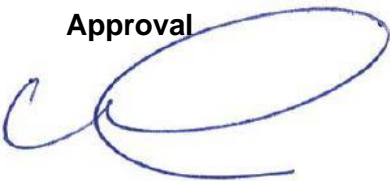


Direction about the Movement of Candidates or Scrutineers for the 2021 Stretton State by-election

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 392ZN of the *Electoral Act 1992* to give directions about candidates and scrutineers at a place that is a polling booth or another place at which the candidate or scrutineer is entitled to be present during 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 effect 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 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 activities and movement of candidates and scrutineers at the places where they are entitled to be present under the *Electoral Act* during the 2021 Stretton State by-election.

The ECQ hereby directs scrutineers and candidates to:

- check-in using the 'Check In Qld' app to record their attendance at the relevant venue
- abide by the current physical distancing rules, including staying 1.5 metres away from other persons where possible
- wear a face mask as required in compliance with any relevant Chief Health Officer public health directions
- maintain hygiene standards, in accordance with Chief Health Officer guidelines and public health directions, and
- not shake hands or attempt to shake hands with persons at polling booths or at places declaration envelopes are being scrutinised and/or votes counted.

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 20 penalty units, currently valued at \$2,757.

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 declaration of results for the 2021 Stretton State by-election, unless otherwise revised.