

Local Government Candidates Electronic Disclosure System (EDS)

FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

USER GUIDE



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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview of the Act and Regulation

This user guide is intended for local government candidates required to comply with the financial disclosure provisions of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (the Act) and the *Local Government Electoral Regulation 2012* (the Regulation).

1.2 Disclaimer

Publications by the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) are not intended as a substitute for the Act or Regulation. Candidates are advised to obtain a copy of the Act and Regulation, and if necessary, seek independent legal advice. The Act and Regulation are available online at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

1.3 Contacting the ECQ

Please contact the ECQ's Funding and Disclosure Unit for general enquiries and assistance. Our details are set out below:

Postal address: GPO Box 1393

BRISBANE QLD 4001

Office location: Level 20, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane, Queensland

Telephone: 1300 881 665

Email: fad@ecq.qld.gov.au

Internet: www.ecq.qld.gov.au

2. Registering in the EDS

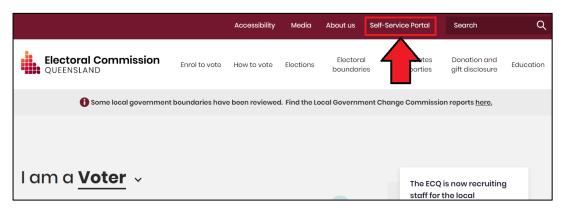
Any person who has announced or formally nominated as a candidate for a local government election will need to register for access to the EDS.

2.1 Initial Setup

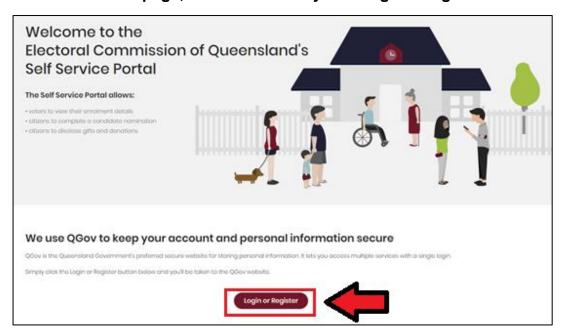
In order to access the EDS and lodge returns as a local candidate, you will first need to register in the ECQ's Self Service Portal and set up your profile.

To do this, please use the following instructions.

- 1. Go to the ECQ's website at https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/.
- 2. Click on the 'Self Service Portal' button at the top of the screen.



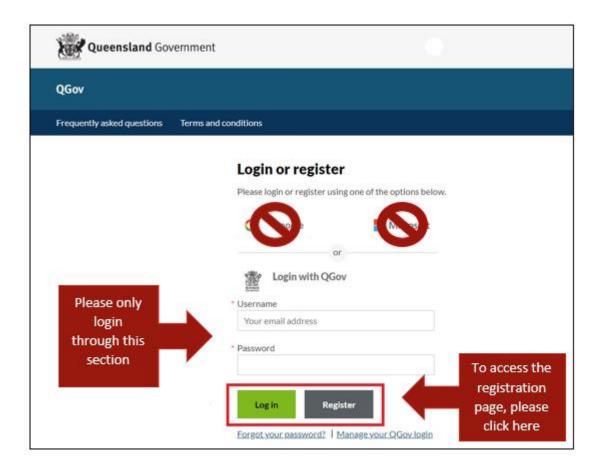
- You can also access the ECQ's Self Service Portal directly at https://selfserv.elections.gld.gov.au/.
- 3. From the Self Service Portal, click on the 'Login or Register' button at the bottom of the page, which will allow you to login using QGov.



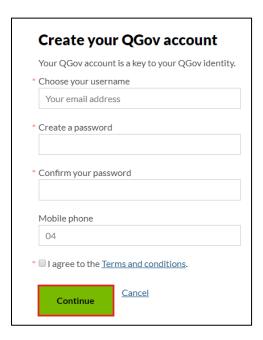
- 4. If <u>you do not have an existing QGov account</u>, click 'Register', then continue to Step 5.
 - <u>Important</u>: Please <u>do not</u> use the Google or Microsoft options to log in or register with QGov

If <u>you do have an existing QGov account</u>, enter your username (email address) and password, click 'Log in', then skip to Step 7.

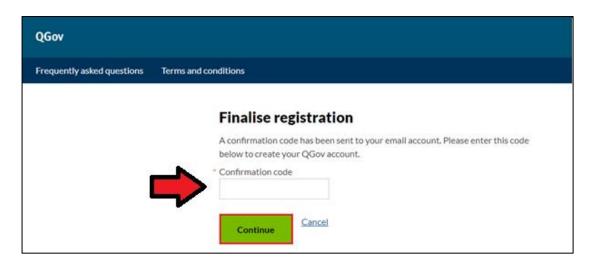
 <u>Important</u>: Please <u>do not</u> use the Google or Microsoft options to log in or register with QGov.



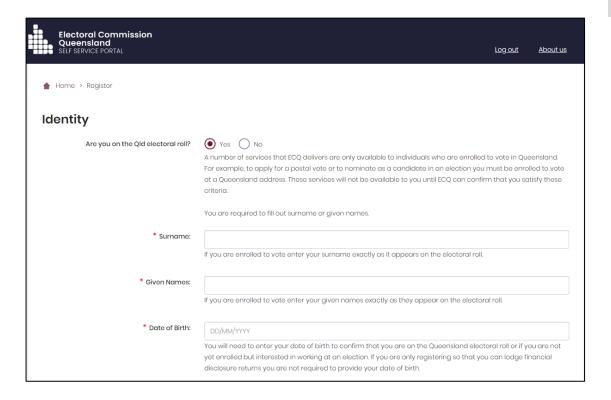
- *Note:* If you have difficulty logging in, please contact SSQ on 13 74 68.
- 5. To register a QGov account, choose a username (email address) and password, and tick the box confirming that you agree to the terms and conditions. Then click 'Continue'.



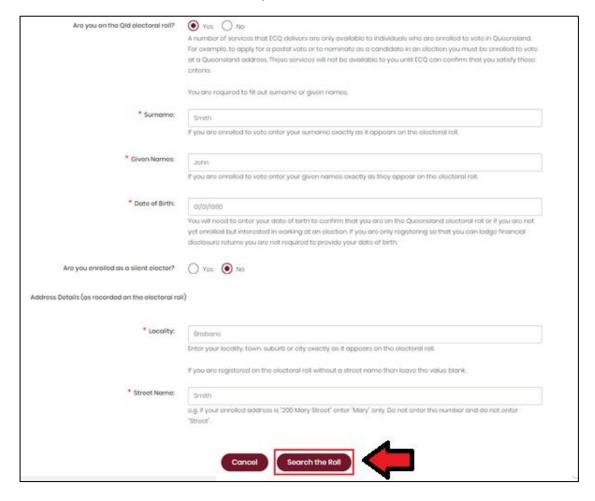
- Note: Your password must have at least 10 characters containing a
 combination of at least 3 of the following: an upper-case letter, a lower-case
 letter, a number, or a special character (e.g. !, @, #, \$, etc.).
- If you have difficulty logging in, please contact SSQ on 13 74 68.
- 6. You will receive an email with a confirmation code. Enter this code into the field provided and click 'Continue'.



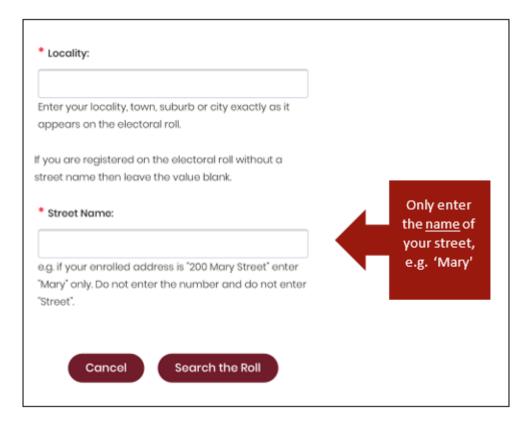
- Note: If you don't receive an email, please contact SSQ on 13 74 68.
- 7. After successfully creating or logging into your QGov account, you will be redirected to the ECQ's Self Service Portal to set up your user profile.



8. Complete all mandatory fields, ensuring that you carefully follow the instructions under each field, then click 'Search the Roll'.



• Note: Your details will be validated against the Queensland electoral roll.



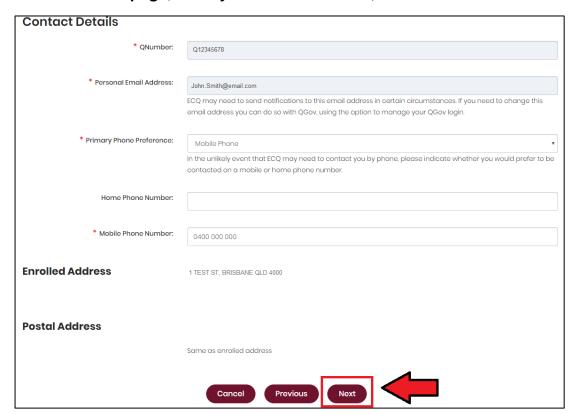
If you are on the Queensland electoral roll and receive an error message stating that 'No entry was found on the Queensland electoral roll matching these details', double check that all information has been typed in correctly.

If you continue to get the error message, check the AEC's website <u>here</u> to check that your enrolment details are up to date.

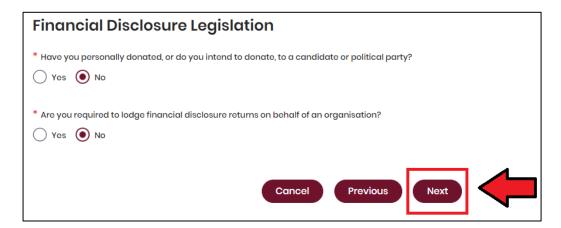
If your enrolment details with the AEC are not up to date, you can continue to create your profile in the ECQ's Self Service Portal using your old details. Once you have updated your information with the AEC, the ECQ will be automatically notified of the change.

If you are <u>not</u> on the Queensland electoral roll (e.g. you are under 18, or enrolled in another State), make sure you change the default response to the first question ('Are you on the Qld electoral roll') from 'Yes' to 'No'.





- Note: If your details have been verified against the electoral roll, your address
 details will be prefilled and will not able to be edited. If you need to change
 these details, go to the <u>AEC's website</u> to update your enrolment information.
- 10.On the 'Financial Disclosure Legislation' page, complete the two questions relating to the types of returns that you may need to lodge in the EDS, then click 'Next'.



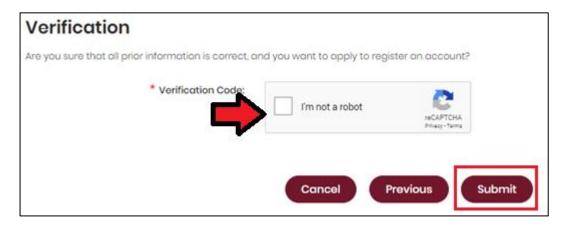
 Note: If you are only required to lodge returns as a <u>candidate</u> for an election, answer 'No' to both these questions.

If you are also required to lodge returns as an <u>individual donor or third</u> <u>party</u>, click 'Yes' to the first question.

