

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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Don't forget to have your say in local government elections

Local Government Minister, Geoff Brock is urging all eligible electors to make sure they vote in this year's local government state-wide elections.

"The mail-out of voting papers commenced today with voluntary voting closing on Friday, November 7 and counting starting the following day," Mr Brock said.

"Postal voting was introduced in 1997 and prior to that voter participation rarely exceeded 20 per cent of eligible voters.

"In the 2010 elections, state-wide voter participation was nearly 32.9 per cent compared to around 31 per cent in 2006.

"There's already been increased interest in this year's election with a record number of nominations. 1334 people are standing -- the highest number since the period of significant council amalgamations in the late 1990's.

"This year's elections will also see the lowest number ever of candidates who have been elected unopposed – 73 compared to 100 in 2010.

"A record number of women – 381-- are standing as candidates this year.

"There's also going to be 30 mayoral elections out of the 51 councils where electors directly elect the position of Mayor.

"As a former Mayor, I believe the more contests the better because they help to enliven community debate and participation in elections," Mr Brock said.

"Given the large number of candidates this year, we've already seen robust debate on a wide range of issues that are concerning local residents and property owners.

"These include local planning issues and the efficiency and effectiveness of council service delivery.

"Significant Issues particularly affecting regional councils include the impact of the Federal Budget decisions relating to Supplementary Road Funding and Financial Assistance Grants.

"I've already met with many councils this year and I look forward to meeting with newly elected councils in the near future," Mr Brock said.