,968 electors were identified as apparent non-voters. This represented 16% of the 24,739 eligible Vasse electors.

Following several communications with these electors 1,887 have been excused as a result of providing a valid reason for failure to vote. Additionally 1,157 electors have acknowledged their failure to vote and have chosen to pay the non-voter penalty. Penalty payment facilities were made available for electors through Australia Post in addition to the cheque remittance and BPay options.

At the time of preparing this report approximately 924 non-voters will progress to the Final Demand stage.

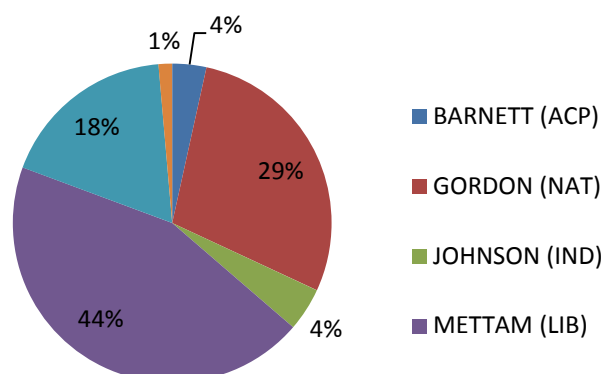
VASSE BY-ELECTION RESULTS

Enrolment:	24,739	
Formal Votes:	19,861	
Informal Votes:	569	(2.78 % of total votes)
Total Votes:	20,430	(82.58 % of enrolled electors)

Total First Preference Votes – By Candidate

Results by Candidate			
Candidate	Party	Votes Counted	% Valid Votes
BARNETT	ACP	688	3.45%
GORDON	NAT	5,656	28.48%
JOHNSON	IND	873	4.4%
METTAM	LIB	8,805	44.33%
BALDOCK	GRN	3,567	17.96%
VAN LIESHOUT	IND	274	1.38%
Total Valid Votes		19,861	100 %
Informal		569	
Total		20,430	

