



Electoral Commission of Queensland

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Overview

The Electoral Commission of Queensland's (ECQ) vision is to deliver electoral excellence with integrity for Queensland. Its purpose is to deliver accessible, fair and transparent electoral services for all Queenslanders.

The ECQ's strategic objectives are:

- trusted to deliver Queensland elections
- increase electoral awareness and participation
- maintain election readiness
- promote and enforce compliance with electoral laws.

Contributions to the government's objectives for the community

The department supports the government's objectives for the community¹:

- Good jobs: Good, secure jobs in our traditional and emerging industries.
- Better Services: Deliver even better services right across Queensland.
- Great Lifestyle: Protect and enhance our Queensland lifestyle as we grow.

Key deliverables

In 2024–25, the ECQ will:

- deliver the 2024 State general election
- undertake post-election compliance and evaluation activities for the 2024 local government quadrennial elections
- monitor compliance with state and local government funding and disclosure obligations, particularly disclosure, political donation caps, and electoral expenditure caps
- prepare to deliver a redistribution of state electoral boundaries by the Queensland Redistribution Commission
- provide support to the Local Government Change Commission in its reviews of local government boundaries and electoral arrangements referred by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works.

Budget highlights

In the 2024–25 Queensland Budget, the government is providing:

- increased funding of \$15.5 million to facilitate the delivery of the state general election in October 2024, bringing the total funding amount to \$56.9 million
- \$2.7 million over 2 years to support preparations for a state electoral boundary review by the Queensland Redistribution Commission.

Further information about new policy decisions can be found in *Budget Paper No. 4: Budget Measures*.

¹ To find out more, go to qld.gov.au and search "Government's objectives for the community."

Performance statement

Electoral Services

Objective

To deliver accessible, fair and transparent electoral services for all Queenslanders.

Description

Electoral Services prepares, plans and delivers impartial state and local government elections in Queensland and regulates the funding and disclosure activities of political parties and candidates participating in these elections.

The service area also maintains equitable representation across electoral boundaries through periodic reviews of Queensland electoral district boundaries and assessing proposals for changes to local government boundaries and electoral arrangements.

These services are provided to electoral clients and conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Electoral Act 1992*, the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*.

Service standards	2023–24 Target/Est.	2023–24 Est. Actual	2024–25 Target/Est.
Effectiveness measures			
Level of informal voting - State general election ¹	...	...	4.5%
Level of informal voting - local government quadrennial elections (Mayoral) ¹	4.5%	3.82%	...
Level of stakeholder overall satisfaction with the voting experience - State general election ¹	...	...	85%
Level of stakeholder overall satisfaction with the voting experience - local government quadrennial elections ^{1,2}	85%	63%	...
Proportion of disclosure returns audited that are deemed compliant with electoral law ³	80%	...	80%
Efficiency measures			
Cost of State general election per elector ¹	...	...	\$12.97
Cost of local government quadrennial elections per elector ^{1,4}	\$10.48	\$10.41	...

Notes:

- As major State and local government elections do not occur each year, the Target/Estimate and Estimated Actual are only presented as required for the relevant year when the election is held.
- Stakeholder satisfaction for the 2024 local government elections varied across voting channels, with higher satisfaction reported by electors voting during the early voting period (76%), by postal vote (88%) or by telephone (87%). The ECQ is undertaking an evaluation of issues experienced on election day for the 2024 local government elections that impacted overall elector satisfaction.
- Audits of disclosure returns for the 2024 local government quadrennial election commenced on 18 March 2024, following the elections on 16 March 2024. As at 23 May 2024, all audited returns have been deemed compliant, however, audits have only been finalised for a minor proportion of smaller local government areas and are not considered indicative of compliance by the broader participant base.
- The 2023–24 Estimated Actual cost per elector of the March 2024 local government quadrennial elections is current as at 23 May 2024, with delivery of post-election compliance and evaluation activities currently underway.

Departmental budget summary

The table below shows the total resources available in 2024–25 from all sources and summarises how resources will be applied by service area and by controlled and administered classifications.

Electoral Commission of Queensland	2023–24 Budget \$'000	2023–24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024–25 Budget \$'000.
CONTROLLED			
Income			
Appropriation revenue ¹	73,859	75,002	116,570
Other revenue	30	30	30
Total income	73,889	75,032	116,600
Expenses			
Electoral Services	73,889	75,032	116,600
Total expenses	73,889	75,032	116,600
Operating surplus/deficit	..	..	..
Net assets	29,300	29,300	29,263
ADMINISTERED			
Revenue			
Commonwealth revenue	..	..	..
Appropriation revenue	..	..	..
Other administered revenue	28,267	28,267	4,429
Total revenue	28,267	28,267	4,429
Expenses			
Transfers to government	28,267	28,267	4,429
Administered expenses	..	..	..
Total expenses	28,267	28,267	4,429
Net assets	..	..	..

