

Direction about the Distribution or Display of How-to-Vote Cards or other Election Material for the 2020 State general election

Version 1.0

Approval



Pat Vidgen

Electoral Commissioner

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Purpose

To facilitate the holding of the 2020 State general election in a way that helps minimise serious risks to the health and safety of persons caused by the COVID-19 emergency.

Rationale

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) is empowered under section 392T of the *Electoral Act 1992* to give directions about the distribution or display of how-to-vote cards or other election material in the 2020 State general election.

Direction

The ECQ is satisfied that it is in the public interest to regulate, limit or prohibit the distribution or display of how-to-vote cards or other election material at a polling booth for the 2020 State general election.

This Direction applies to all persons distributing or displaying how-to-vote cards at ANY polling booth in Queensland.

Although election material and how-to-vote cards may be handed out to electors, the ECQ hereby directs that you:

- not re-use how-to-vote cards,
- abide by the current social distancing rules, including staying 1.5m away from other people (that is, by each person remaining at arms-length from each other when handing out election material or how-to-vote cards),
- maintain hygiene standards, in accordance with Queensland Health guidelines and directions,
- not shake hands, or attempt to shake hands, with electors as they are entering or waiting to enter the polling booth,
- not go near people if they are coughing or sneezing, and
- wear a face mask where possible.

ECQ staff will be actively monitoring compliance with this Direction. The Electoral Commissioner has the power to issue further directions, in the event ECQ staff observe non-compliance.

Failure to comply with this Direction carries a maximum of 10 penalty units, currently valued at \$1,334.

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 the close of voting for the 2020 State general election on Saturday, 31 October 2020, unless otherwise revised.