



Media Release

COVID-19 and Queensland's local government elections

11 March 2020

This month, more than three million Queenslanders will go to the polls to have their say in 77 local government elections and two by-elections.

The Electoral Commissioner, Pat Vidgen, said that the Electoral Commission of Queensland is monitoring advice from the Queensland Chief Health Officer regarding the appropriate response to the emergence of COVID-19.

“The current advice provided by Queensland Health is that there is no need to cancel mass gatherings or events, or take additional precautions to normal practice,” Mr Vidgen said.

“We have provided advice to temporary election staff, and are asking that members of the public take normal common sense precautions, such as good hand and respiratory hygiene.

“This is, of course, a fast-moving situation, and we will continue to monitor the situation closely, and take advice from the relevant authorities, including Queensland Health. If that advice changes we are prepared to respond appropriately.

“At this stage we remain focused on making sure that all Queenslanders have the services they need to cast their vote in the local government elections.

“Voting remains compulsory.”

Key election dates:

- 22 February – Notice of Election
- 28 February – Close of electoral roll
- 22 February to 3 March – Candidate nominations
- 4 March – Ballot paper draw
- 16 March – Early voting commences
- 16 March at 7pm postal vote applications close
- 28 March 2020 – election day

For media queries email media@ecq.qld.gov.au or phone 0438 120 699

For the latest information on COVID-19 visit <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/diseases/coronavirus/public-info-novel-coronavirus/frequently-asked-questions-novel-coronavirus>