**Percentage of First Preference
 Votes – By Candidate**



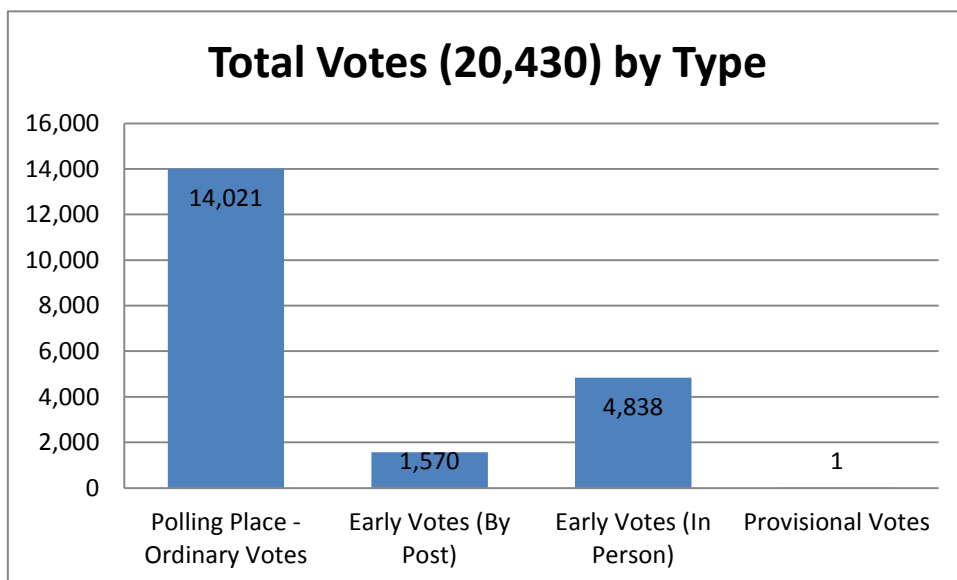
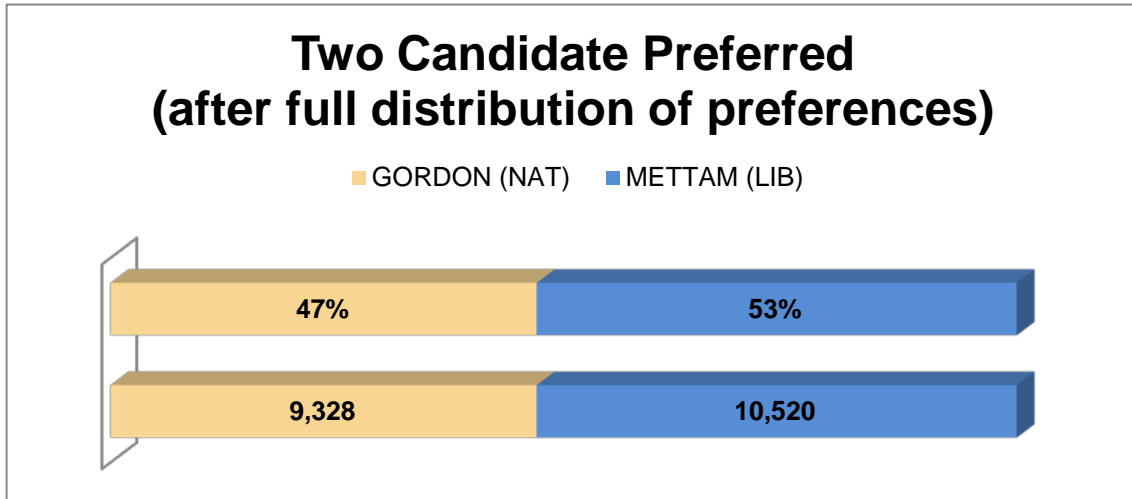
First Preference Votes for each Candidate – By Polling Place

Polling Place	First Preference Votes Polled for Each Candidate - Results by Polling Place									
	BARNETT ACP	GORDON NAT	JOHNSON IND	MEITAM LIB	BALDOCK GRN	VAN LIESHOUT IND	Total Formal Votes	Informal	Total Votes	
Action Park Hall	5	89	10	125	16	4	249	5	254	
Bus selton Community Resource Centre	58	429	63	495	214	13	1,272	44	1,316	
Bus selton Primary School	43	441	90	596	223	21	1,414	38	1,452	
Bus selton Senior High School	125	717	153	817	320	34	2,166	98	2,264	
Carbunup Hall	19	77	25	175	88	9	393	16	409	
Cowaramup Primary School	15	214	19	298	241	9	796	24	820	
Dunsborough Primary School	13	87	2	241	145	2	490	9	499	
Naturaliste Community Centre	23	318	30	820	466	17	1,674	51	1,725	
Rosa Brook Hall	4	72	7	134	85	0	302	16	318	
Vasse Primary School	84	481	91	655	298	27	1,636	52	1,688	
West Bus selton Primary School	70	682	124	869	308	44	2,097	66	2,163	
Yallingup Hall	10	101	16	256	227	5	615	23	638	
Yoongarillup Hall	15	110	38	150	24	6	343	8	351	
Special Institutions, Hospitals & Remotes	5	18	4	75	15	1	118	6	124	
Polling Place Total	489	3,836	672	5,706	2,670	192	13,565	456	14,021	
Early Votes (by Post)	55	351	36	825	250	29	1,546	24	1,570	
Early Votes (In Person)	142	1,469	165	2,273	647	53	4,749	89	4,838	
Provisional Votes	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	
Count Centre Total	197	1,820	201	3,099	897	82	6,296	113	6,409	
Total First Preference Votes	686	5,656	873	8,805	3,567	274	19,861	569	20,430	
% Total Valid Votes	3.45%	28.48%	4.4%	44.33%	17.96%	1.38%	100%			