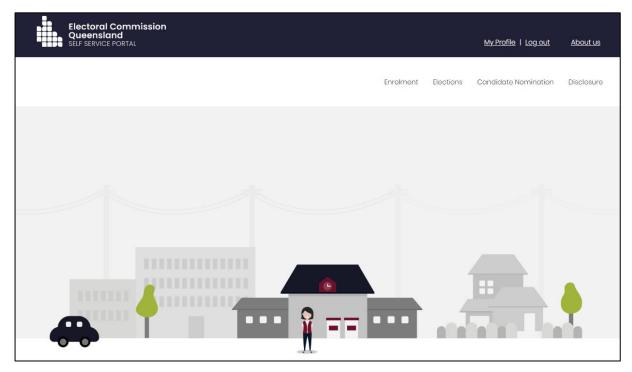
If you are also required to lodge returns on behalf of an <u>organisation that is</u> <u>a donor, third party, publisher, broadcaster or associated entity</u>, click 'Yes' to the second question.

For further instructions on how to register as a donor, third party, publisher, broadcaster or associated entity, refer to the relevant EDS User Guides here on the ECQ's website.

11.On the 'Verification' page, tick the 'I'm not a robot' tick box, then click 'Submit'.



12. You will be redirected to the Self Service Portal home page, from which you can register to be an announced candidate (see <u>Section 2.2</u>) and/or access the EDS (see <u>Section 3</u>).



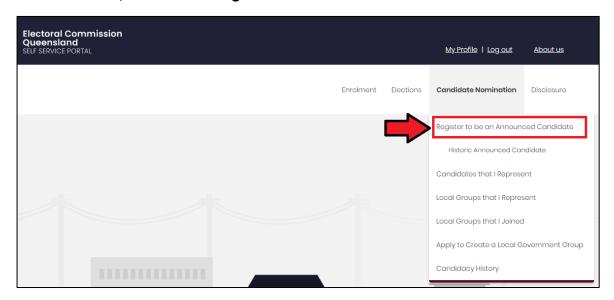
2.2 Register to be an Announced Candidate

After setting up a user profile in the Self Service Portal (see <u>Section 2.1</u>), candidates who have announced or otherwise indicated their intention to nominate for a local government election may need to register their announcement before accessing the EDS.

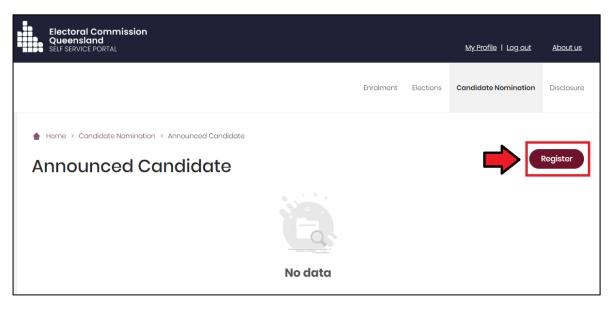
You are <u>not</u> required to register as an announced candidate if you have previously run in a local government election within the last 5 years or have formally nominated for the election. If you are unsure about whether you need to register as an announced candidate, please <u>contact the ECQ</u> for assistance.

To register as an announced candidate, please use the following instructions.

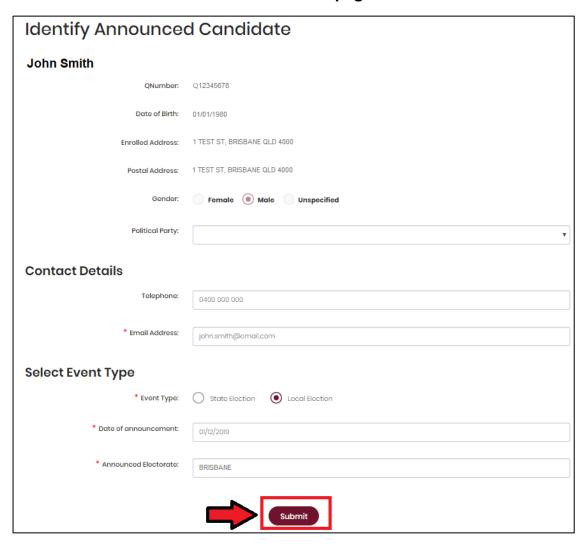
1. From the Self-Service Portal, click 'Candidate Nomination' at the top right of the screen, then click 'Register to be an Announced Candidate'.



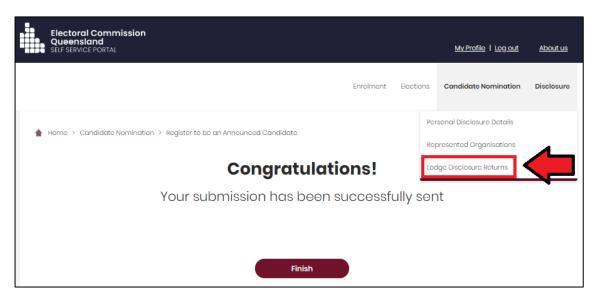
2. Click 'Register'.



3. Complete all relevant details not already prefilled from the electoral roll, then click 'Submit' at the bottom of the page.



4. Once you have completed your announcement, you can access the EDS by clicking 'Disclosure' at the top right of the screen, then 'Lodge Disclosure Returns'.

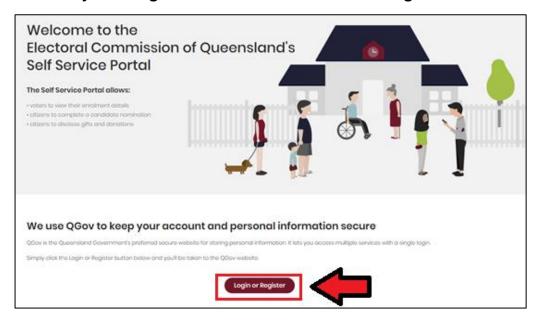


3. Logging into the EDS

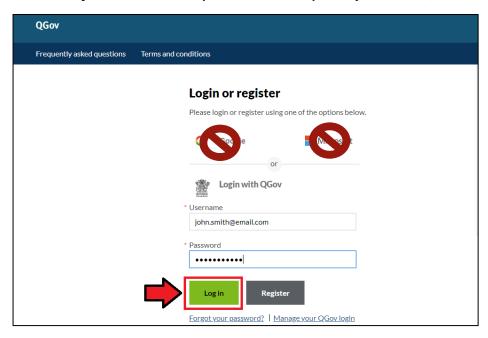
If you are accessing the EDS for the first time since 20 January 2020, make sure you complete <u>Section 2</u> of this User Guide to set up your profile in the ECQ's Self Service Portal.

If you have already set up your profile, you can log back into the EDS at any time by using the following instructions.

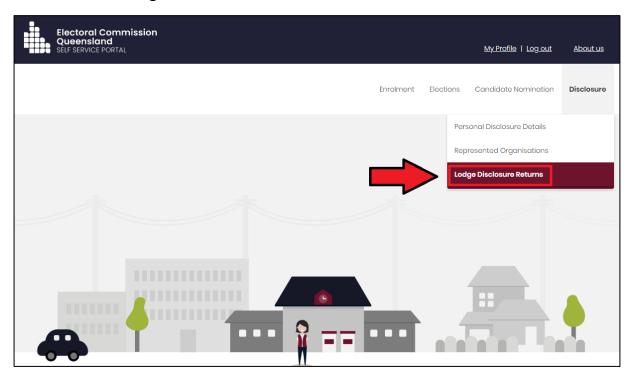
- 1. Go to the ECQ's Self Service Portal at https://selfserv.elections.qld.gov.au/.
- 2. Click on the 'Login or Register' button at the bottom of the page, which will allow you to login to the Self Service Portal using QGov.



3. Enter your username (email address) and password, then click 'Log in'.



- **Note:** If you have forgotten your password, click the 'Forgot your password' button underneath the 'Log in' button.
- If you have difficulty logging in, please contact SSQ on 13 74 68.
- 5. From the Self Service Portal, click 'Disclosure' at the top right of the screen, then click 'Lodge Disclosure Returns'.



- 6. You can also access the EDS directly at https://disclosures.ecq.qld.gov.au/.
 - Click the 'Login / Register' button in the top right-hand corner of the screen.



4. Disclosing a Gift in the EDS

Local government candidates who receive gifts of \$500 or more are required to disclose the details of the gift in a return.

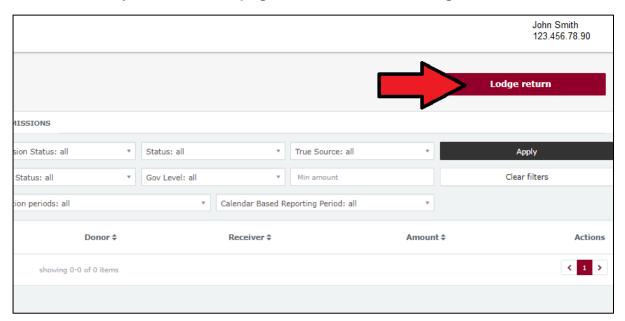
To lodge a return for a gift received *prior to 20 January 2020*, see <u>Section 4.1</u>.

To lodge a return for a gift received on or after 20 January 2020, see Section 4.2.

4.1 Disclosing a Gift Received Before 20 January 2020

To lodge a return for a gift received before 20 January 2020, please use the following instructions:

1. From the My Submissions page of the EDS, click 'Lodge Return'.



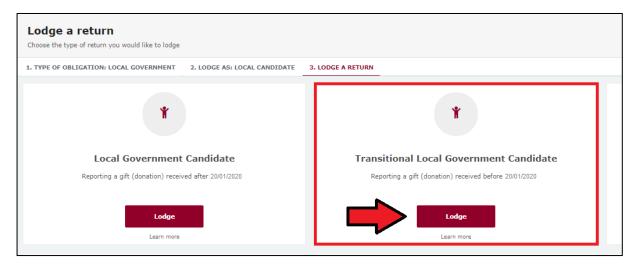
2. Click 'Local Government'.



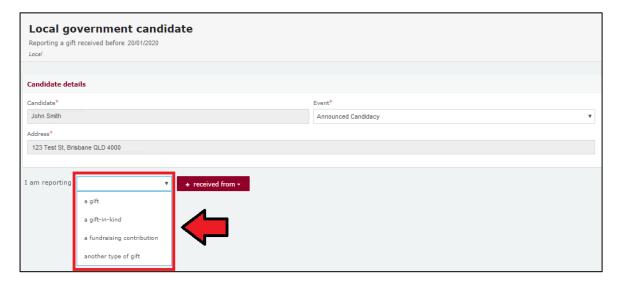
3. Click 'Local Candidate'.



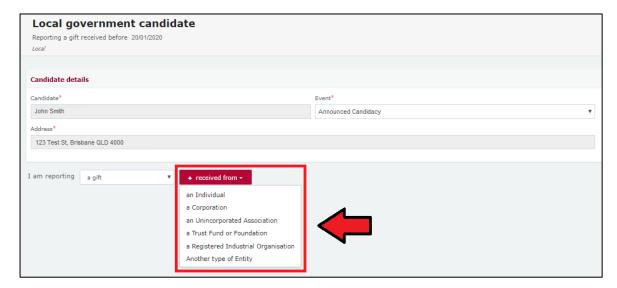
4. Click 'Transitional Local Government Candidate – Reporting a gift (donation) received before 20/01/2020'.



