Electoral Commission QUEENSLAND

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 number to be notified about elections 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, also known as your local council, 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.

Why aren't there any polling places or voting centres open in my community?

- The Redland City Council requested a full postal vote for this by-election. This means that all voters will receive a ballot pack in the mail along with a reply-paid envelope in which to return the completed ballot paper to the ECQ.
- No polling places or early voting centres will be open to vote in person.
- If you have listed a postal address on the electoral roll, your ballot pack will be sent to that address.
- If you do not receive your ballot pack, please contact the ECQ on 1300 881 665.

How do I complete a postal vote?

- Once your postal vote arrives in the mail, complete the following steps:
  1. Open and read the instructions on your ballot paper. Detach the ballot paper from the declaration envelope and then complete your vote. You can do this as soon as you receive it in the mail.
  2. Then, fold your ballot paper/s in half, place into the declaration envelope and seal it.
  3. Sign the declaration envelope where it says *You sign here*. Have a witness sign where it says *Your witness signs here*.
  4. Put your sealed and signed declaration envelope into the reply-paid envelope.
  5. Post the reply-paid envelope as soon as you can.
- Remember you MUST vote before 6pm on election day, Saturday 12 December 2026.
- Votes must be received by the Electoral Commission of Queensland within 10 days (5pm Tuesday, 22 December 2026) after election day to be included in the count. If a vote is received AFTER the deadline, it can't be included. Any late votes are recorded and stored.
- The counting of all votes begins after 6pm on election day.
- We have a short video about how to cast a postal vote.

How do I know my vote is secret?

- When handling postal ballots, there are steps we take to ensure the secrecy of your vote and the security of your details.
- Candidates are welcome to appoint scrutineers, including themselves, to watch these processes.
- When we receive your postal ballot, we start with these steps:
  1. We check the envelope has been signed by you and a witness.
  2. We mark you off as voting in the election (just like we would at a polling booth).
  3. We put the still sealed envelope into a ballot box.
- Once the Returning Officer has enough postal ballots, they open the ballot box in front of witnesses or scrutineers.
  1. All the sealed envelopes are placed face-down, so we can't see your name and address.
  2. The ballot paper is removed from each envelope and placed in a sealed ballot box ready for counting.
  3. After 6.00pm on election day, we unseal the ballot box in front of witnesses or scrutineers, unfold the ballot papers and count them.

What if my postal vote doesn't arrive or I lose it?

- If something happens to your postal vote before you post it back to the ECQ, you can ask us to reprint your ballot paper.
- Contact the ECQ at 1300 881 665 or visit the Returning Officer for the Redland City Council by-election at 233 Middle Street, Cleveland 4163.

How will I know who is my new Mayor?

- The ECQ will publish the details of the declared Mayor on its website and also post about it on Facebook and Instagram.