Note:

1. Includes state and Australian Government funding.

Staffing

The table below shows the Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) as at 30 June in the respective years.

Service area	2023–24 Budget	2023–24 Est. Actual	2024–25 Budget
Electoral Services	101	101	88
Total FTEs	101	101	88

Note:

1. Corporate FTEs are allocated across the service to which they relate.

Budgeted financial statements

Departmental income statement

Controlled income statement

The budgeted expenses in 2024–25 are \$116.6 million, an increase of \$41.6 million from the 2023–24 Estimated Actual of \$75.0 million. This increase is due to the delivery of the State general election in October 2024 and subsequent election funding claims that will be processed to eligible electoral participants, and commencement of the review of state electoral boundaries by the Queensland Redistribution Commission.

Administered income statement

The budgeted administered expenses in 2024–25 are \$4.4 million, a decrease of \$23.9 million from the 2023–24 Estimated Actual of \$28.3 million. This is primarily due to lower recovery of costs from councils expected from potential by-elections in the 2024–25 financial year in comparison to the recovery of costs of the 2024 local government quadrennial elections.

Departmental balance sheet

Administered balance sheet

There has been a decrease of \$23.3 million against Receivables and Transfers to Government Payable from the 2023–24 Budget to the 2024–25 Budget as a result of realised cost recovery from the 2024 local government quadrennial elections in the prior financial year.

Controlled income statement

Electoral Commission of Queensland	2023–24 Budget \$'000	2023–24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024–25 Budget \$'000
INCOME			
Appropriation revenue	73,859	75,002	116,570
Taxes	..	..	..
User charges and fees	30	30	30
Royalties and land rents	..	..	..
Grants and other contributions	..	..	..
Interest and distributions from managed funds	..	..	..
Other revenue	..	..	..
Gains on sale/revaluation of assets	..	..	..
Total income	73,889	75,032	116,600
EXPENSES			
Employee expenses	14,455	14,645	21,563
Supplies and services	58,512	59,465	94,115
Grants and subsidies	..	..	..
Depreciation and amortisation	860	860	860
Finance/borrowing costs	(33)	(33)	(33)
Other expenses	95	95	95
Losses on sale/revaluation of assets	..	..	..
Total expenses	73,889	75,032	116,600
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	..	..	..

Controlled balance sheet

Electoral Commission of Queensland	2023–24 Budget \$'000	2023–24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024–25 Budget \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash assets	12,068	12,237	12,948
Receivables	530	437	437
Other financial assets	..	..	..
Inventories	185	175	175
Other	2,262	598	598
Non-financial assets held for sale	..	..	..
Total current assets	15,045	13,447	14,158
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Receivables	..	..	..
Other financial assets	..	..	..
Property, plant and equipment	463	215	216
Intangibles	18,322	20,290	19,541
Other	26	..	..
Total non-current assets	18,811	20,505	19,757
TOTAL ASSETS	33,856	33,952	33,915
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	3,948	4,269	4,269
Accrued employee benefits	258	345	345
Interest bearing liabilities and derivatives	312	37	37
Provisions	..	..	..
Other	..	..	..
Total current liabilities	4,518	4,651	4,651
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	..	..	..
Accrued employee benefits	..	..	..
Interest bearing liabilities and derivatives	38	1	1
Provisions	..	..	..
Other	..	..	..
Total non-current liabilities	38	1	1
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,556	4,652	4,652
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	29,300	29,300	29,263
EQUITY			
TOTAL EQUITY	29,300	29,300	29,263

