



Newsletter copy

Did you know a by-election is being held in Central Highlands Regional Council?

A by-election to choose a new councillor for Central Highlands Regional Council is on 16 May 2026.

If you're in Emerald during the week, you can vote early from 9am to 6pm from Tuesday 5 May 2026 to Friday 15 May 2026 (weekdays only) at Wally McKenzie House, Emerald Show Grounds, 26654 Capricorn Highway, Emerald.

On election day, Saturday 16 May 2026, you can vote between 8am to 6pm at:

- Blackwater - Blackwater State School Hall, 11 Wey Street
- Bluff - Bluff State School, 32 Main Street
- Capella - Capella State High School, 35-45 Gordon Street
- Duaringa - Duaringa State School, 1 Charlotte Street
- Emerald - Emerald Christian College, 6373 Gregory Highway
- Emerald North - Emerald North State School, Campbell Street
- Rolleston - Rolleston State School, 16 Warrijo Street
- Rubyvale - Rubyvale Hall, 7 Burr ridge Road
- Springsure - Springsure State School, 55 Eclipse Street
- Tieri - Tieri State School, 1 Bottlebrush Lane

Election day locations are subject to change. You can confirm the details and find out about accessibility of voting places using [Find my polling booth](#) or by visiting ecq.qld.gov.au/electiondayvoting.

One councillor will be elected. You only need to mark your preferred candidate on the ballot paper.

For those who can't vote in person, you can [request a postal vote](#) at ecq.qld.gov.au/postalvoting until 7pm Monday 4 May 2026. All postal votes must be received by the ECQ **by 5pm on 26 May 2026** to ensure they are counted.

Visit ecq.qld.gov.au/centralhighlands to learn more about the by-election including who is running and to stay up to date with the results after the polls close.





Social media

Please help us get the word out to your community by:

- Sharing a post from the ECQ's [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) accounts
- Creating your own post with our suggested text and social media tiles below, which can also be downloaded from our [Central Highlands by-election page](#) on ecq.qld.gov.au/centralhighlands

Please tag us when you share: FB: @electoralcommissionqld | Instagram: @electoralcommissionqld


Social media posts – suggested text

1. Live in Central Highlands Regional Council?

It's time to vote in the by-election for a new Councillor.

 **Vote early in Emerald:** Weekdays 5-15 May (9am-6pm)

 **Vote on election day:** Sat 16 May (8am-6pm) at polling places across the region


 **Postal vote:** Request your postal vote on the ECQ website


Find voting locations, accessibility details and more:

 ecq.qld.gov.au/centralhighlands

2. Do you live in the Central Highlands region?

You must vote in the by-election on Saturday 16 May 2026 to choose a new councillor.

 Voting information is available in **25 languages**

 If your language is not in the guide, staff can help you use a **free phone interpreter**

Learn more about voting in other languages:

 ecq.qld.gov.au/centralhighlands

3. First time voting? 🙌

If you live in Central Highlands Regional Council, it's time to vote on 16 May.

 Voting is compulsory if you're 18+

 Enrol or update your details by **20 April** at aec.gov.au/enrol (have ID ready)


 Get reminders by text or email

More info  ecq.qld.gov.au/centralhighlands

4. How can we help you vote?

If you live in Central Highlands, it's time to vote in the by-election for a new Councillor.

 Choose how you vote: **early, on election day Saturday 16 May or by post**

 **Check accessibility** at voting locations before you go

 Request a **postal vote** by 4 May

Plan your vote and get more information:

 ecq.qld.gov.au/centralhighlands



Central Highlands Regional Council by-election

Election day: Saturday 16 May 2026



Social media tiles

These tiles can be downloaded from our [Central Highlands by-election page](https://ecq.qld.gov.au/centralhighlands) ecq.qld.gov.au/centralhighlands. Photos 4 & 5 are courtesy of Central Highlands Regional Council.



: Central Highlands Regional Council

: Central Highlands Regional Council



Central Highlands Regional Council by-election

Election day: Saturday 16 May 2026



Electoral
Commission
QUEENSLAND

Posters

Promote the by-election by displaying one of our posters at your organisation (e.g. reception area, front window, or public notice board).

You can download our A4 and A3 posters from our [Central Highlands by-election page](#) or collect a poster closer to the by-election from our Returning Officer at Wally McKenzie House, Emerald Show Grounds.

2026 Central Highlands Regional Council by-election

Electoral Commission QUEENSLAND

ELECTION INFORMATION

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at Wally McKenzie House, Emerald Show Grounds
9am-6pm weekdays from Tuesday 5 May to Friday 15 May.

Vote on election day
10 polling booths will be open from 8am to 6pm on Saturday 16 May.
Find the closest polling booth at ecq.qld.gov.au/electiondayvoting

Looking for more information?
Visit us at ecq.qld.gov.au/centralhighlands

Scan to check if you need to vote in this by-election

VOTING IS COMPULSORY

For more information, visit ecq.qld.gov.au or call 1300 881 665.

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Frequently asked questions

Am I enrolled to vote?

- Visit aec.gov.au to enrol to vote or to check your details are up to date.
- Add your email address and mobile phone number to receive timely information by email and SMS; this will also help you not miss the next election in your area.

What if I recently changed address?

- You will need to update your details on the electoral roll at aec.gov.au to ensure you are voting in the correct council area.

Is voting compulsory?

- Voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens aged 18 years or older.
- If you do not vote, you may receive a fine.

What is local government?

- Local government is also known as your local council. This could be a city, town, shire or region.
- Local government is responsible for managing public property and a range of local services and activities funded by rates, services fees and grants from state and federal governments.
- Council services could include cultural and sporting facilities, town planning, local roads, waste management, land care programs, pet registration and more.

Why do I need to vote in the local government by-election?

- Your mayor and councillors represent you in your community.
- Voting in the by-election means you're having a say about the decision-makers who will shape the local community where you live.

Why is voting important?

- Governments make decisions about services, laws and protections that impact on every part of life.
- By voting, you are part of this decision-making and making a choice about your community.
- If you don't vote, you are relying on someone else to choose your representative for you.
- One of the best ways to make sure you are involved in decisions about your community is to vote.

How do I vote?

- You can find information on how to vote from the Electoral Commission of Queensland website at ecq.qld.gov.au/centralhighlands.

How will I know who is my new Councillor?

- The Electoral Commission of Queensland will publish the declared Councillor on its website and also post about it on social media—[Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