Distribution of First Preferences

Distribution of First Preferences									
Distribution Level	BARNETT ACP	GORDON NAT	JOHNSON IND	MEITAM LIB	BALDOCK GRN	VAN LIESHOUT IND	Valid Votes	Exhausted	Total Votes
First Preference	688	5,666	873	8,805	3,667	274	19,881	0	19,881
Distribution 1	21	31	92	33	97	-274	0	0	0
Progressive Total 1	707	5,687	965	8,838	3,664	0	19,881	0	19,881
Distribution 2	-707	225	65	354	61	0	-2	2	0
Progressive Total 2	0	5,912	1,030	9,192	3,725	0	19,859	2	19,861
Distribution 3	0	404	-1,030	216	408	0	-2	2	0
Progressive Total 3	0	6,316	0	9,408	4,133	0	19,857	4	19,861
Distribution 4	0	3,012	0	1,112	-4,133	0	-9	9	0
Total	0	9,328	0	10,520	0	0	19,848	13	19,861

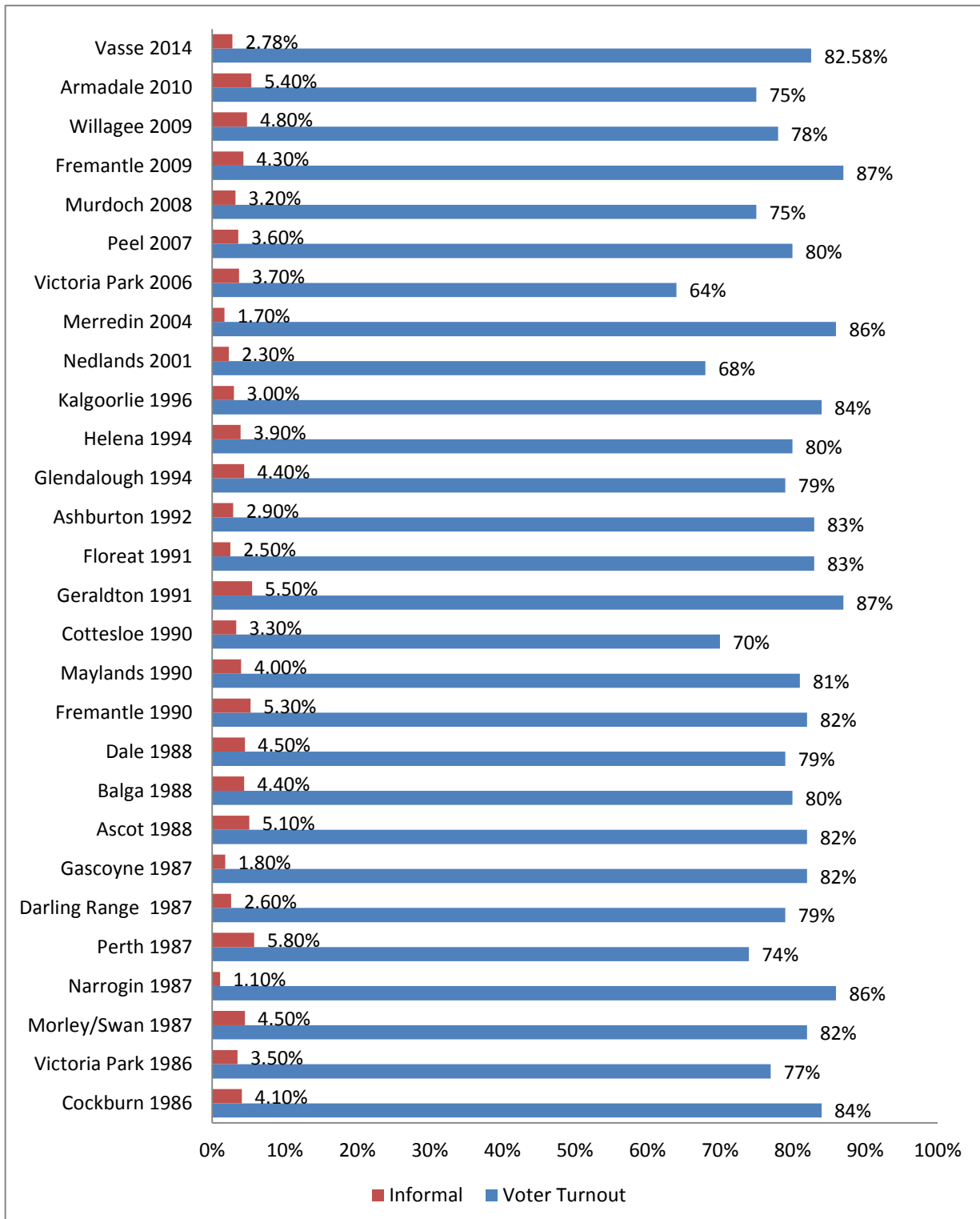
Two Candidate Preferred Results



**Elected Candidates to District of Vasse – Two Candidate Preferred
(After full distribution of Preferences)**

YEAR	ELECTED CANDIDATE	PARTY	Majority %	Majority Votes
1996	Bernie Masters	LIBERAL	59.2%	2,308
2001	Bernie Masters	LIBERAL	55.53%	1,654
2005	Troy Buswell	LIBERAL	50.85%	209
2008	Troy Buswell	LIBERAL	63.5%	5,490
2013	Troy Buswell	LIBERAL	71.2%	8,574
2014	Libby Mettam	LIBERAL	53%	1,192

Voter Turnout & Informality Rate- Previous by-election Comparison



SUMMARY

The result of the Vasse By-election was declared by the Returning Officer, Ms Catherine Smallwood on Saturday 1 November 2014. Ms Libby Mettam (Liberal Party), one of six candidates contesting the by-election, was elected gaining 44.33% of the first preference votes. The two-party preferred for the Liberal Party was 53% with a majority of 1,192 votes.

Early Voting (in person) was available for Vasse electors at 25 locations throughout Western Australia, interstate and at two overseas locations. Early voting in general, both in-person and by-post, increased by over 19% compared to the last State general election.

The growth trend for electors to choose early voting options is not unique as other states in recent elections have all noted substantial growth in this area. Whether it is due to changing work demands and lifestyle patterns for electors or that they are simply becoming more aware of the various voting options available other than an ordinary vote on polling day. Growth in this area is expected to continue with each election.

A total 20,430 of eligible Vasse electors cast their vote. The overall voter turnout was 82.58%, which compared favourably with the past three by-elections held in Western Australia. The initiatives used to encourage voter turnout and keep electors informed of the by-election such as the EasyVote card and targeted local advertising has improved voter response and has also helped to reduce the level of ballot paper informality.

The Commission continues to recognise the growing importance of the internet and social media to convey messages to the electorate. The easy access to information on a range of election services and the ability to obtain the latest results on polling night help both the public and media to remain informed. Demand for the latest communication technology will only continue to increase with each election.