5. Select the gift type from the drop-down menu.



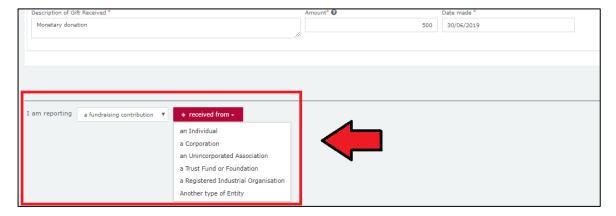
6. Select the donor type from the drop-down menu.



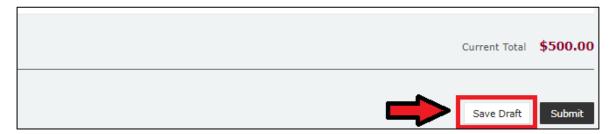
7. Complete all mandatory fields.



 You can disclose additional gifts in the same return by clicking the drop-down menus at the bottom of the page and repeating the steps above.



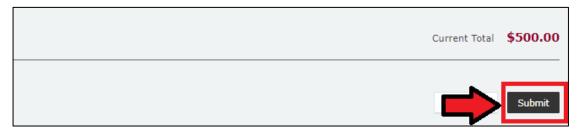
8. You can save a draft copy of your return at any time by clicking 'Save draft'.



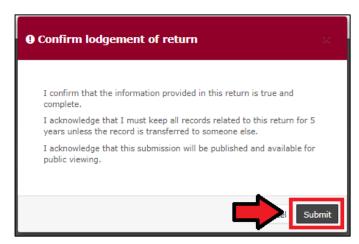
You can access your draft returns by clicking 'Drafts' from the left-hand menu.



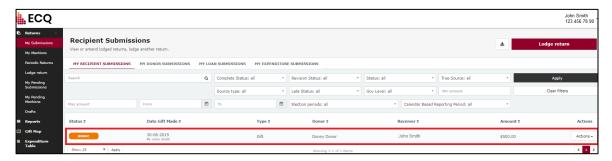
9. To submit your return, click 'Submit'.



10. Read the lodgement information and click 'Submit' to confirm lodgement of your return.



11. Your return will appear in your *My Recipient Submissions* page, as well as on the public *Gift Map* and *Reports* pages.

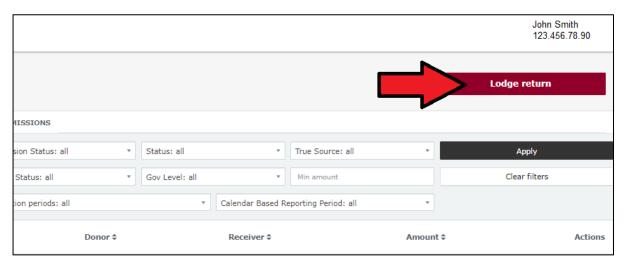


 The status of your return will be unreconciled ('UNREC') until the donor lodges a matching return.

4.2 Disclosing a Gift Received After 20 January 2020

To lodge a return for a gift received on or after 20 January 2020, please use the following instructions.

1. From the My Submissions page of the EDS, click 'Lodge Return'.



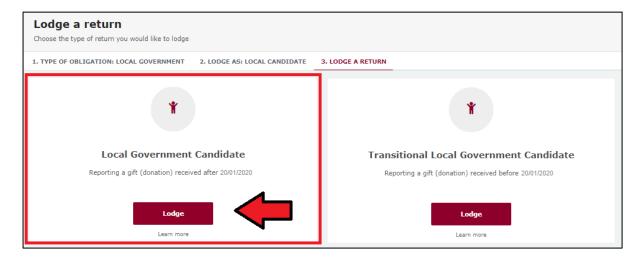
2. Click 'Local Government'.



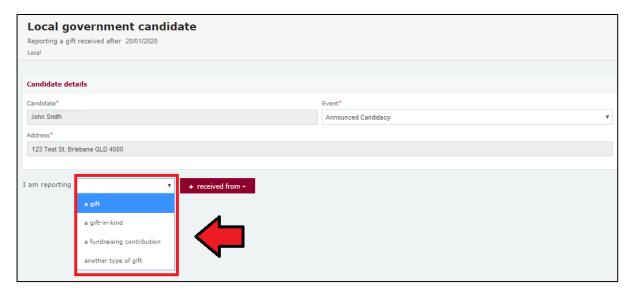
3. Click 'Local Candidate'.



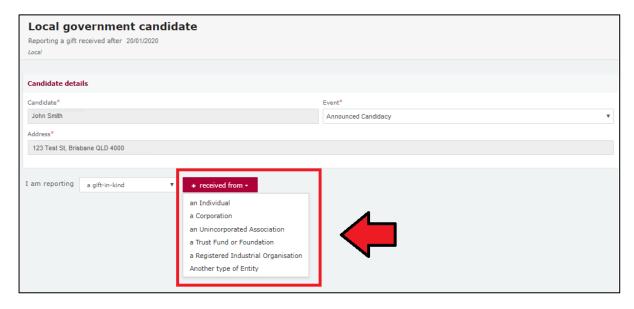
4. Click 'Local Government Candidate – Reporting a gift (donation) received after 20/01/2020'.



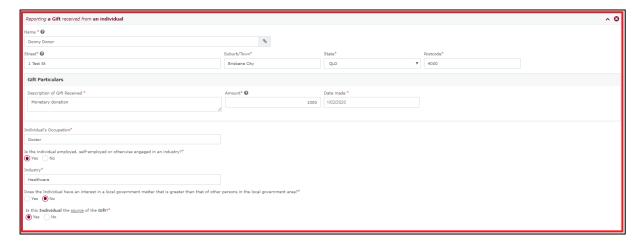
5. Select the gift type from the drop-down menu.



6. Select the donor type from the drop-down menu.



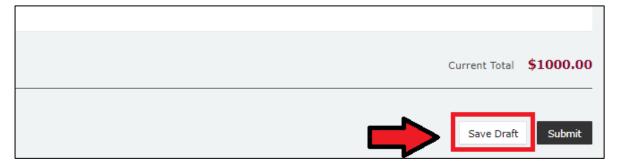
7. Complete all mandatory fields.



 You can disclose additional gifts in the same return by clicking the drop-down menus at the bottom of the page and repeating the steps above.



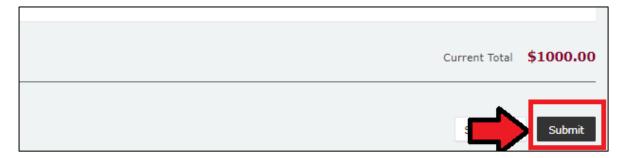
8. You can save a draft copy of your return at any time by clicking 'Save draft'.



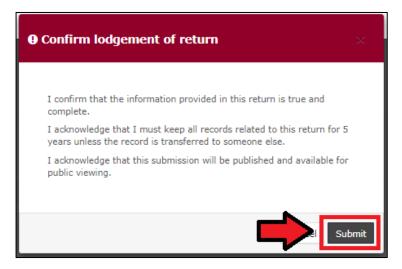
• You can access your draft returns by clicking 'Drafts' from the left-hand menu.



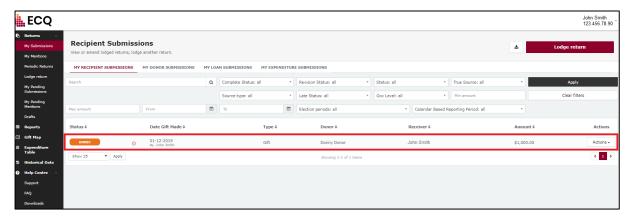
9. To submit your return, click 'Submit'.



10. Read the lodgement information and click 'Submit' to confirm lodgement of your return.



11. Your return will appear in your *My Recipient Submissions* page, as well as on the public *Gift Map* and *Reports* pages.



 The status of your return will be unreconciled ('UNREC') until the donor lodges a matching return.

5. Disclosing a Loan in the EDS

Local government candidates who receive loans of \$500 or more are required to disclose the details of the loan in a return.

To lodge a return for a loan received *prior to 20 January 2020*, see <u>Section 5.1</u>.

To lodge a return for a loan received on or after 20 January 2020, see Section 5.2.

5.1 Disclosing a Loan Received Before 20 January 2020

To lodge a return for a loan received before 20 January 2020, please use the following instructions:

1. From the My Submissions page of the EDS, click 'Lodge Return'.



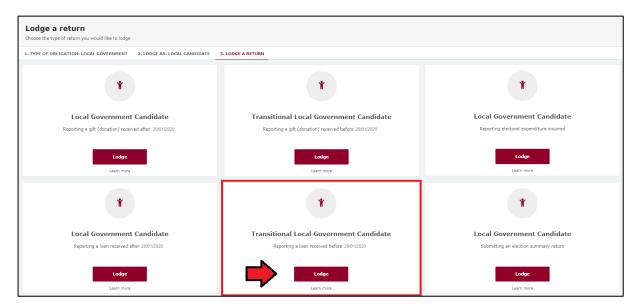
2. Click 'Local Government'.



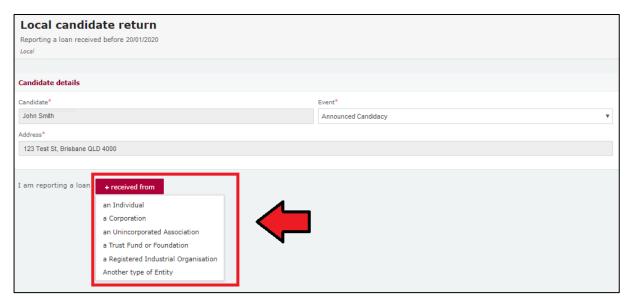
3. Click 'Local Candidate'.



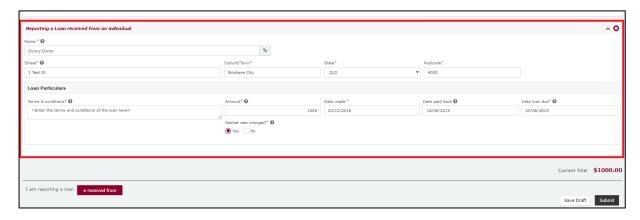
4. Click 'Transitional Local Government Candidate – Reporting a loan received before 20/01/2020'.



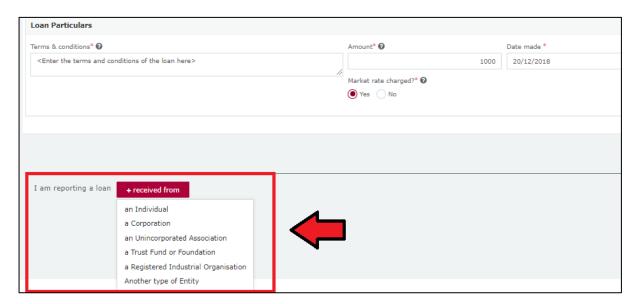
5. Select the type of loan provider from the drop-down menu.



