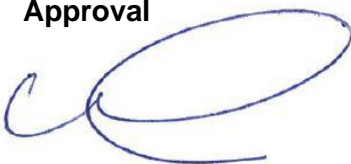


Direction about the Distribution or Display of How- to-Vote Cards or other Election Material for the 2021 Stretton State by-election

Version 1.0

Approval



Wade Lewis

Acting Electoral Commissioner

08 / 07 / 2021

Purpose

To facilitate the holding of the 2021 Stretton State by-election in a way that helps minimise serious risks to the health and safety of persons caused by the declared COVID-19 emergency under the *Public Health Act 2005*.

Legislative authority

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) is empowered under section 392ZL of the *Electoral Act 1992* to give directions about the distribution or display of how-to-vote cards or other election material for the 2021 Stretton State by-election.

Under Chief Health Officer public health directions, the ECQ is also required, as a government service to which the public is given access, to ensure directions issued by the Chief Health Officer are complied with. Without limiting the contents of this Direction, any individual in the vicinity of or in a venue used to conduct the Stretton State by-election must comply with all relevant public health directions made by the Chief Health Officer under the *Public Health Act*.

Direction

The ECQ is satisfied that it is in the public interest to regulate the distribution or display of how-to-vote cards or other election material at a polling booth for the 2021 Stretton State by-election. This Direction applies to all persons distributing or displaying how-to-vote cards or other election material at any polling booth that is taking votes for the 2021 Stretton State by-election.

Although how-to-vote cards or election material may be handed out to electors, the ECQ hereby directs that any person distributing or displaying how-to-vote cards or other election material to:

- check-in using the 'Check In Qld' app to record their attendance at the relevant polling booth
- practice good hand hygiene, particularly before commencing distributing how-to-vote cards and other election materials
- not re-use how-to-vote cards or election material
- abide by the current physical distancing rules, including staying 1.5 metres away from other persons when handing out how-to-vote cards or election material
- maintain hygiene standards, in accordance with Chief Health Officer guidelines and public health 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 as required in compliance with any relevant Chief Health Officer public health directions.

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 \$1,378.

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 2021 Stretton State by-election on Saturday, 24 July 2021, unless otherwise revised.