

Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025

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Submission By: Electoral Commission of Queensland

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**Electoral
Commission
QUEENSLAND**

Ms Fran Denny
Committee Secretary
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Email: JICSC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Denny

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee (the Committee) on the *Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill).

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) is an independent statutory authority that delivers State and local government elections, and referendums in Queensland. Additionally, as the regulator for Queensland elections, we promote and enforce compliance with funding and disclosure laws.

The ECQ has considered the Bill and the proposed amendments of the *Electoral Act 1992* (EA), *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (LGEA) and the *Referendums Act 1997*. It should be noted that the ECQ seeks to only provide factual information on the impacts of any amendments applied and should not be viewed as policy recommendations to the Queensland Government.

The ECQ acknowledges that the amendments proposed by this Bill are reflective of government policy. The ECQ has already commenced working on implementing the proposed amendments, including drafting refreshed stakeholder educational materials (e.g. fact sheets, web content, forms, etc.), defining use requirements for system impacts (which are expected to be minor), and communicating with affected stakeholders.

While most of the work involved in implementing these reforms will be managed internally by the ECQ, the changes to prisoner voting eligibility will require engagement with the Australian Electoral Commission who manages the electoral roll on behalf of the ECQ. Engagement with Queensland Corrective Services and the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support will also be required. The ECQ does not anticipate substantial challenges involved in implementing these reforms.

The ECQ appreciates the consultation from the Department of Justice during the development of the Bill, which has enabled the ECQ to ensure operational impacts are understood and able to be implemented in time for commencement.

Should you require further information regarding this matter, please contact Mr Wade Lewis, Assistant Electoral Commissioner on [REDACTED], or Mr Matthew Thurlby, Director, Funding, Disclosure and Compliance on [REDACTED]

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner