

# Preselection Reform



## HOW WILL IT WORK?

### HOW HAVE WE ARRIVED AT THIS POINT?

The review into the 2021 State Election recommended improving the way we select candidates by giving all local members a say in who represents the Liberal Party in their community, and ultimately, in Parliament.

Following the consideration of the *Road to Reform* report at a special meeting in September 2021, two motions were passed at last year's State Conference. These demonstrated in-principle support for change and empowered the State President to run a consultation process to inform constitutional amendments which would bring this change into effect.

Party members also agreed to trial a plebiscite model to select candidates for the 2022 Federal Election using existing clauses in the constitution. The Federal candidates for Brand, Burt, Cowan, Pearce and Fremantle were selected using this method. Some of these trials were successful, some highlighted where the model should be improved.

In November 2021, State Executive endorsed a series of workshops with the Party's Divisions to be run by the State President. 12 of 15 Divisions have hosted a workshop and invited members to express their views. During those workshops data was presented which showed that preselection committees in Western Australia are smaller in size, have fewer locals, and are more difficult to administer than those conducted in other States.

In January this year, the State President circulated a memo which outlined options for reform. Party members were provided a further opportunity to put their views through a submission process.

Hundreds of Party members have had their say on what preselections should look like in Western Australia. Notably, very few people who attended a workshop believe our current model cannot be improved. The widest possible range of these views are represented in the model that being proposed.

The next State Council meeting will be asked to endorse this model to allow the Constitutional & Drafting Committee to prepare detailed constitutional amendments to be considered at the 2022 State Conference.

### WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

With this change, a preselection would be comprised of the following delegates:

**Local:** All local Branch members residing within the electorate as per their address on the electoral roll. This means all local members can have a say on who represents the Party in their community. Currently, only 30% of local members are entitled to participate.

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**Branch:** In addition to the current number of Branch delegates entitled to attend a lower house preselection, Branch and University Liberal Club Presidents of every constitutional Branch located within the boundaries of the electorate will be entitled to attend.

This allows Branch Presidents and members who live outside the electorate to vote in a preselection, enfranchising loyal and hardworking members who contribute to their Branch, but who may, for a variety of reasons, be located outside the boundaries. Importantly, the number of local members able to participate will be significantly higher than elected delegates. This means almost all preselections across the state would be comprised of around 80% local content.

**Division:** The Division in which the electorate is situated will elect six delegates. This is in keeping with current practice, and allows loyal and hardworking members who live outside the electorate to vote at the preselection if they have the support of their Division and local members.

**State Council:** State Councillors (drawn at random) will make up 20% of all eligible local, branch and divisional delegates, up to a maximum of 20 State Councillors – this is consistent with the review recommendations, but caps the number of State Councillors so that they do not exercise a disproportionately large impact on the result of the preselection.

## HOW DIFFERENT IS THIS FROM THE CURRENT MODEL?

Current Model	Proposed Model	Change
Chair of Selection Committee	Chair of Selection Committee	No change
6 x Division Delegates	6 x Division Delegates	No change
Branch Delegates: - 6x Legislative Assembly - 4 x House of Representatives	Branch Delegates: - 6x Legislative Assembly - 4 x House of Representatives	No change
University Liberal Club Delegates (if applicable): - 6x Legislative Assembly - 4 x House of Representatives	University Liberal Club Delegates (if applicable): - 6x Legislative Assembly - 4 x House of Representatives	No change
Party Member Delegates: - 30% randomly drawn local members (min 12 months membership)	Party Member Delegates: - All local members on electoral roll (min 12 months membership)	Increase in the number of local members participating in local preselections
State Council Delegates: - 20% randomly drawn State Councillors	State Council Delegates: - 20% randomly drawn State Councillors (capped at 20)	Capped at 20 given the larger number of entitled local selectors under a new model

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## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

We must demonstrate to the public that our actions embody our values, and that we are serious about picking candidates on merit.

We must also demonstrate to those in our community, whose values align with ours, that we welcome their contribution.

We must show them that if they choose to stand for preselection, the result isn't determined before they've even filled out a nomination form.

In 2025, the WA Liberal Party potentially faces both a state and federal election within weeks of each other. We need to ensure we have both the required number of talented candidates to put forward as well as a strong membership base to support 59 Legislative Assembly campaigns and 15 House of Representatives campaigns.

We should be confident the Liberal Party will present the choice Western Australians deserve at the next election, but our ability to do so will be determined by what action we take now.