

Help us spread the word about the upcoming by-election for Somerset Regional Council

Dear community member

Voters in Somerset Regional Council will elect a new councillor on **Saturday 13 September 2025** following the resignation of Cr Kylee Isidro on 24 June 2025.

All **20,000** Somerset Region residents on the electoral roll will be required to vote.

This by-election will be a full postal ballot which means all Somerset Region residents on the electoral roll will receive their voting materials in the mail. There will be no polling places open on or before election day.

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 5 August** – election started and candidate nominations open
- **Thursday 14 August** – candidate nominations close
- **From Friday 15 August** – postal ballots mailed and voting occurs
- **Saturday 13 September** – election day – all postal ballots must be filled out before 6pm
- **Tuesday 23 September 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 Somerset Regional Council?

If you're on the electoral roll in Somerset Region – you'll need to vote!

No polling places will be open either on or before election day. This is a full postal by-election, so all Somerset Regional 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 only your preferred candidate on the ballot paper.

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 the envelope 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 the Somerset Region need to vote by 6pm on election day, Saturday 13 September 2025. All postal votes must be received by the ECQ **by 5pm on Tuesday 23 September 2025** to ensure they are counted.

Visit ecq.qld.gov.au/somerset 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 [Somerset by-election page](#).

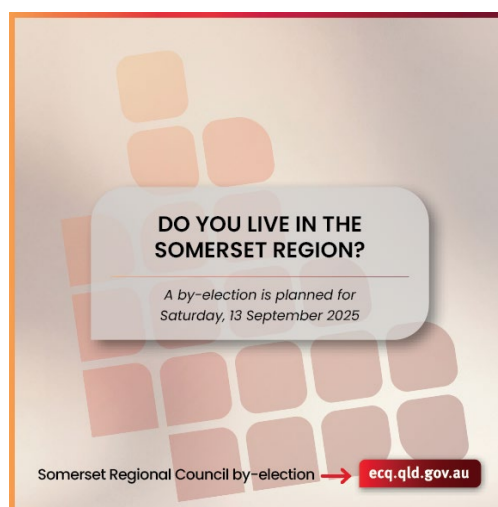
Keep an eye on the post, Somerset voters!

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

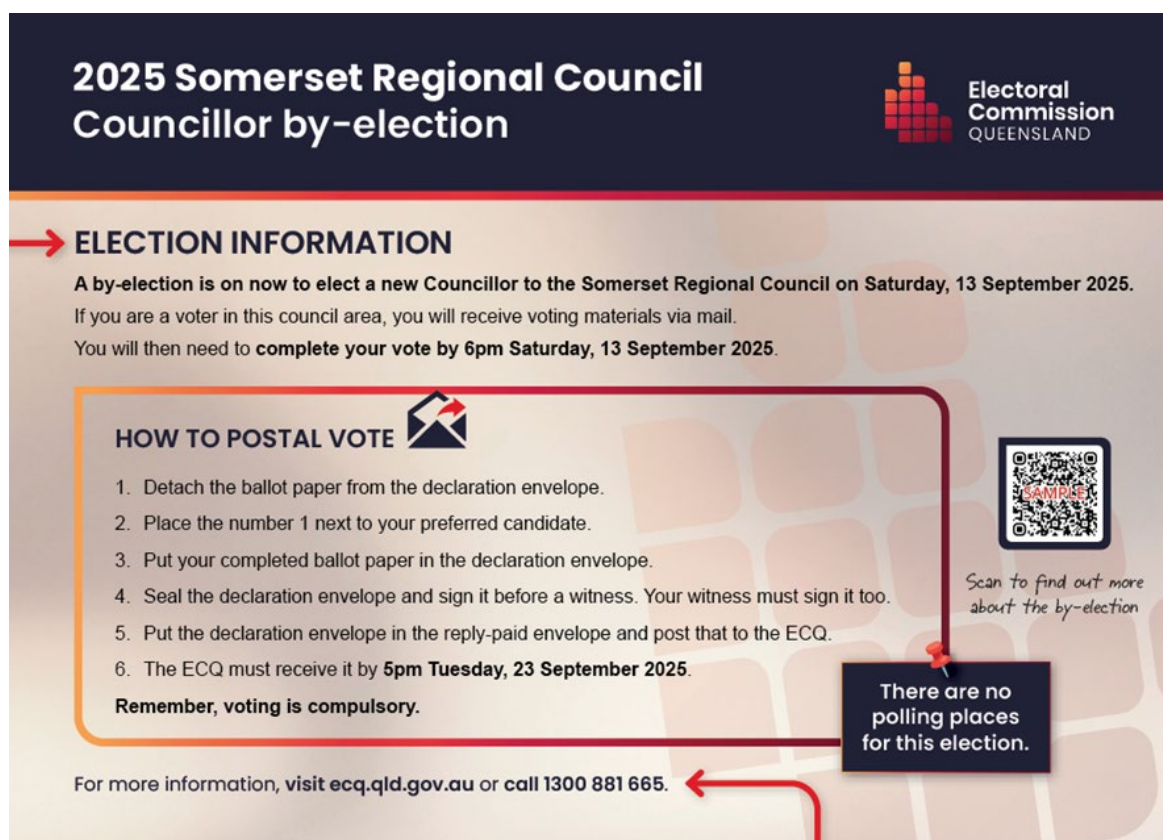
You can complete your vote as soon as you receive it. There won't be any polling places open for this by-election.

All votes must be completed by 6pm Saturday 13 September 2025. The ECQ must receive your completed ballot paper by 5pm Tuesday 23 September 2025.

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



Poster



The poster is titled "2025 Somerset Regional Council Councillor by-election" and features the Electoral Commission Queensland logo. It provides information about the by-election, including the date (Saturday, 13 September 2025) and the deadline for voting (6pm Saturday, 13 September 2025). It also includes a section on how to postal vote, with a list of six steps: 1. Detach the ballot paper from the declaration envelope. 2. Place the number 1 next to 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, 23 September 2025. A reminder states "Remember, voting is compulsory." A QR code is provided for more information, with the text "Scan to find out more about the by-election". A note states "There are no polling places for this election." and a red arrow points to the website "ecq.qld.gov.au" or the phone number "1300 881 665".

2025 Somerset Regional Council Councillor by-election

ELECTION INFORMATION

A by-election is on now to elect a new Councillor to the Somerset Regional Council on Saturday, 13 September 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, 13 September 2025.**

HOW TO POSTAL VOTE

1. Detach the ballot paper from the declaration envelope.
2. Place the number 1 next to 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, 23 September 2025.**

Remember, voting is compulsory.

Scan to find out more about the by-election

There are no polling places for this election.

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](http://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 way to make sure you are involved in decisions about your community, is to vote.

Why aren't there any polling places or voting centres open in my community?

The Somerset Regional Council requested a full postal vote for this by-election. This means that all voters will receive their ballot materials in the mail along with a reply-paid envelope in which to return the ballot paper to the ECQ.

Because voters are receiving ballot packs through the post, no polling places or early voting centres will be open. If you have ever placed a mailing address on the electoral roll, your ballot materials will be sent to that address. If you do not receive the ballot materials, please contact the ECQ on 1300 881 665.

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 13 September 2025.

Votes must be received by the Electoral Commission of Queensland within 10 days (5pm Tuesday 23 September 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 Somerset by-election at Esk Library building, 19 Heap St, Esk QLD 4312

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/somerset. We'll also post about it on social media—[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#).