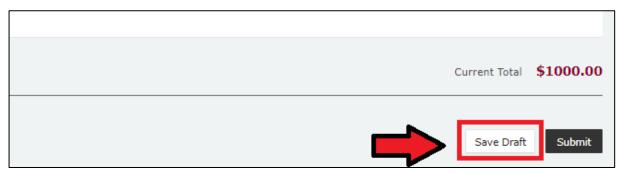
6. Complete all mandatory fields.



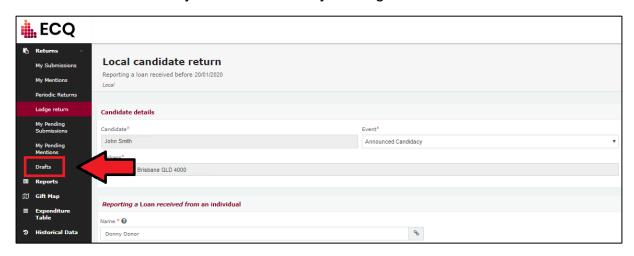
You can disclose additional loans in the same return by clicking the '+
received from' button at the bottom of the page and repeating the steps
above.



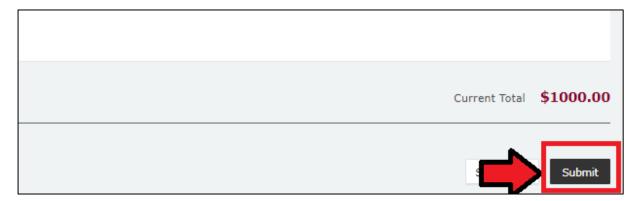
7. You can save a draft copy of your return at any time by clicking 'Save draft'.



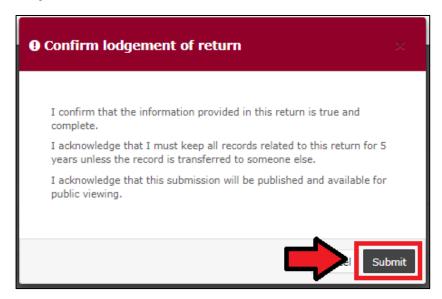
• You can access your draft returns by clicking 'Drafts' from the left-hand menu.



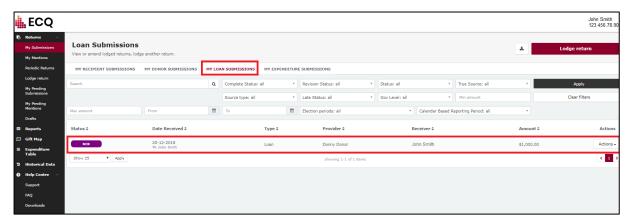
8. To submit your return, click 'Submit'.



9. Read the lodgement information and click 'Submit' to confirm lodgement of your return.



10. Your return will appear in your *My Loan Submissions* page, as well as on the public *Reports* page.

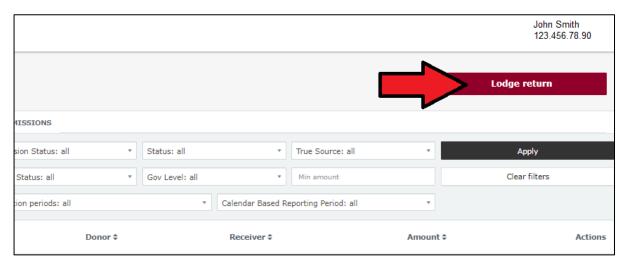


 The status of your return will appear as 'NCR' ('No Corresponding Return') to signify that a corresponding return from the loan provider is not required.

5.2 Disclosing a Loan Received After 20 January 2020

To lodge a return for a loan received on or after 20 January 2020, please use the following instructions.

1. From the My Submissions page of the EDS, click 'Lodge Return'.



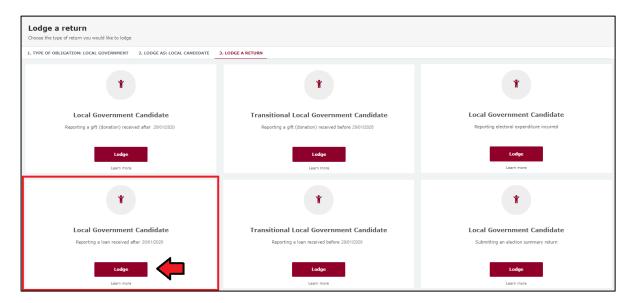
2. Click 'Local Government'.



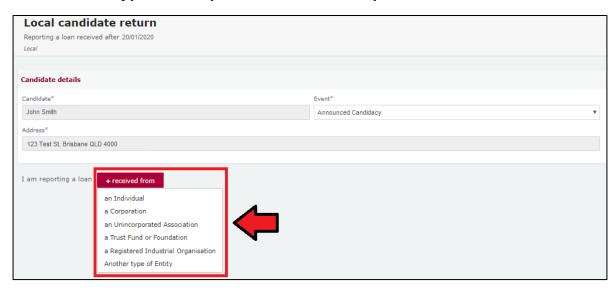
3. Click 'Local Candidate'.



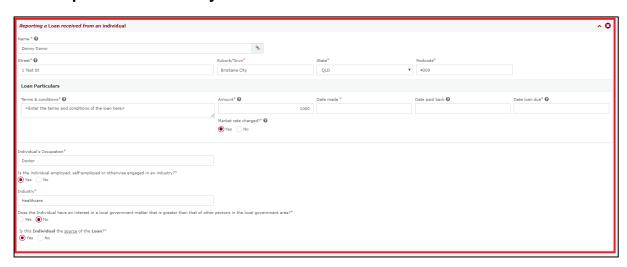
4. Click 'Transitional Local Government Candidate – Reporting a loan received after 20/01/2020'.



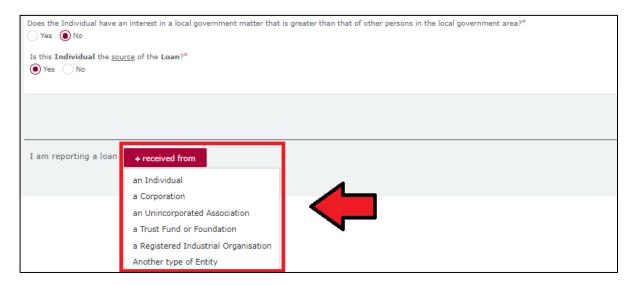
5. Select the type of loan provider from the drop-down menu.



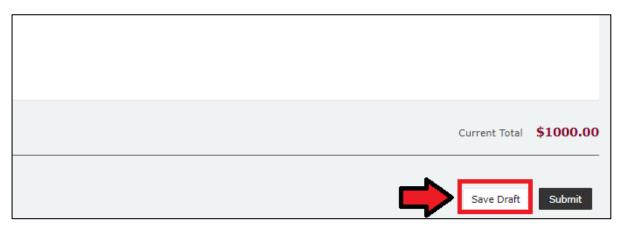
6. Complete all mandatory fields.



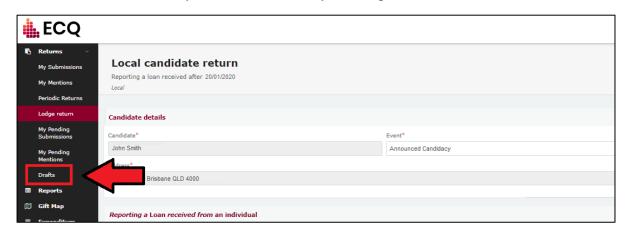
You can disclose additional loans in the same return by clicking the '+
received from' button at the bottom of the page and repeating the steps
above.



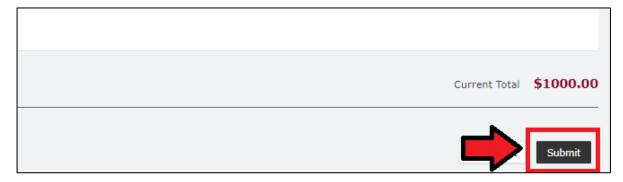
7. You can save a draft copy of your return at any time by clicking 'Save draft'.



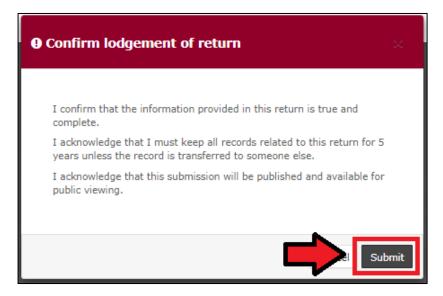
• You can access your draft returns by clicking 'Drafts' from the left-hand menu.



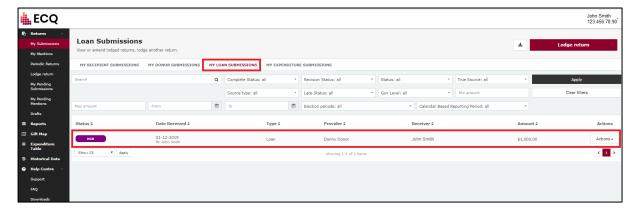
8. To submit your return, click 'Submit'.



9. Read the lodgement information and click 'Submit' to confirm lodgement of your return.



10. Your return will appear in your *My Loan Submissions* page, as well as on the public *Reports* page.



 The status of your return will appear as 'NCR' ('No Corresponding Return') to signify that a corresponding return from the loan provider is not required.

Disclosing Electoral Expenditure in the EDS

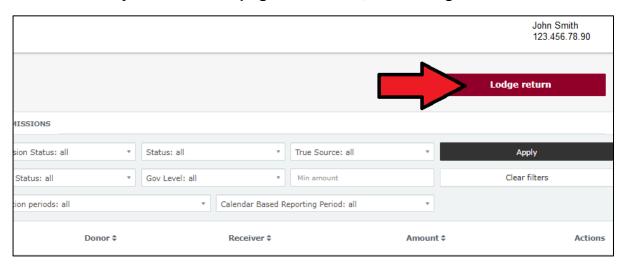
Local government candidates who incur electoral expenditure of \$500 or more are required to disclose the details of the expenditure in a return.

Items of electoral expenditure can be disclosed *individually* (see <u>Section 6.1</u>) or by using a *bulk upload spreadsheet* (see <u>Section 6.2</u>). The bulk upload spreadsheet is recommended when there is a large number of expenditure items to disclose all at once.

6.1 Disclosing Electoral Expenditure Individually

To lodge a return for individual items of electoral expenditure, please use the following instructions.

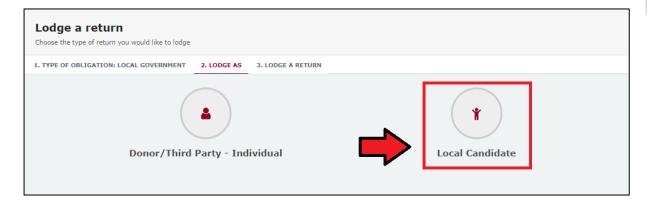
1. From the My Submissions page of the EDS, click 'Lodge Return'.



