

ALL ELECTION PARTICIPANTS

Applications for a prohibited donor determination

Unless otherwise stated, all references to legislation are to the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (LGEA). The information in this fact sheet does not replace legislation. If you are concerned about your obligations, you should seek independent legal advice.

On 19 March 2026, Queensland's electoral laws were amended to allow property developers and their close associates to make political donations for state election purposes. However, the ban on political donations from prohibited donors still applies for local government elections.

This fact sheet relates to any person or entity who is considering applying to the ECQ for a formal determination that they (or another person or entity) are not a prohibited donor.

Please refer to [Fact sheet 42 – Definition of prohibited donors, property developers and close associates](#) and [Fact sheet 43 – Ban on political donations from prohibited donors](#) for more information.

Why should I apply for a determination?

A determination is a decision by the Electoral Commissioner or their delegate, that a person or an entity is not a prohibited donor.

In some cases, it may not be immediately clear if an entity meets the definition of a prohibited donor. If there is any doubt, potential donors and recipients should exercise caution and seek a determination (or independent legal advice) before making or accepting a political donation. Individuals can also take the ECQ's [prohibited donor self-assessment tool](#) available on our website.

A determination gives confidence to an entity that their donations are lawful during the period the determination has effect. Determinations are in effect for up to 12 months unless revoked earlier.

Applications are only necessary if you are unsure about your status as a prohibited donor (or that of another person or entity) and you want to make or accept a political donation for a local government electoral purpose.

How do I apply for a determination?

Entities can apply for a determination from the ECQ by completing the [Application for a determination that person or an entity is not a prohibited donor](#) form. The application must be supported by enough information to enable the Commissioner to assess the application.

There is no fee for making an application.

How is an application for determination processed?

The ECQ will review the application for compliance with electoral laws, completeness and accuracy. This may involve cross-checking information contained in the application with relevant Queensland Government agencies or councils.

Applicants must ensure the information provided in an application is correct. It is an offence for an applicant to give information in an application that they know is false or misleading.

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More information

If you need more information relating to Funding, Disclosure and Compliance, please contact ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing fad@ecq.qld.gov.au.



**Electoral
Commission**
QUEENSLAND

What are the determination outcomes?

The Electoral Commissioner can only determine if a person or entity is not a prohibited donor.

If the Commissioner is satisfied that an applicant is not a prohibited donor, that person or entity will be able to make political donations. The determination will be published on the [ECQ's website](#) and will remain in effect for 12 months unless it is revoked earlier.

The ECQ may decide not to make a determination if:

- the application is incomplete or provides insufficient information
- the information provided by the applicant is inaccurate
- the information provided does not satisfy the ECQ that the person or entity is not a prohibited donor.

Unsuccessful applicants will be provided an information notice outlining the reasons the ECQ decided not to make a determination and the available options for review.

For further information

This fact sheet mainly refers to part 6, division 1A of the LGEA. The Act is available in full at legislation.qld.gov.au. Participants in the electoral process should ensure they understand their obligations under the LGEA.

Applicants may also wish to refer to the ECQ's [Assessing Applications for Determination about Prohibited Donor Status Policy](#) for further information.



RELATED FACT SHEETS AND RESOURCES

Fact sheet 42 – Definition of prohibited donors, property developers and close associates

Fact sheet 43 – Ban on political donations from prohibited donors

Assessing Applications for Determination about Prohibited Donor Status Policy

Fact sheets and other documents can be found on the [ECQ website](#).

More information

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