

EXPENDITURE CAPS FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

This fact sheet relates to candidates for State elections and by-elections who are not endorsed by a registered political party.

Under s 281D of Queensland's *Electoral Act 1992*, there are limitations (caps) on the expenditure that independent candidates (i.e. those not endorsed by a registered political party for this election) can incur during the **capped expenditure period** for a State election.

For the meaning of electoral expenditure see [Fact sheet 5 - Definition of electoral expenditure](#).

In relation to electoral expenditure caps, electoral expenditure is **cumulative**, meaning it does not matter whether the expenditure was incurred as a single amount, or in smaller amounts which are aggregated. For more information, definitions and examples of electoral expenditure, refer to s 281G, and [Fact sheet 5 - Definition of electoral expenditure](#).

When does the capped expenditure period commence and end?

Under s 280, for an ordinary **general election**, the capped expenditure period starts on the first business day after the last Saturday in the preceding March and ends at 6pm on the polling day for the election.

For a **by-election**, the expenditure cap period commences on the day the writ for the election is issued and ends at 6pm on the polling day for the election.

However, for the 2020 State General Election, the **capped expenditure period** will be 1 August 2020 until 6pm on 31 October 2020 (s 444(1)).

What is the expenditure cap amount?

For **general elections** and **by-elections**, the expenditure cap for an independent candidate is **\$87,000**.

Expenditure cap amounts are CPI adjusted 30 days after each general election.

Recovery of amounts over the expenditure cap

Under s 281J, non-compliance with the caps during a capped expenditure period for an election is an offence with substantial penalties. In addition to potential prosecution, the ECQ may recover double the value of the expenditure that exceeded the cap amount as a debt to the State.