

Question on Notice

No. 934

Asked on 23 August 2023

MS A LEAHY ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise of the cost estimates (reported separately by individual council) the Queensland Electoral Commission has provided to Local Governments in Queensland for the conduct of the 2024 Local Government Election?

ANSWER:

I am advised that in April 2023, the Electoral Commissioner wrote to each of Queensland's 77 local government Chief Executive Officers and provided a cost estimate for conducting the 2024 elections.

The total cost of the 2024 local government elections is currently estimated to be approximately \$37.1 million. Of the total cost, local governments are estimated to cover approximately \$28.6 million, equating to a per-electoral cost of approximately \$7.83. The ECQ will absorb the remainder as indirect costs, which includes advertising and engagement, call centres and compliance.

The ECQ has endeavoured to contain cost increases as much as practicable, however there are several factors driving the increase in costs, including:

- increased staff costs coupled with a tight labour market
- higher prices charged by key suppliers that provide critical services for election delivery such as postage, logistic and printing
- high demand for short-term office and venue leases thereby increasing costs for returning offices, early voting centres and polling booths, and
- significant state-wide growth in elector numbers.

The following table outlines the cost estimates provided to each local government.

Local government area	2024 elections cost estimate
Aurukun	\$ 7,902
Balonne	\$ 24,290
Banana	\$ 60,855
Barcaldine	\$ 16,662
Barcoo	\$ 5,325
Blackall	\$ 13,939
Boulia	\$ 14,339
Bulloo	\$ 7,058

Bundaberg	\$ 588,967
Burdekin	\$ 142,878
Burke	\$ 21,660
Cairns	\$ 832,644
Carpentaria	\$ 22,804
Cassowary Coast	\$ 232,762
Central Highlands	\$ 153,920
Charters Towers	\$ 103,120
Cherbourg	\$ 8,013
Cloncurry	\$ 34,528
Cook	\$ 27,006
Croydon	\$ 13,643
Diamantina	\$ 10,388
Doomadgee	\$ 8,634
Douglas	\$ 120,096
Etheridge	\$ 10,689
Flinders	\$ 26,246
Fraser Coast	\$ 739,393
Gladstone	\$ 360,094
Gold Coast	\$ 2,866,529
Goondiwindi	\$ 44,342
Gympie	\$ 342,650
Hinchinbrook	\$ 114,357
Hope Vale	\$ 8,873
Ipswich	\$ 997,311
Isaac	\$ 86,240
Kowanyama	\$ 9,843
Livingstone	\$ 247,633
Lockhart River	\$ 9,636
Lockyer Valley	\$ 265,122
Logan	\$ 1,567,209
Longreach	\$ 28,609
Mackay	\$ 705,766
Mapoon	\$ 7,853
Maranoa	\$ 55,719
Mareeba	\$ 174,414
Mckinlay	\$ 10,550
Moreton Bay	\$ 2,254,426
Mornington Island	\$ 9,346
Mount Isa	\$ 142,979
Murweh	\$ 29,266
Napranum	\$ 8,388
Noosa	\$ 335,263
North Burnett	\$ 43,801
Northern Peninsula	\$ 20,730
Palm Island	\$ 11,158
Paroo	\$ 13,106

Pormpuraaw	\$ 8,240
Quilpie	\$ 10,871
Redland	\$ 970,389
Richmond	\$ 7,227
Rockhampton	\$ 487,052
Scenic Rim	\$ 298,987
Somerset	\$ 195,885
South Burnett	\$ 297,448
Southern Downs	\$ 197,555
Sunshine Coast	\$ 1,837,628
Tablelands	\$ 195,639
Toowoomba	\$ 1,063,080
Torres	\$ 17,358
Torres Strait Islands	\$ 23,091
Townsville	\$ 1,102,672
Western Downs	\$ 165,156
Whitsunday	\$ 258,142
Winton	\$ 22,244
Woorabinda	\$ 7,439
Wujal Wujal	\$ 10,142
Yarrabah	\$ 12,206
Brisbane	\$ 7,435,700