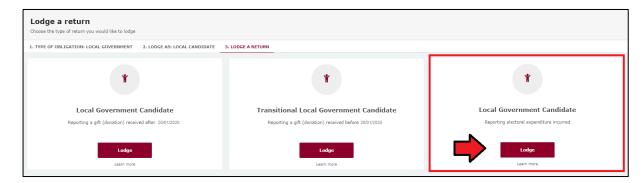
2. Click 'Local Government'.



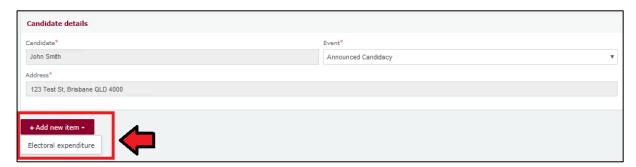
3. Click 'Local Candidate'.



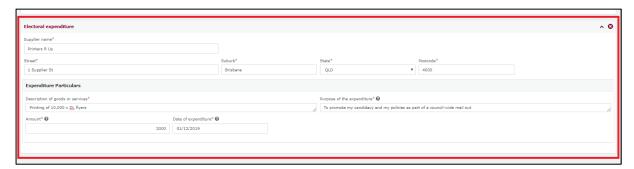
4. Click 'Local Government Candidate – Reporting electoral expenditure incurred'.



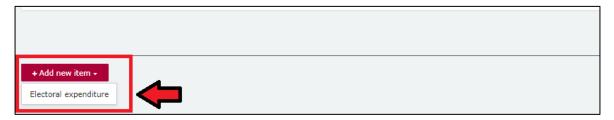
5. Click 'Add new item', then 'Electoral Expenditure'.



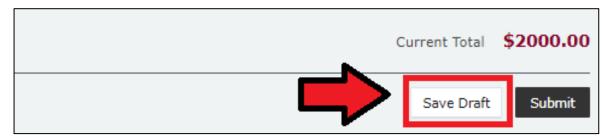
6. Complete all mandatory fields.



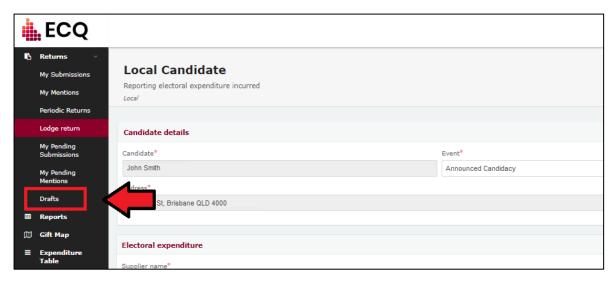
• You can disclose additional items of electoral expenditure in the same return by clicking the '+ Add new item' button at the bottom of the page and repeating the steps above.



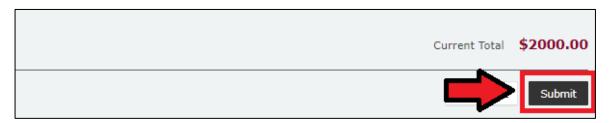
7. You can save a draft copy of your return at any time by clicking 'Save draft'.



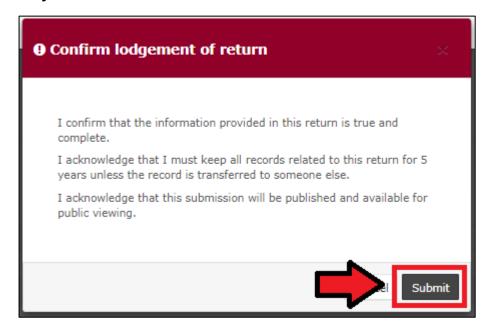
• You can access your draft returns by clicking 'Drafts' from the left-hand menu.



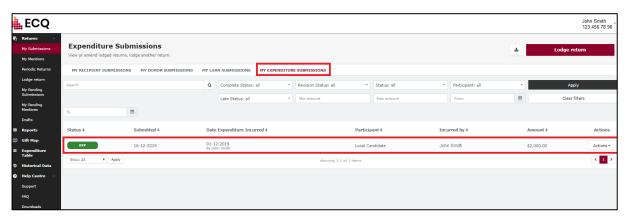
8. To submit your return, click 'Submit'.



9. Read the lodgement information and click 'Submit' to confirm lodgement of your return.



10. Your return will appear in your *My Expenditure Submissions* page, as well as on the public *Expenditure Table* and *Reports* pages.



6.2 Disclosing Electoral Expenditure Using a Bulk Upload Spreadsheet

To lodge a return for multiple items of electoral expenditure using a bulk upload spreadsheet, please use the following instructions.

1. From the My Submissions page of the EDS, click 'Lodge Return'.



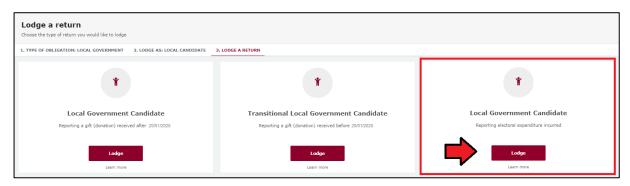
2. Click 'Local Government'.



3. Click 'Local Candidate'.



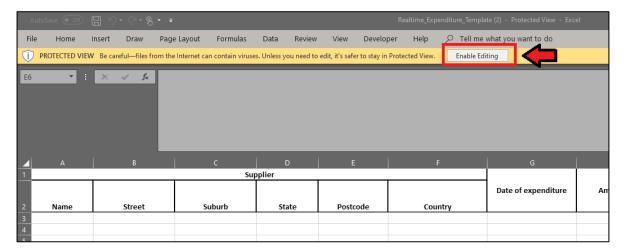
4. Click 'Local Government Candidate – Reporting electoral expenditure incurred'.



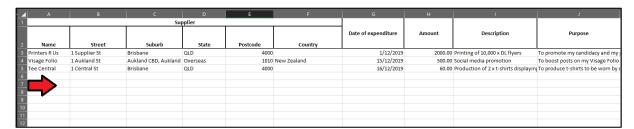
5. Click the '+Bulk upload' button in the top right-hand corner, then click 'Download template'.



- 6. Click to open the file in Microsoft Excel once it has finished downloading.
 - Note: Google Chrome downloads will appear in the lower left of the page, Internet Explorer downloads will appear in a popup box and Apple Safari downloads will be available in the download icon in the lower right of the screen.
- 7. Click to 'Enable Editing' at the top of the Excel spreadsheet.



8. Complete all fields in the spreadsheet with the details of each item of expenditure you wish to upload.



- Note: The 'Country' field is only required for overseas addresses.
- <u>Important</u>: Please do not change, add or remove any of the spreadsheet columns, otherwise the template will not upload properly. This includes wording that you copy and paste from a different document it must match the options available from any drop-down lists in the template (e.g. State).

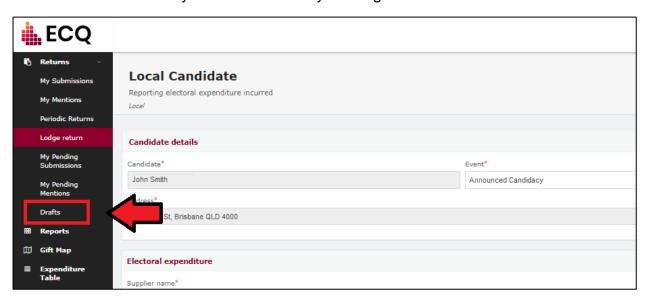
- 9. Once you have entered all expenditure items into the spreadsheet, save the file to your computer.
- 10. From the EDS lodgement page, click '+ Bulk upload', then 'Upload template'.



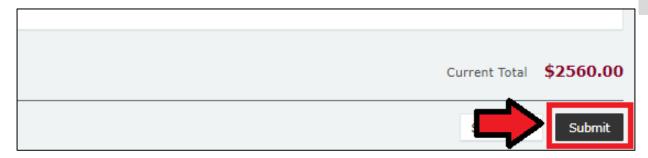
- Select the bulk upload spreadsheet from where it is saved on your computer;
 this will upload the expenditure items into the EDS.
- 11. You can save a draft copy of your return at any time by clicking 'Save draft'.



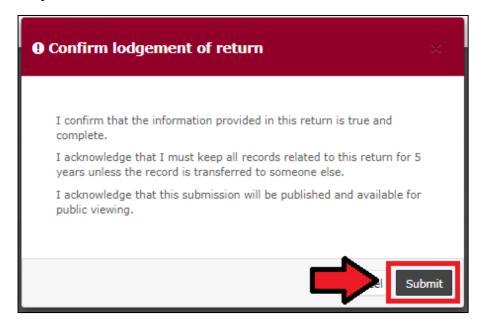
• You can access your draft returns by clicking 'Drafts' from the left-hand menu.



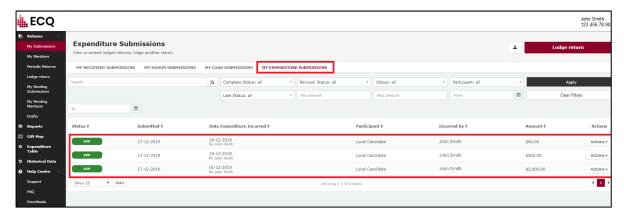
12. To submit your return, click 'Submit'.



13. Read the lodgement information and click 'Submit' to confirm lodgement of your return.



14. Your returns will appear in your *My Expenditure Submissions* page, as well as on the public *Expenditure Table* and *Reports* pages.



7. Submitting a Transitional Return

Transitional returns are required to be lodged for the 2020 Local Government Quadrennial Election by:

- All sitting councillors (including those who do not intend on recontesting the 2020 election);
- All candidates whose disclosure period for the 2020 Local Government Quadrennial Election started before 20 January 2020.

The 2 types of transitional returns that are required to be lodged are:

- 1. Transitional Gift/Loan Return (see Section 7.1)
- 2. Transitional Electoral Expenditure Return (see Section 7.2)

Both returns must be lodged in the EDS even if you did not receive any gifts or loans or incur any electoral expenditure.

7.1 Submitting a Transitional Gift/Loan Return

In this return, you are required to disclose the total value of all gifts and/or loans that you received prior to 20 January 2020, and the number of entities that made those gifts/loans.

Important: If you received any gifts or loans totalling \$500 or more during the transitional period, you must lodge a separate return in the EDS for each of these gifts/loans **prior to** submitting your Transitional Gift/Loan Return. See Section 4.1 and Section 5.1 for instructions on how to lodge these returns.

To lodge your Transitional Gift/Loan Return, please use the following instructions.

1. From the My Submissions page of the EDS, click 'Lodge Return'.



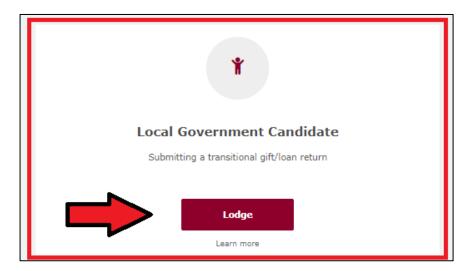
2. Click 'Local Government'.



