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Expert advisory committee set to guide Electoral Commission reform

The Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) has established an Expert Advisory Committee to guide a program of electoral reform following recommendations of the Special Inquiry into the 2025 WA State Government Election.

The Special Inquiry, led by the Honourable Malcolm McCusker AC CVO KC, was announced by Premier Roger Cook MLA on 2 April 2025 after concerns were raised about the management of the State Election held on 8 March 2025. Its report, tabled in Parliament on 12 August 2025, outlined significant improvements to strengthen election delivery. The WA Government has endorsed these findings and tasked the WAEC with implementing the reforms.

The Committee will advise the WAEC on implementing the Inquiry's recommendations, identifying priority reform areas and ensuring best practice in election delivery.

Initial areas of focus will include organisational structures that support effective election delivery, cultural change lessons from comparable bodies, financial and workforce models and best practice in election planning processes.

Chaired by the WA Electoral Commissioner, the Committee brings together experts in contemporary election management and financial reform including Joann Wilkie, Under Treasurer for the Department of Treasury and Finance; Tom Rogers AO, former Australian Electoral Commissioner; and Professor Martin Drum, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Sciences, Law and Business at the University of Notre Dame.

Acting Electoral Commissioner Dennis O'Reilly said the Committee will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of elections in Western Australia.

"The establishment of this Expert Advisory Committee marks a significant step in strengthening electoral processes in Western Australia," said Mr O'Reilly.

"Their expert advice will assist in ensuring reforms are practical, contemporary and aligned with best practice nationally."

For more information visit: elections.wa.gov.au

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