

Help us spread the word about the upcoming by-election for Balonne Shire Council

Dear community member

Voters in Balonne Shire Council will elect a new councillor on **Saturday 9 August 2025** following the resignation of Cr Jason Southern on 20 May 2025.

All **3,166** Balonne Shire residents on the electoral roll will be required to vote.

Just like last year's local government election, this by-election will be a full postal ballot which means all Balonne Shire residents on the electoral roll will receive their voting materials in the mail.

To help ensure enrolled voters in your community know how to participate and to ensure their votes will be counted, the ECQ has compiled this stakeholder kit to help you spread the word.

Can you help?

We'd appreciate your support in sharing these resources with your community.

In this kit you'll find the below information and resources:

- information to include in your regular communications, newsletters and on your website
- social media tiles to share on your organisation's social media channels
- posters and frequently asked questions to print and display on your community or staff noticeboards.

Key Dates

- Tuesday 1 July – election started and candidate nominations open
- Thursday 10 July – candidate nominations close
- From Friday 11 July – postal ballots mailed and voting occurs
- Saturday 9 August – election day – all postal ballots must be filled out before 6pm
- Tuesday 19 August 2025 at 5pm – last day for postal votes to be received by the ECQ.

Thank you

Electoral Commission of Queensland



Newsletter copy

Did you know a by-election is being held in Balonne Shire Council?

If you're on the electoral roll in Balonne Shire – you'll need to vote!

This is a full postal by-election, so all Balonne Shire residents on the electoral roll will receive their voting materials by mail.

When you receive your voting materials, you can vote straight away. Remember to always read the instructions on your ballot paper and declaration envelope before you begin.

One councillor will be elected. You must mark at least one preference on your ballot paper for your vote to count.

One of the most important things to remember to do after you seal your ballot paper inside the declaration envelope is to sign it before a witness and make sure your witness signs it too.

Your ballot paper comes with a reply-paid envelope so you just need to slide the sealed and signed declaration envelope into the reply-paid envelope and drop it in a post box.

Residents of Balonne Shire need to vote by 6pm on election day, Saturday 9 August 2025. All postal votes must be received by the ECQ **by 5pm on Tuesday 19 August 2025** to ensure they are counted.

Visit the ECQ's website to learn more about the by-election including who is running and to stay up-to-date with the results after the polls close.

Social media tile

Show your organisation's support of the by-election by:

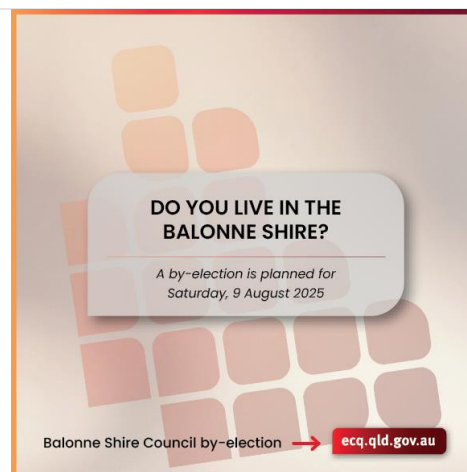
- Sharing a post from our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) accounts
- Create your own post with our suggested post text below and social media tile, which can be downloaded from our [Balonne by-election page](#).

Keep an eye on the post, Balonne voters!

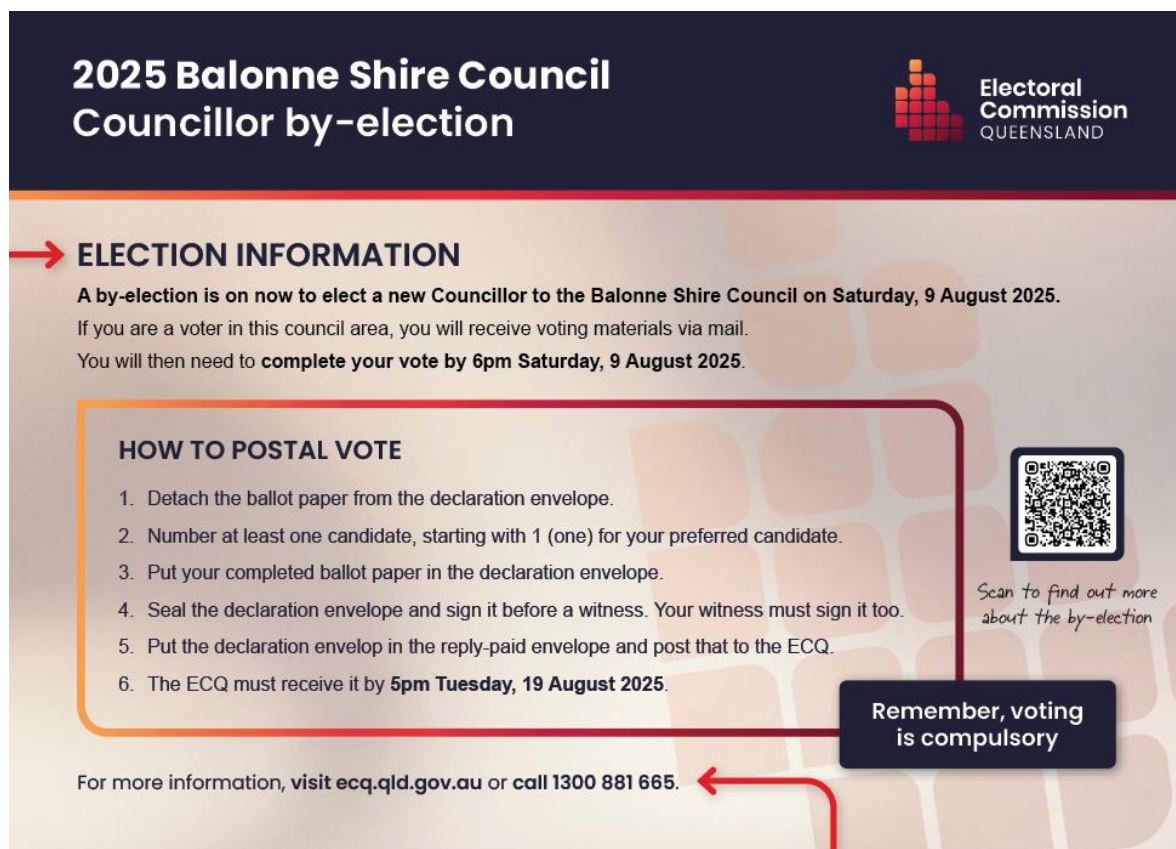
Your ballot paper for the full postal Balonne Shire Council by-election has been mailed to you.