APPENDIX

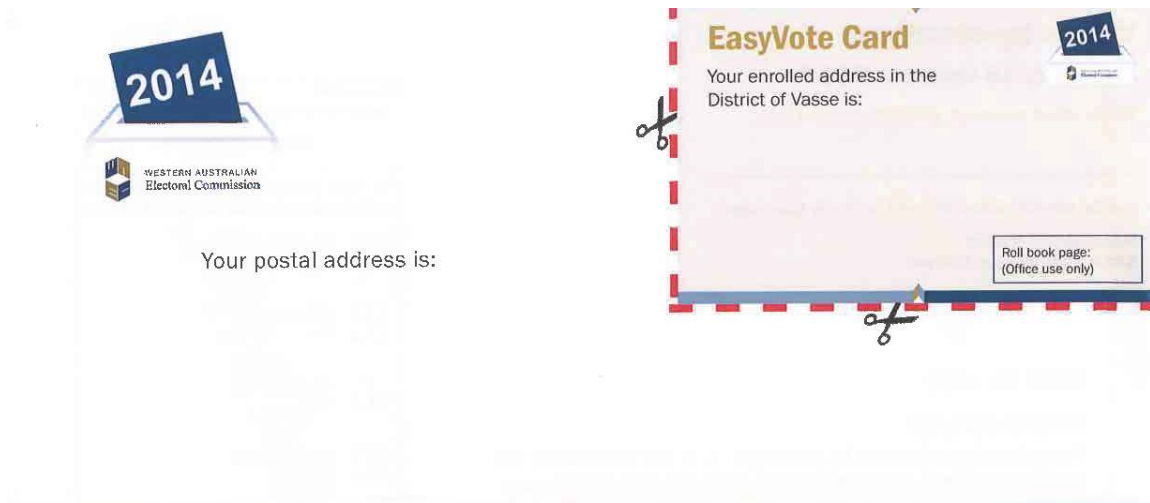
- i **EasyVote Card** – Sample Copy (Front & Reverse Pages)

- ii **Ballot Paper** – Sample Copy

- iii **Statutory Advertisements** – Sample Copies (Pages 31-33)



EasyVote Card – Sample Front Page



Vasse by-election


Saturday 18 October 2014

Voting is compulsory.

Early voting options



Early voting in person

- Western Australian Electoral Commission, Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace, Perth
- Busselton Courthouse  12–20 Stanley Street, Busselton (8.30am to 4.30pm weekdays)
- most Western Australian Magistrates' Courts (normal business hours)



Early voting outside WA

If you will be outside WA, eligible electors can cast an early vote (in person) before polling day at a capital city electoral office in Australian States and Territories, and overseas in London and Bali. Full details are available on the Commission's website at www.elections.wa.gov.au/Vasse2014.



Early voting by post

Application forms for a postal vote are available from any Post Office in the Vasse District or by phoning 13 63 06 or from the Commission's website at www.elections.wa.gov.au. To ensure your application is processed promptly you must return it by 6.00pm, Wednesday 15 October 2014.

 Vote Assist available from this location.



Visit our website
elections.wa.gov.au/Vasse2014



Election line
13 63 06

EasyVote Card – Sample Reverse Page

Vasse by-election

Saturday 18 October 2014

Write your nearest polling place here.

You can still vote without this card but it may take longer.

**Polling places open at
8.00 am and close at 6.00 pm.**

How to vote

Number every box

Record your preference by placing a '1' in the box beside the candidate who is your first choice, '2' in the box beside your second choice and so on, until you have numbered every box.

Do not use ticks or crosses. Do not leave any boxes blank on your ballot paper.

Western Australia Ballot Paper
Election of one member of the Legislative Assembly

XYZ DISTRICT

**IN THE ORDER OF YOUR CHOICE
NUMBER THE BOXES FROM 1 TO 4**

2	CANDIDATE Party
4	CANDIDATE Party
1	CANDIDATE Party
3	CANDIDATE Party

REMEMBER....
Number every box to make your vote count.

Voting is between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm.

Polling Places:

Acton Park Hall

804 Acton Park Road



Busselton Primary School

23–25 Avocet Boulevard



Busselton Senior High School

136–156 Bussell Highway

Carbunup Hall

3 Wildwood Road



Busselton Community Resource Centre

21 Cammilleri Street



Cowaramup Primary School

Waverley Road

Dunsborough Primary School

40 Turner Street



Naturaliste Community Centre

Dunsborough Lakes Drive

Rosa Brook Hall

Rosa Brook Road



Vasse Primary School

29 Kaloorup Road



West Busselton Primary School

11–17 Bower Road



Yallingup Hall

2305 Caves Road

Yoongarillup Hall

Vasse Highway





Sample Copy of Vasse By-election Ballot Paper

BALLOT PAPER
VASSE DISTRICT
TEAR OFF HERE ↓

Western Australia Ballot Paper
Election of one member of the Legislative Assembly
VASSE DISTRICT

