

Direction about Display of How-to-Vote Cards and Election Material (ALL POLLING BOOTHS IN QUEENSLAND)

Version 3.0

Approval



Pat Vidgen

Electoral Commissioner

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Purpose

The Electoral Commissioner is empowered under s200I of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* and s392I of the *Electoral Act 1992* to give a Direction about how, where or when how-to-vote cards and/or other election material may be distributed or displayed at a polling booth for the 2020 Quadrennial local government elections and Bundamba and Currumbin State by-elections.

Rationale

On 19 March 2020, the Electoral Commissioner issued a general Direction applicable to all polling booths in Queensland. A subsequent Direction was issued on 20 March 2020.

Due to the evolving circumstances, the Electoral Commissioner has issued this revised Direction about the distribution and display of how-to-vote cards or election material at all polling booths in Queensland to further minimise risks to the health and safety of persons caused by the public health emergency involving COVID-19. The revised Direction repeals and replaces the earlier Direction dated 20 March 2020.

Direction

The Electoral Commissioner hereby directs:

- All persons are prohibited from canvassing for votes or distributing how-to-vote cards or election material at a polling booth. This applies to ALL polling booths in Queensland;
- All persons must abide by the social distancing rules for gatherings of less than 100 people;
- All persons attending a polling booth must maintain hygiene standards, in accordance with Queensland Health guidelines;
- All persons must not shake hands, or attempt to shake hands, with electors as they are entering or waiting to enter the polling booth;
- If candidates, political parties, or other electoral participants wish for their how-to-vote cards and/or election material to be available to electors, the material must be provided to the booth supervisor. The material will be displayed at the polling booth, in a way deemed appropriate by the booth supervisor. A minimum requirement is that how-to-vote cards and election material must be displayed in ballot paper order, as far as practicable;
- Any how-to-vote cards or election material to be displayed at a polling booth must be no larger than A4 size, and can be double-sided (in which case, each page will be displayed beside one another);
- Candidates, political parties or other electoral participants must not interfere or obstruct the booth supervisor or other ECQ staff enacting this Direction;
- Candidates, political parties or other electoral participants must not interfere or remove how-to-vote cards or election material once they are displayed by the booth supervisor or other ECQ staff.

ECQ staff will be actively monitoring compliance with this Direction. The Electoral Commissioner has the power to issue further directions, in the event ECQ staff observe non-compliance.

Failure to comply with this Direction carries a maximum penalty of 10 penalty units, currently valued at \$1,334.50.

All existing laws and regulations regarding canvassing for votes at a polling booth continue to apply, including those relating to exclusion zones.

Effective

This Direction has immediate effect and remains in place until close of polls on 28 March 2020, unless otherwise revised.