

REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES AND DONORS

Donations from prohibited donors

Unless otherwise stated, all references to legislation are to the *Electoral Act 1992 (EA)* or the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011 (LGEA)*. The information in this fact sheet does not replace legislation. If you are concerned about your circumstances, 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 gifts and loans for state electoral purposes. However, the **ban on donations from prohibited donors** still applies for **local government elections**.

A prohibited donor may lawfully make a gift or loan to a political party if they notify the party that the donation must not be used for a local election purpose. These donations are called restricted donations.

Who is a prohibited donor?

A prohibited donor includes:

- a property developer
- a close associate of a property developer
- an industry representative organisation with property developers as the majority of its members.

Please see [Local government Fact sheet 42 – Definition of prohibited donors, property developers and close associates](#) for further information.

Can prohibited donors make donations in Queensland?

It is lawful for a prohibited donor to make:

- a gift or loan to a state Member of Parliament
- a gift or loan to a candidate in a state election or by-election
- a **restricted donation** to a political party
- a gift or loan to another entity to make or reimburse any of the above donations, or to incur electoral expenditure for a state election or by-election.

Prohibited donors that make the above donations must still comply with political donation caps and disclosure regulations.

A prohibited donor must not make a gift or loan to a political party that is not a restricted donation. Donations made by prohibited donors for local government electoral purposes are also **strictly prohibited**. Refer to [Local government Fact sheet 43 – Ban on political donations from prohibited donors](#) for more details.

What is a restricted donation?

A restricted donation is a gift or loan made by a prohibited donor to a political party that is accompanied by a **restricted donation statement**.

Version: March 2026

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 is a restricted donation statement?

A restricted donation statement is a written statement made by the donor of the gift or loan. This statement must:

- state the **relevant particulars** of the donor
- state that the gift or loan is made with the intention that it is not used for a **local government electoral purpose**
- be given to the political party when the gift or loan is made.

The **relevant particulars** are:

- the name and address of the donor
- if the donor is an **unincorporated association** – the names and addresses of the members of the executive committee (however described) of the association
- if the donor is a **trust fund or foundation** – the names and addresses of the trustees, or the title or description of the trust fund or the name of the foundation.

A **local government electoral purpose** is a purpose that relates to a local government election. To avoid doubt, the ECQ strongly encourages restricted donation statements to clearly state that the donation is made with the intention that it is not used for a local election purpose. It should also clearly identify the donation to which the statement relates (i.e., by reference to the date made and the value of the donation).

Penalties apply if a registered political party uses a restricted donation for a local election or deposits it into their local campaign bank account. The ECQ can also recover twice the amount of the donation as a debt to the state.

Gifts or loans accompanied by a restricted donation statement are called restricted donations.

It is legal for a prohibited donor to give a restricted donation to a political party provided it is not used for a local election purpose.

Do restricted donations need to be disclosed?

Restricted donations are subject to the same disclosure laws that apply to other gifts and loans. Donations of \$1,000 or more (cumulative) must be disclosed in real-time by both the registered political party and the donor.

More details can be found in:

- [Fact sheet 12 – Real-time disclosure of gifts and loans by registered political parties](#)
- [Fact sheet 23 – Disclosure of gifts made to registered political parties and candidates.](#)

If a restricted donation of \$500 or more is made to a political party that has endorsed a candidate for a local government election, the donor must also lodge a return under local government disclosure laws. Refer to [Local government Fact sheet 9 – Disclosure of gifts made](#) for further information.

More information on state government elections

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.

Are restricted donations subject to political donation caps?

Political donation caps will apply to a restricted donation if it is accompanied by **both** a restricted donation statement **and** a donor statement.

A donor statement is a separate written statement made by the donor that allows the political party to use the amount specifically for state electoral expenditure.

For more information, please see:

- [Fact sheet 5A – Definition of political donations and donor statements](#)
- [Fact sheet 6 – Political donation caps](#).

EXAMPLE

A property developer wants to donate to The Bronze Party ahead of the 2028 state general election. The party wants to use the donation to pay for their election flyers.

The property developer must give both a restricted donation statement and a donor statement to The Bronze Party with their donation.

The donation cannot be used for a local election purpose. It must be deposited into the party's state campaign bank account and is subject to disclosure laws and political donation caps.

Compliance

It is unlawful for:

- a prohibited donor to make a gift or loan (other than a restricted donation) to a political party
- a political party to accept a gift or loan (other than a restricted donation) from a prohibited donor
- a political party to use a restricted donation for a local election purpose
- a political party to deposit a restricted donation into its local campaign bank account
- a person to knowingly participate¹, directly or indirectly, in a scheme² to circumvent any of the above unlawful activities.

Penalties for committing any of the above offences will vary depending on the circumstances. Penalties may include fines of up to 400 penalty units (\$66,760 as at 1 July 2025) for some offences, 1,500 penalty units (\$250,350 as at 1 July 2025) for others, or potential terms of imprisonment ranging from two to 10 years.

¹ 'Participate' is expressly defined to include 'enable, aid or facilitate entry into, or the carrying out of, a scheme, and organise or control a scheme'.

² 'Scheme' is expressly defined to include 'arrangement, agreement, course of conduct, promise or undertaking, whether express or implied'.

More information on state government elections

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.

As well as these criminal provisions, the ECQ has the power to recover the value of the donation made from the recipient as a debt due to the State. In instances where the recipient knew it was unlawful to receive the donation, then the amount to be recovered is double the value of the donation.

Record keeping

All election participants must keep records for 5 years. This is required to demonstrate compliance in relation to all political donation, electoral expenditure, disclosure and state campaign bank account requirements. Refer to [Fact sheet 4 – Record keeping requirements](#).

For further information

This fact sheet mainly refers to part 6, division 1A of the LGEA, and part 11 of the EA. These Acts are available in full at legislation.qld.gov.au.



RELATED FACT SHEETS

Fact sheet 5A – Definition of political donations and donor statements

Fact sheet 6 – Political donation caps

Fact sheet 12 – Real-time disclosure of gifts, loans and political donations by registered political parties

Fact sheet 23 – Disclosure of gifts made to registered political parties and state election candidates

Local government Fact sheet 9 – Disclosure of gifts made

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

Local government Fact sheet 43 – Ban on political donations from prohibited donors

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

More information on state government elections

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.