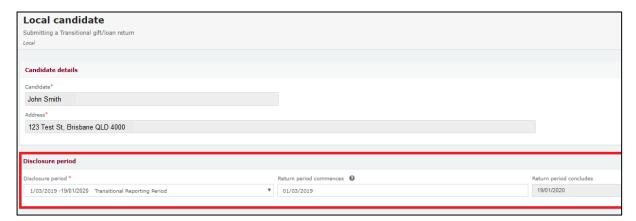
3. Click 'Local Candidate'.



4. Click 'Local Government Candidate – Submitting a transitional gift/loan return'.

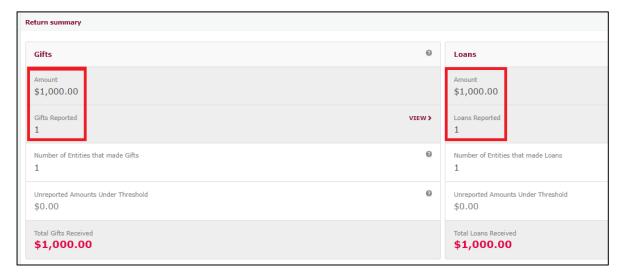


5. The 'Disclosure period' section will prefill with the transitional reporting period.



- Note: The transitional period for gifts and loans commences either on your announcement date (if you are a new candidate), or 30 days after election day for the last election in which you were a candidate.
- 6. If you <u>did not receive any gifts or loans</u> during the transitional period, go to Step 8. Otherwise, continue to Step 7.

- 7. The *Return Summary* is a summary of all the gifts and loans you have received during the transitional period.
 - The 'Amount' and 'Gifts/Loans Reported' fields will display the total amount and number of any gifts/loans that you have already reported in the EDS using the instructions in <u>Section 4.1</u> or <u>Section 5.1</u>.



 You can review any gifts/loans that you have already reported in the EDS by clicking the 'View' button.



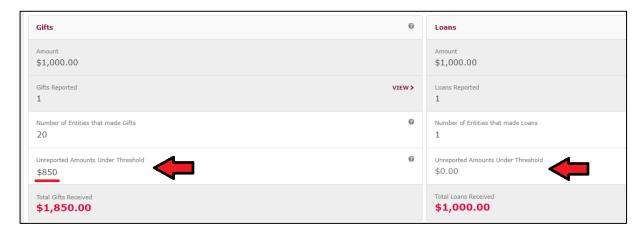
• The 'Number of Entities that made Gifts/Loans' field is also prefilled based on any gifts/loans that you have already reported in the EDS.



- This field is editable and should be updated to reflect the total number of entities that made gifts/loans to you during this period, including any gifts/loans of less than \$500.



• The 'Unreported Amounts Under Threshold' field is also editable, and should be updated with the total value of any gifts/loans that you received of less than \$500 that have not already been reported in the EDS.



- <u>For example:</u> You received a \$1,000 gift from a donor during the transitional period, which you have already reported in the EDS in a separate return (see <u>Section 4.1</u>). This gift will appear automatically in the 'Amount' and 'Gifts Reported' fields of your Transitional Gift/Loan Return.

However, during the transitional period, you also received a number of smaller gifts from 19 other donors, totalling \$850. In the 'Number of Entities that made Gifts' field, you will need to update the number from '1' to '20'. In the 'Unreported Amounts Under Threshold' field, you will need to update the amount from '\$0.00' to '\$850.00'.

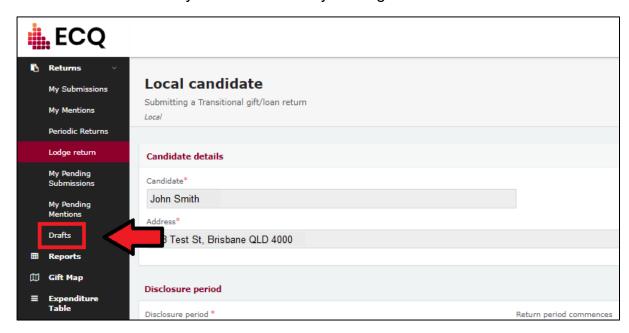
• The 'Total Gifts/Loans Received' field should reflect the total amount of gifts/loans that you received during the transitional period. It is calculated based on the sum of the 'Amount' field and the 'Unreported Amounts Under Threshold' field.



8. You can save a draft copy of your return at any time by clicking 'Save draft'.



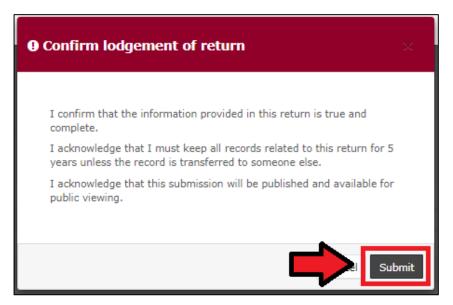
• You can access your draft returns by clicking 'Drafts' from the left-hand menu.



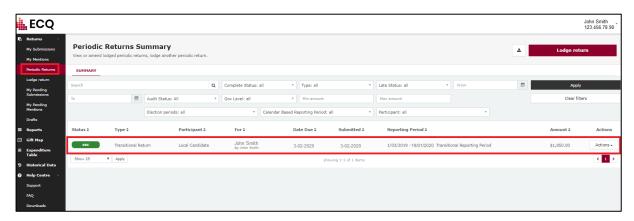
- 9. To submit your return, click 'Submit'.
 - **Note:** If no gifts or loans were received, the button will appear as 'Submit Nil Return'.



10. Read the lodgement information and click 'Submit' to confirm lodgement of your return.



11. Your return will appear in your *Periodic Returns* page, as well as on the public *Reports* page.



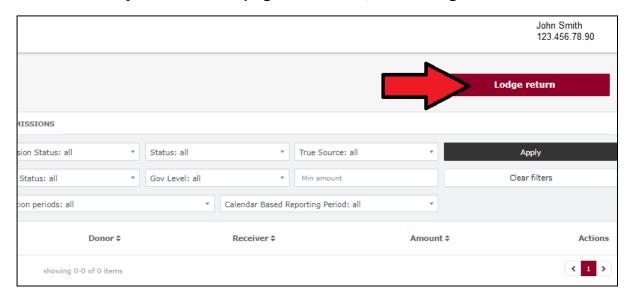
7.2 Submitting a Transitional Electoral Expenditure Return

In this return, you are required to disclose the total amount of electoral expenditure that you incurred between 1 May 2019 and 19 January 2020.

<u>Important:</u> If you incurred \$500 or more in electoral expenditure during the transitional period, you must lodge a separate return in the EDS for each item of expenditure **prior to** submitting your Transitional Electoral Expenditure Return. See <u>Section 6</u> for instructions on how to lodge these returns.

To lodge your Transitional Electoral Expenditure Return, please use the following instructions.

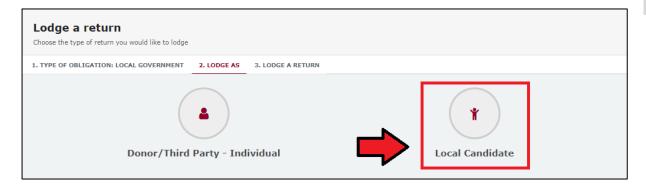
1. From the My Submissions page of the EDS, click 'Lodge Return'.



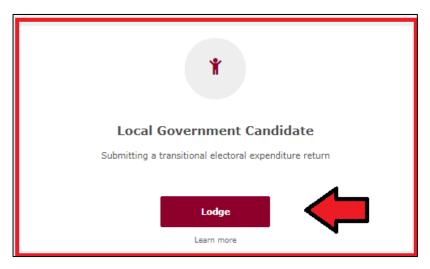
2. Click 'Local Government'.



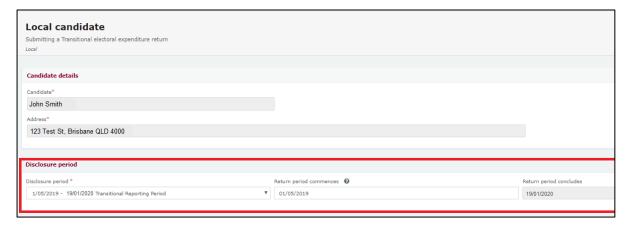
3. Click 'Local Candidate'.



4. Click 'Local Government Candidate – Submitting a transitional electoral expenditure return'.

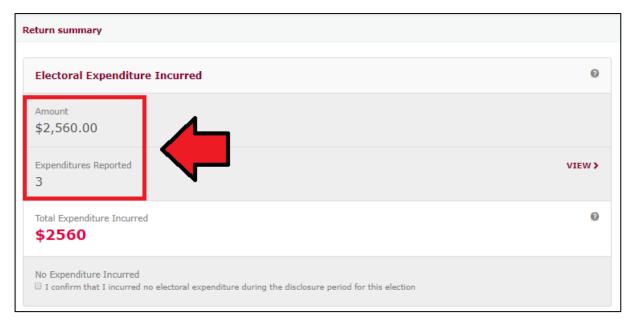


5. The 'Disclosure period' section will prefill with the transitional reporting period.

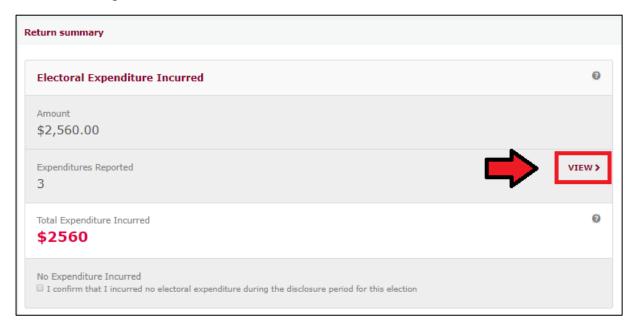


- **Note:** The transitional period for electoral expenditure commences on 1 May 2019, regardless of your individual circumstances.
- 6. If <u>you did not incur any electoral expenditure</u> during the transitional period, go to Step 8. Otherwise, continue to Step 7.

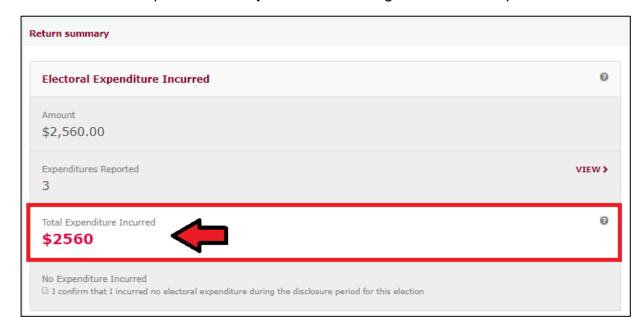
- 7. The *Return Summary* is a summary of all electoral expenditure you have incurred during the transitional period.
 - The 'Amount' and 'Expenditures Reported' field will display the total amount and number of any items of electoral expenditure that you have already reported in the EDS using the instructions in <u>Section 6</u>.



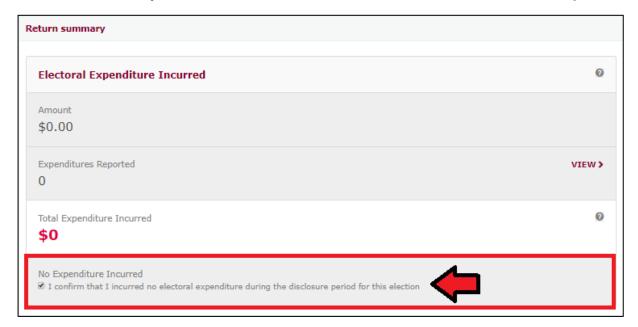
• You can review any expenditure that you have already reported in the EDS by clicking the 'View' button.



