

## POSTAL-ONLY BALLOT LOCAL ELECTION

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### Applying for a postal-only ballot

A local government can apply before 1 May in the year preceding the quadrennial election to the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) for a poll to be conducted only by postal ballot for:

- all of the local government's area; or
- 1 or more divisions of its area; or
- a part of its area marked on a map.

### Requests sent to Electoral Commissioner

The Minister must refer an application for a postal-only ballot to the Electoral Commissioner for an assessment and recommendation as to whether an application should be approved.

### Criteria to make a recommendation

The Electoral Commissioner must have regard to these matters in section 45AB(4) of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (LGEA) to make a recommendation:

- the reasons, stated in the application, why the poll should be by postal ballot
- identify costs of conducting the poll by postal ballot compared to the costs by conducting using polling booths
- the number of persons enrolled on an electoral roll for an electoral district, or part of an electoral district, included in the area to which the application relates.

- the population density and distribution in the area to which the application relates
- whether a poll has previously been conducted by postal ballot in the area to which the application relates.

### ECQ's guiding principles to administer assessment to conduct postal-only ballots

The Electoral Commission of Queensland is responsible for the conduct and administration of free and democratic local government elections under the LGEA. The guiding principles to assess and recommend postal-only ballots are:

- maximise the opportunity to exercise the right to vote by providing voter accessibility
- freedom from any undue influence when exercising their right to vote
- assistance and information for voters
- maximisation of the formal vote count.

### Deciding postal-only ballot applications

The Minister decides local government postal-only ballot applications. When deciding an application, the Minister must have regard for the Electoral Commissioner's recommendation and the criteria in section 45AB(4) of the LGEA.

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### More information

If you need more information refer to *Assess Local Government Applications to Conduct a Postal Ballot Election* or please contact ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing [ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au).