You can complete your vote as soon as you receive it. All votes must be completed by 6pm Saturday 9 August 2025. The ECQ must receive your completed ballot paper by 5pm Tuesday 19 August 2025.

For more information, visit ecq.qld.gov.au/balonne



Poster



The poster is for the 2025 Balonne Shire Council Councillor by-election. It features a dark blue header with the title and the Electoral Commission Queensland logo. The main body is light beige with a faint ballot paper pattern. A red arrow points to the 'ELECTION INFORMATION' section, which states the by-election is on Saturday, 9 August 2025. Below this, a box titled 'HOW TO POSTAL VOTE' lists six steps: 1. Detach the ballot paper from the declaration envelope. 2. Number at least one candidate, starting with 1 (one) for your preferred candidate. 3. Put your completed ballot paper in the declaration envelope. 4. Seal the declaration envelope and sign it before a witness. Your witness must sign it too. 5. Put the declaration envelope in the reply-paid envelope and post that to the ECQ. 6. The ECQ must receive it by 5pm Tuesday, 19 August 2025. To the right of the box is a QR code with the text 'Scan to find out more about the by-election'. At the bottom left, it says 'For more information, visit ecq.qld.gov.au or call 1300 881 665.' with a red arrow pointing to the website. At the bottom right, a dark blue box says 'Remember, voting is compulsory'.

2025 Balonne Shire Council Councillor by-election

ELECTION INFORMATION

A by-election is on now to elect a new Councillor to the Balonne Shire Council on Saturday, 9 August 2025. If you are a voter in this council area, you will receive voting materials via mail. You will then need to **complete your vote by 6pm Saturday, 9 August 2025**.

HOW TO POSTAL VOTE

1. Detach the ballot paper from the declaration envelope.
2. Number at least one candidate, starting with 1 (one) for your preferred candidate.
3. Put your completed ballot paper in the declaration envelope.
4. Seal the declaration envelope and sign it before a witness. Your witness must sign it too.
5. Put the declaration envelope in the reply-paid envelope and post that to the ECQ.
6. The ECQ must receive it by **5pm Tuesday, 19 August 2025**.

Scan to find out more about the by-election

Remember, voting is compulsory

For more information, visit ecq.qld.gov.au or call 1300 881 665.

Show your organisation's support for the by-election by:

- Displaying our poster at your work to inform with your customers (e.g. reception area, front window, or public notice board)
- Pinning our poster to a staff notice board

You can download our A4 and A3 posters from the [ECQ website](https://ecq.qld.gov.au).

Frequently Asked Questions

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.

Are you enrolled to vote?

Visit aec.gov.au to enrol to vote or to check your details are up-to-date. Adding your email address and mobile phone number means you'll also receive timely information by email and SMS so you don't miss the next election in your area.

Have you changed address?

If you've changed address since the last election, you'll need to update your details on the electoral roll to ensure you are voting in the correct council area. Update your details at aec.gov.au.

What is local government?

Local government is also known as your local council.

Local government or council areas can be cities, towns, shires, or regions and are 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.

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.

Council services include cultural and sporting facilities, town planning, local roads, waste management, land and coast care programs, pet registration and more.

Why is voting important?

Governments make decisions about services, laws and protections that impact on every part of our lives. By voting, you are part of this decision-making and making a choice about how your community functions.

If you don't vote, you are relying on someone else to choose your representatives for you. One of the best ways to make sure you are involved in decisions about your community, is to vote.

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 9 August 2025.

Votes must be received by the Electoral Commission of Queensland within 10 days (5pm Tuesday 19 August 2025) 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 Electoral Commission of Queensland, you can ask us to reprint your ballot paper.

Contact the ECQ at 1300 881 665 or visit the Returning Officer for the Balonne by-election at Balonne Shire Council, Bokhara Room, 118 Victoria Street, St George, Qld 4487.

How will I know who is my new Councillor?

The Electoral Commission of Queensland will publish the declared Councillor on its website at ecq.qld.gov.au/balonne. We'll also post about it on social media—[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#).