 The 'Total Expenditure Incurred' field should reflect the total amount of electoral expenditure that you incurred during the transitional period.

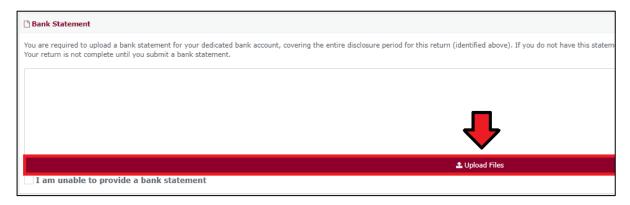


- **Note:** If you incurred less than \$500 in total electoral expenditure during the transitional period, you must update the '*Total Expenditure Incurred*' field with the total value of your expenditure.
- 8. If you did not incur any electoral expenditure during the transitional period, tick the 'No Expenditure Incurred' tick box. Otherwise, continue to Step 9.

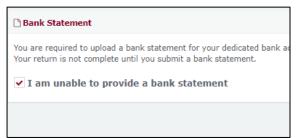


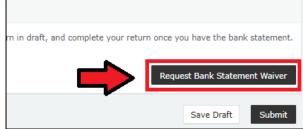
9. The *Bank Statement* section is where you will upload your bank statement for your dedicated account.

 Use the 'Upload Files' button to upload your bank statement. You can attach multiple files if required.

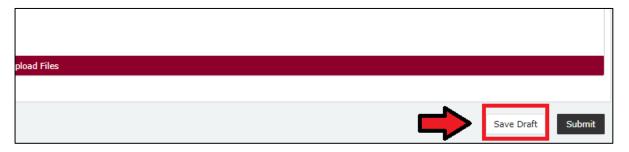


If you are unable to provide a bank statement, tick the 'I am unable to provide
a bank statement' tick box, then click 'Request Bank Statement Waiver'. You
will need to provide a justification for your request, which will be assessed by
the ECQ.





10. You can save a draft copy of your return at any time by clicking 'Save draft'.

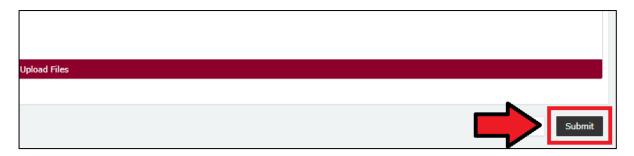


• You can access your draft returns by clicking 'Drafts' from the left-hand menu.

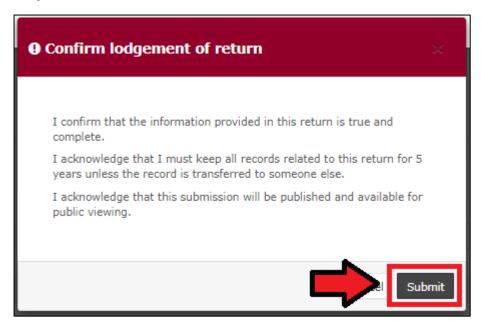


11. To submit your return, click 'Submit'.

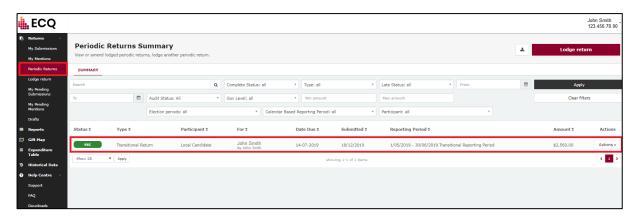
• **Note:** If no expenditure was incurred, the button will appear as 'Submit Nil Return'.



12. Read the lodgement information and click 'Submit' to confirm lodgement of your return.



13. Your return will appear in your *Periodic Returns* page, as well as on the public *Reports* page.



8. Submitting an Election Summary Return

All candidates for a local government election are required to lodge an Election Summary Return within 15 weeks of election day.

In this return, you are required to disclose the total value of all gifts and/or loans that you received during your disclosure period for the election, the total number of entities that made those gifts/loans, and the total amount of electoral expenditure that you incurred.

<u>Important:</u> If you received any gifts or loans totalling \$500 or more during your disclosure period, you must lodge a separate return in the EDS for each of these gifts/loans *prior to* submitting your Election Summary Return. See <u>Section 4.2</u> and <u>Section 5.2</u> for instructions on how to lodge these returns.

Additionally, if you incurred \$500 or more in electoral expenditure for the election, you must lodge a separate return in the EDS for each item of expenditure *prior to* submitting your Election Summary Return. See <u>Section 6</u> for instructions on how to lodge these returns.

To lodge your Election Summary Return, please use the following instructions.

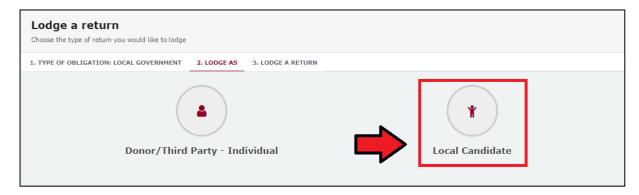
1. From the My Submissions page of the EDS, click 'Lodge Return'.



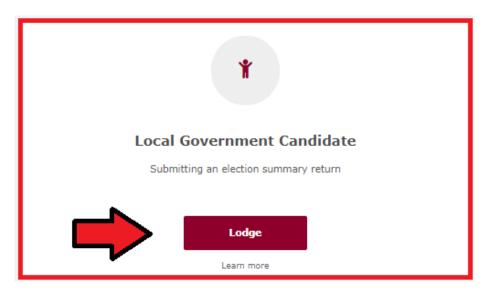
2. Click 'Local Government'.



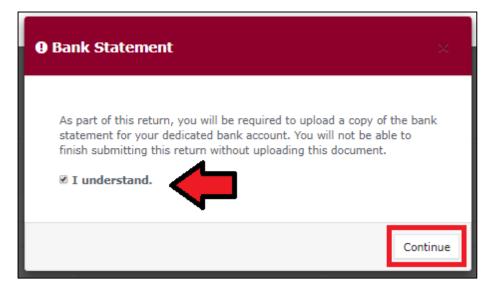
3. Click 'Local Candidate'.



4. Click 'Local Government Candidate – Submitting an election summary return'.



5. Tick the 'I understand' tick box to indicate your understanding of the requirement to give a bank statement with your return, then click 'Continue'.



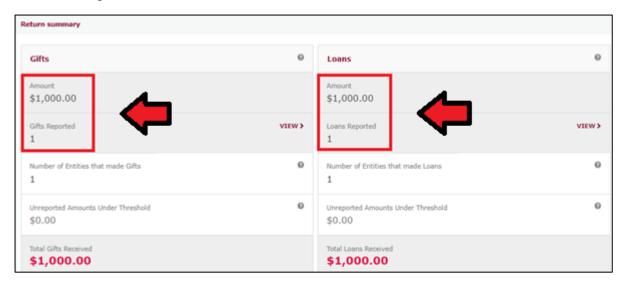
6. Select the relevant election from the 'Event' drop-down menu.



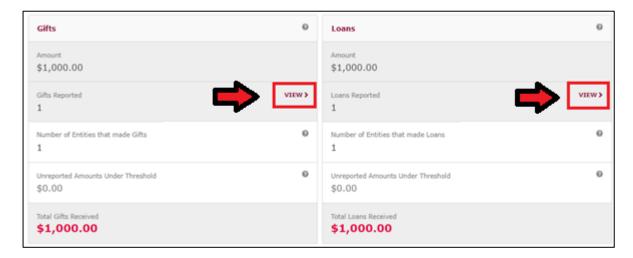
7. If you have contested more than one election, you will also need to select the 'Disclosure period' from the drop-down menu. You are not required to complete a return for previous elections, if you have that option.



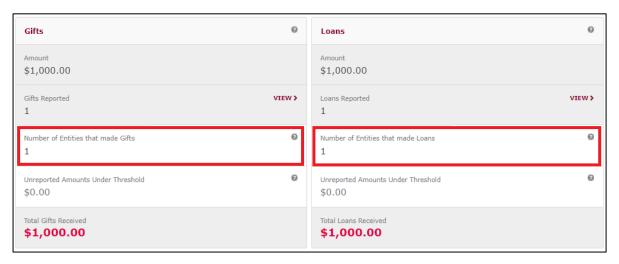
- 8. If you <u>did not receive any gifts or loans</u> during your disclosure period, go to Step 10. Otherwise, continue to Step 9.
- 9. The *Return Summary* section includes a summary of all the gifts and loans you have received during your disclosure period.
 - The 'Amount' and 'Gifts/Loans Reported' fields will display the total amount and number of any gifts/loans that you have already reported in the EDS using the instructions in <u>Section 4.2</u> and <u>Section 5.2</u>.



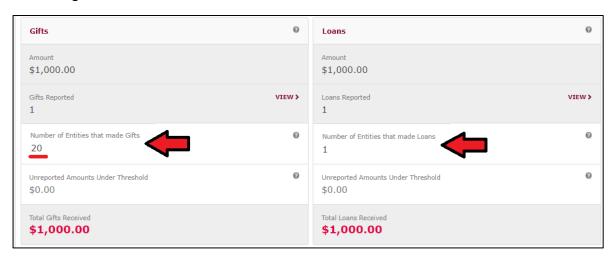
 You can review any gifts/loans already reported in the EDS by clicking the 'View' button.



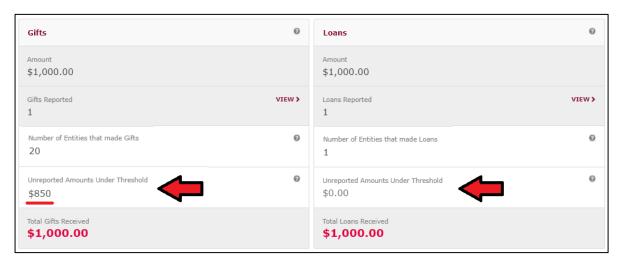
 The 'Number of Entities that made Gifts/Loans' field is prefilled based on any gifts/loans that you have already reported in the EDS.



- This field is editable and should be updated to reflect the total number of entities that made gifts/loans to you during this period, including any gifts/loans of less than \$500.



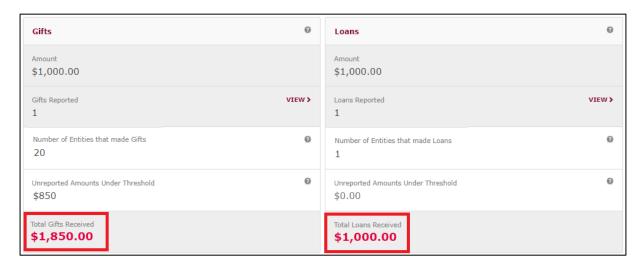
• The 'Unreported Amounts Under Threshold' field is also editable, and should be updated with the total value of any gifts/loans that you received of less than \$500 that have not already been reported in the EDS.



