

WAEC response to recommendations

Rec	Recommendation description	Government response	WAEC response	Website link
Oversight Committee				
1	The WA Government consider establishing a Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters to inquire into and report on all matters relating to electoral laws and practices and their administration as may be referred to it by either House of the Parliament or a Minister.	Supported in principle The WA Government to consider opportunities to enable additional parliamentary oversight on electoral matters. The Minister for Electoral Affairs will report to the Parliament on outcomes before the end of the 2025 sitting year.	Noted This recommendation will be a matter for Government.	Oversight Committee
Funding model				
2	The WA Government consider legislative changes to the funding model of WAEC under the Electoral Act 1907 (WA) to give WAEC a statutory right ('demand power') to draw down on funds as needed to meet its operational needs.	Noted The Department of Treasury and Finance to work with the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) to develop a funding model for the WAEC and report back to Cabinet.	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission is partnering with the Department of Treasury and Finance to develop an ongoing funding model for the effective planning and delivery of elections.	Funding model
Public Education				
3	Prior to every State election, WAEC produce a simple one-page brochure explaining the meaning and significance of voting "above the line" (ATL) and "below the line" (BTL); and preferential voting and have this available to all electors on Election Day at every State election	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to consider and advise on implementation options for the 2029 State General Election.	Supported The WA Electoral Commission will undertake a comprehensive review of public education materials and programs with a focus on opportunities to simplify materials and appropriately target education and engagement programs.	Public Education
4	Prior to every State election, WAEC receive funding from the Department of Treasury and Finance to meet the cost of notifying by email if known and, if not, by mail, all electors affected by changes to electoral boundaries, and where they can go to cast an ordinary vote on Election Day.	Supported in principle Implementation of this recommendation is to form part of the scope of work for recommendation two.	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission is partnering with the Department of Treasury and Finance to develop an ongoing funding model for the effective planning and delivery of elections. This recommendation will be considered as part of this scope of work.	

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5	WAEC consider whether the 'Find Your Polling Place' page on its Website can be based on the selection of the voters' address rather than a District, to give voters accurate information on their District and corresponding Polling Places to cast their vote.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to consider and advise on implementation options for the 2029 State General Election.	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission is considering improvements to its website to enhance the user experience and accessibility of information, contingent on securing appropriate funding. This refresh will consider changes to improve the 'Find Your Polling Place' page.	Public Education
Recruitment of temporary election workers				
6	The decision to “completely outsource” recruitment of TEWs to an independent recruitment agency should be reconsidered by WAEC, having regard to: (1) the cost compared to cost of “in house” recruitment, using ROs to recruit; (2) the specialised nature of the temporary work, related solely to elections; and (3) public perception, and consider whether WAEC should employ all TEWs directly for General Elections and should only engage recruitment agencies to recruit TEWs for Early Polling until it is sufficiently funded to recruit TEWs for Early Polling itself.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to review the WAEC’s recruitment procedures as part of the scope of work for recommendation two.	Supported The WA Electoral Commission acknowledges the concerns raised in the Special Inquiry regarding outsourcing recruitment of TEWs. The WA Electoral Commission will review the optimal service delivery and workforce model ahead of the 2029 State General Election, giving consideration to effective sourcing models, best practice nationally and the importance of upholding the integrity of electoral processes.	Recruitment of temporary election workers
Temporary election workforce selection				
7	ROs should be given the right to nominate the TEWs they consider (based on their experience) suitable for specific Polling Places in their District.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to consider this recommendation as part of the review of the WAEC’s recruitment procedures (see recommendation six).	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission is committed to reviewing its current recruitment strategies and workforce model for elections. The WA Electoral Commission appreciates the depth of knowledge of ROs and careful consideration will be given to the role of ROs in recruiting and supporting TEWs in their District.	Temporary election workforce selection

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8	All TEWs should be interviewed to ensure they have a reasonable command of the English language and an understanding of the election process and their duties.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to consider this recommendation as part of the review of the WAEC’s recruitment procedures (see recommendation six).	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission will review current recruitment processes, minimum qualification and experience standards and training and education requirements for all TEWs. New minimum standards will give consideration to the identified areas of improvement in the Special Inquiry.	Temporary election workforce selection
9	TEWs with previous experience should be recorded on a centralised register maintained by WAEC and used to assist in choosing (or rejecting) TEWs for the next election.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to consider this recommendation as part of the review of the WAEC’s recruitment procedures (see recommendation six).	Supported The WA Electoral Commission acknowledges the importance of prior experience of TEWs and other polling place staff. The WA Electoral Commission will review current recruitment processes, minimum qualification and experience standards and training and education requirements for all TEWs.	
	Training of temporary election workers			
10	Training materials, videos and Manuals should be prepared (in collaboration with experienced ROs) by professional trainers.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to implement this recommendation ahead of the 2029 State General Election.	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission will review all training materials including delivery methods, length and focus areas to ensure training is fit for purpose and benchmarked against current best practice.	Training of temporary election workers
11	Training Manuals must be simplified, removing material not relevant to elections.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to implement this recommendation ahead of the 2029 State General Election.	Supported The WA Electoral Commission will review all training materials including delivery methods, length and focus areas to ensure training is fit for purpose and benchmarked against current best practice.	

