

Direction about the Movement of Candidates or Scrutineers for the 2020 State general election

Version 1.0

Approval



Pat Vidgen

Electoral Commissioner

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Purpose

To facilitate the holding of the 2020 State general election in a way that helps minimise serious risks to the health and safety of persons caused by the COVID-19 emergency.

Rationale

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) is empowered under section 392V of the *Electoral Act 1992* to give directions about the movement of candidates and scrutineers at a place that is a polling booth or another place at which the candidate or scrutineer is entitled to be present during the 2020 State general election.

Direction

The ECQ is satisfied that it is in the public interest to regulate the movement of candidates and scrutineers at the places where they are entitled to be present under the *Electoral Act* during the 2020 State general election.

The ECQ hereby directs scrutineers and candidates:

- to abide by the current social distancing rules, including staying 1.5 metres away from other persons where possible, when performing their functions under the Act,
- where it is not possible to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from other persons while performing functions under the Act, it is recommended face masks be worn,¹
- to maintain hygiene standards, in accordance with Queensland Health guidelines and directions, and
- to not shake hands or attempt to shake hands with persons at polling booths or at places where declaration envelopes are being scrutinised and/or votes counted.

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 of 20 penalty units, currently valued at \$2,669.

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 the declaration of results for the 2020 State general election, unless otherwise revised.

¹ ECQ polling booth staff members will also be required to comply with these directions.