

Executive Summary

On 11 December 2025, the Honourable Deborah (Deb) Frecklington, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, introduced the Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025 (Bill) to the Legislative Assembly. The Bill was referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee (committee) for detailed consideration.

The objectives of the Bill are to improve and restore fairness and equality to the regulation of elections in Queensland and increase public confidence in Queensland's electoral process. This will be achieved by:

- prohibiting persons serving sentences of imprisonment or detention of one year or more from voting in state elections, referendums and local government elections
- applying existing caps on political donations for state elections to financial years instead of electoral cycles
- removing the ban on political donations from property developers and related industry bodies for state elections, and targeting the ban to local government elections only
- allowing loans from financial institutions to be used for electoral expenditure for state elections
- enhancing the independence of registered political parties to conduct preselection ballots without oversight of the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ)
- amending authorisation requirements for election materials and how-to-vote cards and allow post office boxes and other prescribed addresses to be used.

The committee received and considered the following evidence:

- 86 written submissions from stakeholders
- a written briefing provided by the Department of Justice (Department) on 17 December 2025
- a public hearing and public briefing held in Brisbane on 16 January 2026.

The committee is satisfied that the Bill gives sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of Parliament as required by the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*. The committee found that the Bill is compatible with human rights as defined in the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA). It considered that any potential incompatibility with human rights as set out in the HRA was justified in the circumstances and necessary to achieve the purpose of the Bill.

The committee made one recommendation, found at page vi of this report.