**IN THE ORDER OF YOUR CHOICE
NUMBER THE BOXES FROM 1 TO 6**

BARNETT, Wayne
Australian Christians

GORDON, Peter
THE NATIONALS

JOHNSON, Peter
Independent

METTAM, Libby
Liberal Party

BALDOCK, Michael
The Greens (WA)

VAN LIESHOUT, Teresa
Independent

REMEMBER
Number every box to make your vote count.

Sample Copy of Advertisements

2014

2014 VASSE BY-ELECTION

Make your voice heard.

Notice of Election Saturday 18 October 2014

Vasse By-Election

A writ for an election in the Legislative Assembly electoral district of Vasse was issued by the Speaker on Thursday 18 September 2014. Polling day is Saturday 18 October 2014 and the last date for the return of the writ is Wednesday 17 December 2014.

Intending candidates may apply for a nomination pack from the Returning Officer, Catherine Smallwood on mobile 0419 799 097 (9am–5pm).

Nomination forms must be lodged with the Returning Officer no later than 12 noon on Friday 26 September 2014. Registered parties may lodge nomination forms with the Electoral Commissioner no later than 12 noon on Thursday 25 September 2014.

The Returning Officer will be present at the place of declaration of nominations at the St John Ambulance Hall Marri Drive, DUNSBOROUGH, 11 am to 12 noon on Friday 26 September to accept final nominations.

At 12 noon the Returning Officer will produce all nominations forms; declare the names, occupations and residences of all nominated candidates; and conduct the draw for the position of candidates' names on the ballot paper.

Electors in the district of Vasse whose enrolment details are not up to date need to re-enrol by 6pm on Friday 26 September 2014. Enrolment details can be checked at www.elections.wa.gov.au. Enrolment forms are available at any Post Office, from the Western Australian Electoral Commission office Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace, Perth. Electors can now enrol or update their details online at www.elections.wa.gov.au.

Voting is compulsory in the Vasse by-election for people 18 or over on polling day and enrolled in the Vasse district at the close of roll. Check your enrolment details are correct before the close of roll on Friday 26 September 2014.

David Kerslake
 Electoral Commissioner

Remember voting is compulsory on Saturday 18 October 2014
 Election Line 13 63 06 • Take your EasyVote Card • www.elections.wa.gov.au

2014

2014 VASSE BY-ELECTION

Make your voice heard.

Notice of Election Saturday 18 October 2014

Polling places

Remember to take your EasyVote card. You can still vote without it but it may take longer.

There will be a by-election in the Legislative Assembly electoral district of Vasse on Saturday 18 October 2014. It is compulsory for all enrolled electors within the Vasse electoral district to vote.

Polling places will be open from 8am to 6pm on Polling Day, Saturday 18 October 2014. Polling places are listed below. Those with the best wheelchair access and parking are identified by the following symbol:

If you have any questions about this information, please check the Western Australian Electoral Commission website www.elections.wa.gov.au or call the Election Line on 13 63 06.


- Acton Park Hall**
804 Acton Park Road
- Busselton Community Resource Centre**
21 Cammilleri Street
- Busselton Primary School**
23–25 Avocet Boulevard
- Busselton Senior High School**
136–156 Bussell Highway
- Carbunup Hall**
3 Wildwood Road
- Cowaramup Primary School**
Waverley Road
- Dunsborough Primary School**
40 Turner Street

- Naturaliste Community Centre**
Dunsborough Lakes Drive
- Rosa Brook Hall**
Rosa Brook Road
- Vasse Primary School**
29 Kaloorup Road
- West Busselton Primary School**
11–17 Bower Road
- Yallingup Hall**
2305 Caves Road
- Yoongarillup Hall**
Vasse Highway

Voting is compulsory. Saturday is your last chance to vote.
 Election Line 13 63 06 • www.elections.wa.gov.au



Sample Copy of Advertisements

2014 2014 VASSE BY-ELECTION  Make your voice heard.


