

# Direction about Distribution & Display of How-to-Vote Cards and Other Election Material at Polling Booths

Version 1.0

Approval



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**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.

## Rationale

A Direction may be made if the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied that a Direction is necessary to facilitate the holding of the 2020 Quadrennial Election, and Currumbin and Bundamba by-elections, in a way that minimises serious risks to the health and safety of persons caused by the public health emergency involving COVID-19.

## Direction

The Electoral Commissioner hereby issues the following Directions to all persons distributing a how-to-vote card and/or other election material:

- All such persons attending a polling booth must maintain hygiene standards, in accordance with Queensland Health guidelines;
- All such persons must not shake hands, or attempt to shake hands, with electors as they are entering or waiting to enter a polling booth;
- All such persons must maintain social distancing while near a polling booth by staying 1.5 metres away from other people;
- Candidates, political parties and other electoral participants must actively attempt to minimise the number of workers engaging in these activities at a polling booth; and
- Where available, candidates, political parties and other electoral participants should make use of alternate how-to-vote card and election material distribution methods, including static display, use of a common collection point, or electronic distribution to electors away from a polling booth.

ECQ staff will be actively monitoring compliance with this Direction. Failure to comply with this Direction carries a maximum penalty of 10 penalty units, currently valued at \$1,334.50.

The Electoral Commissioner also has the power to issue further directions, in the event ECQ staff observe non-compliance. Further directions may include outright prohibition of campaign workers, as well as further restriction or banning of how-to-vote card and election material distribution.

Candidates, political parties and other electoral participants who have already self-regulated in excess of what is directed above are encouraged to continue with those arrangements.

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.