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12	Training should be both online and face-to-face and no more than 60 minutes in length, plus time to ask questions.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to implement this recommendation ahead of the 2029 State General Election.	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission will review all training materials including delivery methods, length and focus areas to ensure training is fit for purpose and benchmarked against current best practice.	Training of temporary election workers
13	Training should include emphasis on the importance of good manners.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to implement this recommendation ahead of the 2029 State General Election.	Supported The WA Electoral Commission will review all training materials including delivery methods, length and focus areas to ensure training is fit for purpose and benchmarked against current best practice.	
14	Training must be done in a reasonable time before the election	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to implement this recommendation ahead of the 2029 State General Election.	Supported The WA Electoral Commission will review all training materials including delivery methods, length and focus areas to ensure training is fit for purpose and benchmarked against current best practice.	
15	All POs should be instructed to allow ample time for delivery of additional ballot papers on Election Day by contacting ROs before supplies run out.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to implement this recommendation ahead of the 2029 State General Election.	Supported The WA Electoral Commission will ensure that new training materials clearly set out areas of risk that may occur on Election Day and provide guidance to POs on appropriate risk mitigation strategies.	
Returning Officer qualification				
16	All ROs should be computer literate.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to implement this recommendation ahead of the 2029 State General Election.	Supported The WA Electoral Commission agrees that there is an increased reliance on computers and devices for modern electoral processes. WAEC will review selection processes for ROs ahead of the 2029 State General Election.	Returning officer qualification

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	Polling resourcing rationale			
17	WAEC should undertake further analysis of the assumptions and calculations applied by it into EMSWA for the purposes of determining the allocation of election resources for each Polling Place at a State election.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to implement this recommendation ahead of the 2029 State General Election.	Supported WAEC will review all planning processes to improve accuracy of allocation of election resources and to move towards more dynamic, data driven, best practice planning processes.	Polling resourcing rationale
18	WAEC should consult with subject matters experts with election experience, about EMSWA’s Polling Place Rationale for the purposes of continually monitoring and determining the allocation of election resources for each Polling Place at a State election.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to implement this recommendation ahead of the 2029 State General Election.	Supported WAEC will review all planning processes to improve accuracy of allocation of election resources and to move towards more dynamic, data driven, best practice planning processes.	
	Facilities at polling places			
19	All Polling Places should have toilet facilities for staff and accessible to the public with shade and shelter and be reasonably close to parking.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to review venue selection policies and procedures, having regard to this recommendation, prior to the 2029 State General Election.	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission appreciates the need for accessible polling places with appropriate facilities. WAEC will endeavour to meet this requirement in all Polling Places in the 2029 State General Election.	Facilities at polling places
20	All POs should be provided with laptops to enable speedy search of the electoral roll and eliminate the need for separate declaration queues.	Supported in principle To be included in the scope of work for recommendation two.	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission is partnering with the Department of Treasury and Finance to develop an ongoing funding model for the effective planning and delivery of elections. This recommendation will be considered as part of this scope of work.	
21	All POs should be provided with mobile phones for connection to WAEC.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to review PO mobile phone requirements.	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission is partnering with the Department of Treasury and Finance to develop an ongoing funding model for the effective planning and delivery of elections. This recommendation will be considered as part of this scope of work.	

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22	Polling Places should be provided with printers to enable printing of Legislative Assembly ballot papers to respond to ballot paper shortages in a timely manner.	Supported in principle To be included in the scope of work for recommendation two.	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission is partnering with the Department of Treasury and Finance to develop an ongoing funding model for the effective planning and delivery of elections. This recommendation will be considered as part of this scope of work.	Facilities at polling places
Early polling places				
23	WAEC should review its decision to allocate an EPP venue in each of the 59 electoral Districts and consider selecting strategic locations and identifying large EPP venues which are suitable and accommodate multi-district early voting, consistent with the AEC's model of allocating EPPs.	Supported in principle Electoral Commissioner to be requested to review the methodology for allocation of EPP venues ahead of the 2029 State General Election.	Supported WAEC is in discussions with the Australian Electoral Commission and other State Electoral Commissions to benchmark current planning processes with the aim to move towards more dynamic, data driven, best practice planning processes.	Early polling places
Ballot paper scanning				
24	WAEC should be provided with sufficient funds for the scanning of all Legislative Council ballot papers for future elections.	Supported in principle To be included in the scope of work for recommendation two.	Supported in principle The WA Electoral Commission is partnering with the Department of Treasury and Finance to develop an ongoing funding model for the effective planning and delivery of elections.	Ballot paper scanning