



Help us spread the word about the upcoming by-election for Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council

Dear community member

Voters in Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council will elect a new councillor on **Saturday 21 February 2026** following the resignation of Cr Maria Pitt on 18 December 2025.

While voting is compulsory for all 250 people enrolled in Mapoon, it's also a right and responsibility in our democracy, and we want to ensure voting is quick and easy for everyone.

This stakeholder kit is aimed at helping ensure enrolled voters in your community know how to participate in this election. We'd love your assistance in helping us to get some important messages out to the community.

Can you help?

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 20 January** – election started and candidate nominations open
- **Thursday 29 January** – candidate nominations close
- **Wednesday 18 February – Friday 20 February** – early voting is open
- **Saturday 21 February** – election day
- **Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 5pm** – last day for postal votes to be received by the ECQ.

Thank you

Electoral Commission of Queensland



Newsletter copy

Get ready to vote in the Mapoon by-election

A by-election to choose a new councillor for Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council is on Saturday 21 February 2026.

If you're in Mapoon during the week, you can vote early from 9am to 6pm from Wednesday 18 February to Friday 20 February at the Mapoon Cultural Centre, 1 Red Beach Road, Mapoon.

In Weipa, you can vote early on Thursday 19 February from 9am to 6pm at Weipa Storm Surge Centre, 6 Hibberd Drive, Rocky Point.

On election day, Saturday 21 February, you can vote at Mapoon Cultural Centre, 1 Red Beach Road, Mapoon from 8am to 6pm.

One councillor will be elected. You only need to mark your preferred candidate on the ballot paper.

For those who can't vote in person, you can request a postal vote until 7pm Monday 9 February 2026 at ecq.qld.gov.au/mapoon.

Visit ecq.qld.gov.au/mapoon 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

Help get the word out to your community by:

- Sharing a post from the ECQ's [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) accounts
- Create your own post with our suggested post text below and social media tile, which can be downloaded from our [Mapoon by-election page](#).

If you live in Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council, it's time to vote in a by-election to choose a new Councillor.

Early voting is available in Mapoon from 9am to 6pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 18-20 February at the Mapoon Cultural Centre, 1 Red Beach Road, Mapoon.

Early voting is available in Weipa from 9am to 5pm on Thursday 19 February at Weipa Storm Surge Centre, 6 Hibberd Drive, Rocky Point.

Election day voting will be at the Mapoon Cultural Centre in Mapoon on Saturday 21 February from 8am to 6pm.

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



Poster



The poster features a dark blue header with the title '2026 Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council by-election' in white. To the right is the Electoral Commission Queensland logo. Below the header, the text 'ELECTION INFORMATION' is followed by a paragraph about the by-election. A central dotted box contains voting details for Mapoon and Weipa, and a link for more information. A QR code is on the right with instructions to scan or visit a website. The bottom of the poster has a red bar with contact information. Decorative Aboriginal art patterns are scattered throughout.

2026 Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council by-election

Electoral Commission
QUEENSLAND

ELECTION INFORMATION

A by-election is being held to elect a new Councillor for Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council on **Saturday 21 February 2026**.

Vote in Mapoon
At Mapoon Cultural Centre, 1 Red Beach Road, Mapoon.
Wednesday 18 February to Friday 20 February from 9am–6pm.
Saturday 21 February from 8am–6pm.

Vote in Weipa
At Weipa Storm Surge Shelter, 6 Hibberd Drive, Rocky Point.
Thursday 19 February from 9am to 6pm.

Looking for more information?
Visit us at ecq.qld.gov.au/mapoon

Scan or visit
check.ecq.gov.au
to check you're enrolled

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 organisation to inform with your customers and community (e.g. reception area, front window, or public notice board).

You can download our A4 and A3 posters from the [ECQ website](https://ecq.qld.gov.au).

Frequently Asked Questions

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.

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](#).

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.