



Media release

Issued on behalf of the Electoral Commission of Queensland

www.ecq.qld.gov.au

Tuesday 5 April 2016

Commission declares State Referendum result: Four-year parliamentary terms approved

Today the Electoral Commission of Queensland officially declared that the 2016 State Referendum had approved a Bill for an Act to provide for fixed four-year terms for the Legislative Assembly in Queensland.

The success of the 'Yes' case on this occasion is the first referendum approved in Queensland since 13 April 1910 when electors voted to support religious instruction in schools. The only other successful referendum was in 1899 where Queenslanders approved joining the federation of Australia.

Electoral Commissioner, Mr Walter van der Merwe said the result was a historic moment for Queensland, "A change from three to four year terms was previously rejected by Queenslanders at the 1991 referendum, and this is only the third successful referendum in Queensland's history."

A total of 2,465,765 votes (80% of enrolled electors) have been counted to date, with 51% of electors in favour of the Bill and 46% opposed.* The result showed that there was broad support across the majority of state electoral districts for the move from three-year flexible to fixed four-year parliamentary terms.

The Electoral Commissioner will officially return the writ for the referendum to the Governor of Queensland in the next week.

For further information about the referendum visit the Commission's website at www.ecq.qld.gov.au

* 3% of referendum votes were informal.

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