Early voting.

You don't have to vote at a polling place to make your voice heard.

Vasse electors who can't get to a polling place in the Vasse district on polling day, Saturday 18 October 2014, may be eligible to cast an early vote if you meet the eligibility criteria. For information on whether or not you meet the criteria call the Election Line on 13 63 06.

Remember, for all enrolled electors in the Vasse electoral district, voting is compulsory.

Early voting in person within WA

- Western Australian Electoral Commission, Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace, Perth
- Busselton Courthouse  12-20 Stanley Street, Busselton
- most Western Australian Magistrates' Courts

Early voting outside WA


If you will be outside WA, eligible electors can cast an early vote (in person) before polling day at a capital city electoral office in Australian States and Territories, and overseas in London and Bali. Full details are available on the Commission's website www.elections.wa.gov.au/Vasse2014.

Early voting by post

Application forms for a postal vote are available from any Post Office in the Vasse district or by phoning 13 63 06, or from the Commission's website www.elections.wa.gov.au. To ensure your application is processed promptly, you must return it by 6.00pm, Wednesday 15 October 2014.

More information

If you have any queries regarding early voting, check the Commission's website at www.elections.wa.gov.au/Vasse2014 or call the Election Line on 13 63 06.

 Vote Assist available from this location.

Remember voting is compulsory on Saturday 18 October 2014
Election Line 13 63 06 • Take your EasyVote Card • www.elections.wa.gov.au

2014 2014 VASSE BY-ELECTION  Make your voice heard.

Notice of Election Saturday 18 October 2014

If you are an elector in the district of Vasse

Vote today

between 8.00am and 6.00pm.

You can vote at any of the following locations:

Acton Park Hall 804 Acton Park Road	 Naturaliste Community Centre Dunsborough Lakes Drive
 Busselton Community Resource Centre 21 Cammilleri Street	Rosa Brook Hall Rosa Brook Road
 Busselton Primary School 23-25 Avocet Boulevard	 Vasse Primary School 29 Kaloorup Road
 Busselton Senior High School 136-156 Bussell Highway	 West Busselton Primary School 11-17 Bower Road
Carbunup Hall 3 Wildwood Road	 Yallingup Hall 2305 Caves Road
 Cowaramup Primary School Waverley Road	Yoongarillup Hall Vasse Highway
Dunsborough Primary School 40 Turner Street	 Better wheelchair access and parking

Voting is compulsory.

For more information, please check the Commission's website www.elections.wa.gov.au or call the Election Line on 13 63 06.

Remember voting is compulsory.
Election Line 13 63 06 • Take your EasyVote Card • www.elections.wa.gov.au

2014 2014 VASSE BY-ELECTION  Make your voice heard.

Last day to enrol for the Vasse by-election.

There will be a by-election for the district of Vasse on Saturday 18 October 2014. For your vote to count, make sure you are correctly enrolled.

The roll closes at 6.00pm today, Friday 26 September 2014. If you are an eligible Western Australian citizen who is enrolled in the district of Vasse you must vote to make your voice heard.

You can check your enrolment details on the Commission's website (www.elections.wa.gov.au). If your details have changed, you can update your details online or complete an enrolment form. Enrolment forms are available from any Post Office or from the Western Australian Electoral Commission office at Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace, Perth or from the Commission's website.

If you are unsure whether you are correctly enrolled, or have any questions about enrolment or voting, check the website or call the Election Line – Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm on 13 63 06.

Remember voting is compulsory on Saturday 18 October 2014
Election Line 13 63 06 • Take your EasyVote Card • www.elections.wa.gov.au

Sample Copy of Advertisements

2014

2014 VASSE BY-ELECTION

Make your voice heard.

