

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — ELECTIONS

**1485. Hon PETER COLLIER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Electoral Affairs:**

- (1) Is the Western Australian Electoral Commission responsible for conducting local government elections in Western Australia?
- (2) If yes to (1), why were the results from the recent local government elections not available on the WAEC website on the night of the poll, 21 October, or, in some instances, for days or weeks after the elections?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Electoral Affairs.

- (1) Under the Local Government Act 1995, a local government opting for a postal election must declare, by agreement, that the Electoral Commissioner will conduct the election on its behalf. Councils may choose to conduct their own in-person election or ask the Western Australian Electoral Commission to conduct an in-person election on their behalf. The WAEC recently conducted 124 of the 139 local government elections.
- (2) Official results are published by the Electoral Commission on its website only after a formal declaration by a returning officer. The Electoral Commission provided advice in the lead-up to the elections that final results may not be available until the Monday or Tuesday. This advice was also published on its website and social medial channels on election day and the following days.

All local government elections, except for the City of Swan, were formally declared by the Electoral Commission by Wednesday, 25 October 2023. The result for the City of Swan was declared on Thursday, 26 October 2023.