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Shire Of Denmark
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OTHER

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN Electoral Commission

LGE 028

Mr Bill Parker
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Denmark
PO Box 183
DENMARK WA 6333

Dear Mr Parker

Local Government Ordinary Election: 2017

The next local government ordinary elections are being held on 21 October 2017. While this is still some distance in the future, I have enclosed an estimate for your next ordinary election to assist in your 2017/2018 budget preparations.

The estimated cost for the 2017 election if conducted as a postal ballot is $31,000 inc GST, which has been based on the following assumptions:

- 5,100 electors
- response rate of approximately 55%
- 4 vacancies
- count to be conducted at the offices of the Shire of Denmark
- appointment of a local Returning Officer
- regular Australia Post delivery service to apply.

This cost estimate includes a proposed increase in the postage rate by Australia Post effective from 4 January 2017. An additional amount of $1,325 will be incurred if your Council decides to opt for the Australia Post Priority Service for the lodgement of election packages. Recent experiences with Australia Post indicate that Councils should seriously consider using the regular mail delivery service for the lodgement of the election packages. The additional cost of priority mail does not significantly speed up the delivery of the election packages.

Since the October 2015 Local Government Ordinary Elections were conducted, Australia Post has implemented the following percentage cost increases for its various mail services:
Regular Mail Delivery - 42%
Priority Mail Delivery – 60.5%
Priority Reply Paid – 80.5%

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FS 520650

Costs not incorporated in this estimate include:

- non-statutory advertising (ie any additional advertisements in community newspapers and promotional advertising)
- any legal expenses other than those that are determined to be borne by the Western Australian Electoral Commission in a Court of Disputed Returns
- one local government staff member to work in the polling place on election day

The Commission is required by the Local Government Act to conduct local government elections on a full cost recovery basis and you should note that this is an estimate only and may vary depending on a range of factors including the cost of materials or number of replies received. The basis for charges is all materials at cost and a margin on staff time only

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The current procedure required by the Act is that my written agreement has to be obtained before the vote by Council is taken. To facilitate the process, you can take this letter as my agreement to be responsible for the conduct of the ordinary elections in 2017 for the Shire of Denmark in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, together with any other elections or polls that may also be required. My agreement is subject to the proviso that the Shire of Denmark also wishes to have the election undertaken by the Western Australian Electoral Commission as a postal election.

In order to achieve this, your council would need to pass the following two motions by absolute majority:

- Declare, in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Electoral Commissioner to be responsible for the conduct of the 2015 ordinary elections together with any other elections or polls which may be required
- Decide, in accordance with section 4.61(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the method of conducting the election will be as a postal election.

I look forward to conducting this election for the Shire of Denmark in anticipation of an affirmative vote by Council.

Yours sincerely

David Kerslake
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

24 November 2016