Controlled cash flow statement

Electoral Commission of Queensland	2023–24 Budget \$'000	2023–24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024–25 Budget \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Appropriation receipts	73,859	72,449	116,570
User charges and fees	32	32	32
Royalties and land rent receipts	..	..	..
Grants and other contributions	..	..	..
Interest and distribution from managed funds received	..	..	..
Taxes	..	..	..
Other	890	890	890
Outflows:			
Employee costs	(14,455)	(14,645)	(21,563)
Supplies and services	(59,402)	(60,355)	(95,005)
Grants and subsidies	..	..	..
Borrowing costs	33	33	33
Other	(97)	(97)	(97)
Net cash provided by or used in operating activities	860	(1,693)	860
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Sales of non-financial assets	..	..	..
Investments redeemed	..	..	..
Loans and advances redeemed	..	..	..
Outflows:			
Payments for non-financial assets	(2,079)	(2,079)	(79)
Payments for investments	..	..	..
Loans and advances made	..	..	..
Net cash provided by or used in investing activities	(2,079)	(2,079)	(79)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Borrowings	..	..	..
Equity injections	2,039	2,039	39
Appropriated equity injections	2,039	2,039	39
Non-appropriated equity injections	..	..	..
Outflows:			
Borrowing redemptions	..	..	..
Finance lease payments	(33)	(33)	(33)
Equity withdrawals	(76)	(76)	(76)
Appropriated equity withdrawals	(76)	(76)	(76)
Non-appropriated equity withdrawals	..	..	..
Net cash provided by or used in financing activities	1,930	1,930	(70)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	711	(1,842)	711
Cash at the beginning of financial year	11,357	14,079	12,237
Cash transfers from restructure	..	..	..
Cash at the end of financial year	12,068	12,237	12,948

Administered income statement

Electoral Commission of Queensland	2023–24 Budget \$'000	2023–24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024–25 Budget \$'000
INCOME			
Appropriation revenue	..	..	..
Taxes	..	..	..
User charges and fees	27,607	27,607	3,769
Royalties and land rents	..	..	..
Grants and other contributions	..	..	..
Interest and distributions from managed funds	..	..	..
Other revenue	660	660	660
Gains on sale/revaluation of assets	..	..	..
Total income	28,267	28,267	4,429
EXPENSES			
Employee expenses	..	..	..
Supplies and services	..	..	..
Grants and subsidies	..	..	..
Depreciation and amortisation	..	..	..
Finance/borrowing costs	..	..	..
Other expenses	..	..	..
Losses on sale/revaluation of assets	..	..	..
Transfers of Administered Revenue to Government	28,267	28,267	4,429
Total expenses	28,267	28,267	4,429
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	..	..	..

Administered balance sheet

Electoral Commission of Queensland	2023–24 Budget \$'000	2023–24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024–25 Budget \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash assets	111	64	64
Receivables	23,346	23,396	59
Other financial assets	..	..	..
Inventories	..	..	..
Other	..	..	..
Non-financial assets held for sale	..	..	..
Total current assets	23,457	23,460	123
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Receivables	..	..	..
Other financial assets	..	..	..
Property, plant and equipment	..	..	..
Intangibles	..	..	..
Other	..	..	..
Total non-current assets	..	..	..
TOTAL ASSETS	23,457	23,460	123
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	2	6	6
Transfers to Government payable	23,455	23,454	117
Accrued employee benefits	..	..	..
Interest bearing liabilities and derivatives	..	..	..
Provisions	..	..	..
Other	..	..	..
Total current liabilities	23,457	23,460	123
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	..	..	..
Accrued employee benefits	..	..	..
Interest bearing liabilities and derivatives	..	..	..
Provisions	..	..	..
Other	..	..	..
Total non-current liabilities	..	..	..
TOTAL LIABILITIES	23,457	23,460	123
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	..	..	..
EQUITY			
TOTAL EQUITY	..	..	..

Administered cash flow statement

Electoral Commission of Queensland	2023–24 Budget \$'000	2023–24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024–25 Budget \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Appropriation receipts	..	..	..
User charges and fees	4,270	4,270	27,106
Royalties and land rent receipts	..	..	..
Grants and other contributions	..	..	..
Interest and distribution from managed funds received	..	..	..
Taxes	..	..	..
Other	660	660	660
Outflows:			
Employee costs	..	..	..
Supplies and services	..	..	..
Grants and subsidies	..	..	..
Borrowing costs	..	..	..
Other	..	..	..
Transfers to Government	(4,930)	(4,930)	(27,766)
Net cash provided by or used in operating activities	..	..	..
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Sales of non-financial assets	..	..	..
Investments redeemed	..	..	..
Loans and advances redeemed	..	..	..
Outflows:			
Payments for non-financial assets	..	..	..
Payments for investments	..	..	..
Loans and advances made	..	..	..
Net cash provided by or used in investing activities	..	..	..
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Borrowings	..	..	..
Equity injections	..	..	..
Appropriated equity injections	..	..	..
Non-appropriated equity injections	..	..	..
Outflows:			
Borrowing redemptions	..	..	..
Finance lease payments	..	..	..
Equity withdrawals	..	..	..
Appropriated equity withdrawals	..	..	..
Non-appropriated equity withdrawals	..	..	..
Net cash provided by or used in financing activities	..	..	..
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	..	..	..
Cash at the beginning of financial year	111	64	64
Cash transfers from restructure	..	..	..
Cash at the end of financial year	111	64	64