Candidate details

Candidate nominations for the Legislative Assembly by-election in the electoral district of Vasse closed at 12 noon on Friday 26 September 2014.

As required by section 86 (2b) of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the names and other particulars of nominated candidates are listed down this page, in the order their names will appear on the ballot paper.

It is **compulsory** for all eligible electors in the district of Vasse to vote in this by-election.

Early voting in person within WA

If you are unable to vote at a polling place on polling day, you may be eligible to vote early (in person) from Wednesday 1 October 2014 until Friday 17 October 2014 at the following locations:

- Western Australian Electoral Commission, Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace, Perth
- Busseton Courthouse 12–20 Stanley Street, Busseton (8.30am to 4.30pm weekdays)
- most Western Australian Magistrates' Courts (normal business hours).

Early voting in person outside WA

- most State or Territory electoral offices in Australia
- or overseas in London and Bali.

Full details are available on the Commission's website at www.elections.wa.gov.au/Vasse2014.

Early voting by post

You may also be eligible to vote early (by post). Application forms are available from:

- any Post Office in the Vasse District
- the Western Australian Electoral Commission office, Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace, Perth
- on the website at www.elections.wa.gov.au/Vasse2014.

Application forms should be posted, delivered or faxed to the Western Australian Electoral Commission before 6.00pm on Wednesday 15 October 2014.

Vote Assist available from this location.

BARNETT, Wayne
 Australian Christians
 411 Rendezvous Road
 BUSSELTON WA 6280
 Horticulturist

GORDON, Peter
 THE NATIONALS
 10 Glen Eagles Grove
 BUSSELTON WA 6280
 Self Employed

JOHNSON, Peter
 Independent
 37 Palmer Road
 BUSSELTON WA 6280
 Farmer – Machine Operator

METTAM, Libby
 Liberal Party
 9 Guy Crescent
 DUNSBOROUGH WA 6281
 Research Officer

BALDOCK, Michael
 The Greens (WA)
 9 Rainbird Place
 DUNSBOROUGH WA 6281
 Structural Engineer

VAN LIESHOUT, Teresa
 Independent
 16 Winterfold Road
 HILTON WA 6163
 Teacher

David Kerslake
 Electoral Commissioner

Remember voting is compulsory on Saturday 18 October 2014
 Election Line 13 63 06 • Take your EasyVote Card • www.elections.wa.gov.au

2014

2014 VASSE BY-ELECTION

Make your voice heard.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN Electoral Commission

Notice of Election Saturday 18 October 2014

Number every box, or your vote won't count

Polling places will be open between 8.00am and 6.00pm Saturday 18 October 2014. If you are on the Vasse electoral roll, you must vote or you could be fined. To make your vote count, fill in your ballot paper using NUMBERS – not ticks or crosses.

On the ballot paper, place a number in the box next to EVERY candidate in the order of your preference, beginning with the number 1.

If you have any queries, please visit the Commission's website www.elections.wa.gov.au or call the Election Line on 13 63 06, from 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

Western Australia Ballot Paper
 Election of one member of the Legislative Assembly

XYZ DISTRICT

**IN THE ORDER OF YOUR CHOICE
 NUMBER THE BOXES FROM 1 TO 4**

2	CANDIDATE	Party
4	CANDIDATE	Party
1	CANDIDATE	Party
3	CANDIDATE	Party

REMEMBER...
 Number every box to make your vote count.

Remember voting is compulsory on Saturday 18 October 2014
 Election Line 13 63 06 • Take your EasyVote Card • www.elections.wa.gov.au



Western Australian Electoral Commission

Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace

Perth WA 6000

GPO Box F316

Perth WA 6841

PHONE (08) 9214 0400 or 13 63 06

EMAIL waec@waec.wa.gov.au

WEBSITE www.elections.wa.gov.au

FAX (08) 9226 0577

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