



## NOTICE

### Local Government 2023 Elections

### Voting Changes & Nominations

#### **When is the election for the Shire of Meekatharra?**

The election day is scheduled for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2023.

#### **Election voting changes**

Voters in the upcoming Shire of Meekatharra local government elections are being advised of changes to the voting system and to ensure that they are properly registered to cast their ballots.

In accordance with significant State Government changes, this year's local government election will see the *first- past-the-post* voting system being replaced with *optional preferential* (or OPV) voting system. The *optional preferential* voting system allows for electors to vote for candidates by numbering several in order of their preference. Optional preferential voting has been used in both State and Federal elections for some time and is aimed at strengthening democracy by giving electors a greater choice.

#### **Nominations**

Nominations for council open on **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2023** and close at 4pm on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2023**. Anyone intending to nominate for the election **must first** complete a free online induction course provided by the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries available on their website [www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/lg-act-reform](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/lg-act-reform)

Any interested person can contact the CEO/Returning Officer or DCEO/Deputy Returning Officer with queries and more information.

## **Election FAQ's**

### **Who is Entitled to Vote?**

The roll for an election consists of:

1. Meekatharra residents roll – this comprises individuals who live in the Shire of Meekatharra electorate and who are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll. Residents should direct enquiries about the Meekatharra residents roll to the Western Australian Electoral Commission on 13 63 06.
1. Shire of Meekatharra non-resident owners and occupiers roll – this comprises individuals who own (but do not reside in) or occupy rateable property in the Shire and of individuals nominated by companies that own or occupy rateable property in the Shire. Non-resident owners and occupiers should contact the Shire on 9980 0600 with any enquiries about the Shire's non-resident owner and occupier roll.

### **What is the Voting Entitlement per Person or Property?**

A person may have his or her name on the roll only once regardless of the number of properties owned or occupied. A company may have a maximum of two people on the roll as nominees of that company regardless of the number of properties owned or occupied. "Occupation" means having a right under a lease, tenancy agreement or other legal instruments, to be in continuous occupation of a definable piece of rateable property for at least the next three months after the date of application.

## **Where do I get an Electoral Form to Apply for the Non-Resident Owner & Occupier Roll?**

Enrolment forms may be obtained as follows:

- Email a request to [ceo@meekashire.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@meekashire.wa.gov.au)
- Phone (08) 9980 0600

## **Who Conducts the Election?**

The election will be conducted by the Shire of Meekatharra as an 'in person' election. Information containing details of the candidates who nominated will be available on Councils website, Notice Board and advertised locally. An election will be held should more nominations be received than vacancies.

## **Is Voting Compulsory?**

No, voting in local government elections is not compulsory in Western Australia.

## **Is Early or Absent Voting Available?**

Yes, early and absent voting for the Shire of Meekatharra elections is available. Details of how to vote early or by absent vote will be available following the close of nominations.

KJ Matthews

Returning officer/CEO