- <u>For example:</u> You received a \$1,000 gift from a donor during your disclosure period, which you have already reported in the EDS in a separate return (see <u>Section 4.2</u>). This gift will appear automatically in the 'Amount' and 'Gifts Reported' fields of your Election Summary Return.

However, during your disclosure period, you also received a number of smaller gifts from 19 other donors, totalling \$850. In the 'Number of Entities that made Gifts' field, you will need to update the number from '1' to '20'. In the 'Unreported Amounts Under Threshold' field, you will need to update the amount from '\$0.00' to '\$850.00'.

 The 'Total Gifts/Loans Received' field should reflect the total amount of gifts/loans you received during your disclosure period. It is calculated based on the sum of the 'Amount' field and the 'Unreported Amounts Under Threshold' field.



- 10.If you <u>did not incur any electoral expenditure</u> during your disclosure period, go to Step 12. Otherwise, continue to Step 11.
- 11. The *Return Summary* section also includes a summary of all electoral expenditure that you have incurred during your disclosure period.
 - The 'Amount' and 'Expenditures Reported' fields will display the total amount and number of any items of electoral expenditure that you have already reported in the EDS using the instructions in <u>Section 6</u>.



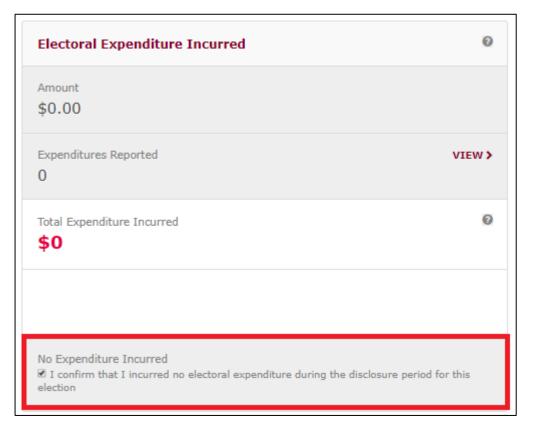
 You can review any expenditure that you have already reported in the EDS by clicking the 'View' button.



• The 'Total Expenditure Incurred' field should reflect the total amount of electoral expenditure that you incurred during your disclosure period.

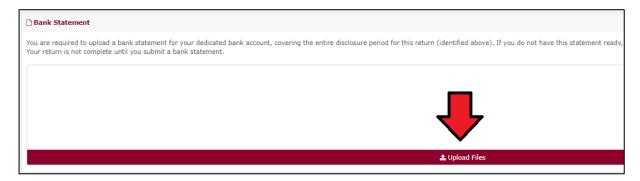


- **Note:** If you incurred less than \$500 in total electoral expenditure during your disclosure period, you must update the '*Total Expenditure Incurred*' field with the total value of your expenditure.
- 12.If you did not incur any electoral expenditure during your disclosure period, tick the 'No Expenditure Incurred' tick box. Otherwise, continue to Step 13.

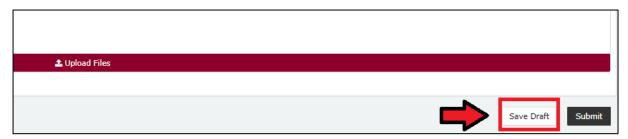


13. The *Bank Statement* section is where you will upload your bank statement for your dedicated account.

 Use the 'Upload Files' button to upload your bank statement. You can attach multiple files if required.



14. You can save a draft copy of your return at any time by clicking 'Save draft'.

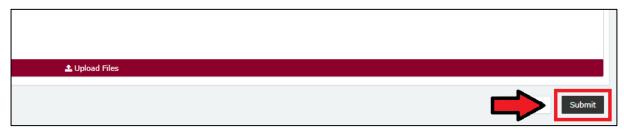


• You can access your draft returns by clicking 'Drafts' from the left-hand menu.

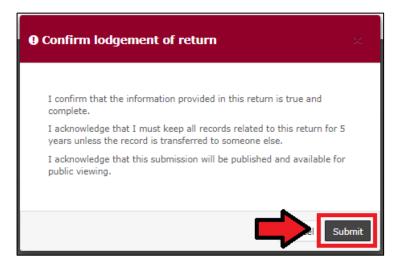


14. To submit your return, click 'Submit'.

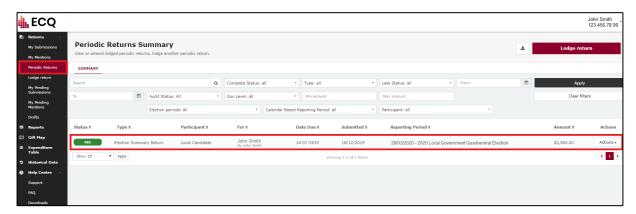
• **Note:** If no gifts or loans were received, and no expenditure was incurred, the button will appear as 'Submit Nil Return'.



15. Read the lodgement information and click 'Submit' to confirm lodgement of your return.



16. Your return will appear in your *Periodic Returns* page, as well as on the public *Reports* page.

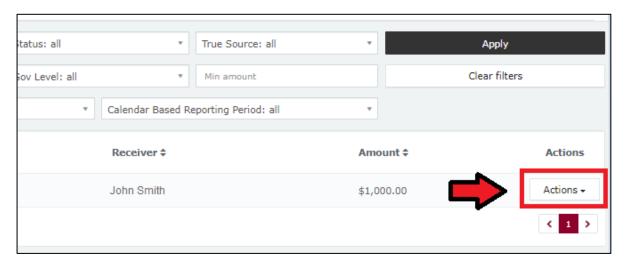


9. Amending a Return in the EDS

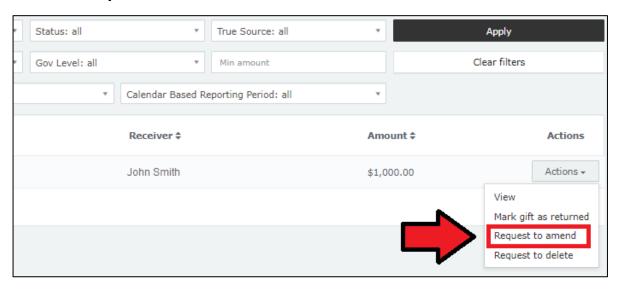
If you have made an error or omission in a return that you have previously lodged in the EDS, you can request for the ECQ to amend the return.

To request to amend a return in the EDS, please use the following instructions.

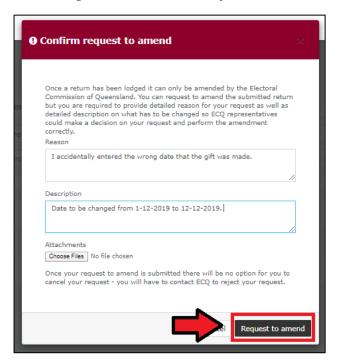
- 1. Locate the return that you wish to amend from the *My Submissions* page or the *Periodic Returns* page of the EDS.
- 2. Click the 'Actions' button next to the return.



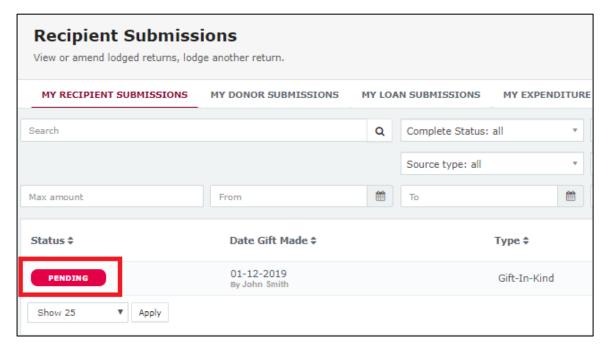
3. Click 'Request to Amend'.



4. Enter a reason for the amendment, and a description of what needs to be changed, then click 'Request to Amend'.



5. The status of the return will change to 'PENDING', and the return will be temporarily removed from the public *Gift Map* and *Reports* pages.



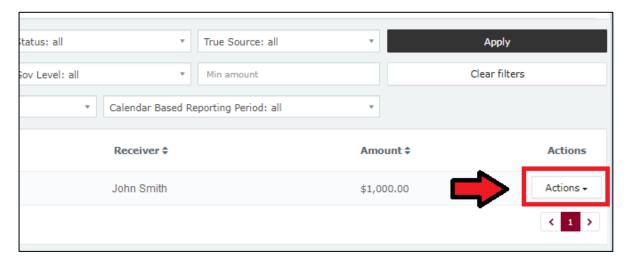
6. You will receive an email once the amendment has been processed by the ECQ.

10. Mark a Gift as Returned in the EDS

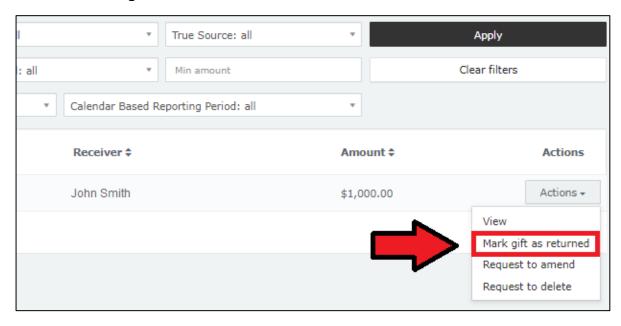
If you have lodged a return in the EDS for a gift that you received that has since been returned to the donor, you can mark the gift as returned.

To mark a gift as returned in the EDS, please use the following instructions.

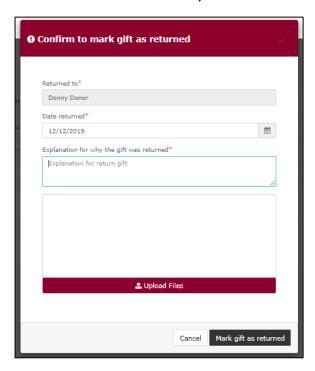
- 1. Locate the return for the gift that you wish to mark as returned from the *My Submissions* page of the EDS.
- 2. Click the 'Actions' button next to the return.



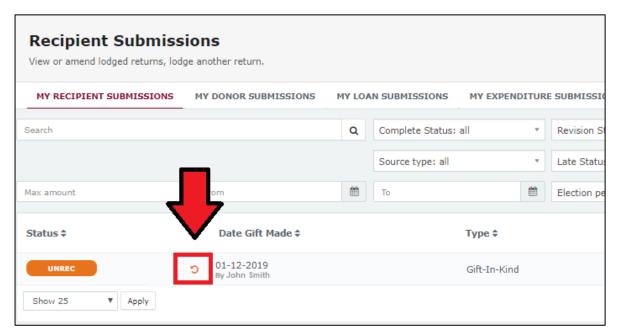
3. Click 'Mark gift as returned'.



4. Enter the date the gift was returned, a reason for returning the gift, and any relevant attachments, then click 'Mark gift as returned'.



5. A returned symbol (\circlearrowleft) will appear next to the return in the *My Submissions* page of the EDS and on the public *Gift Map* and *Reports* pages, indicating that the gift has been returned.



6. An email notification will be sent to you and the donor of the gift (if they are registered in the EDS) confirming that the gift has been marked as returned.