



Honourable Deb Frecklington MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Integrity

Our ref: 618823/1; 7229224
Your ref: 4180-24

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18 DEC 2024

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to e-Petition 4180-24 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2024, *Electoral Commission of Queensland to address the problems experienced by voters in the 2024 local elections*.

I can advise that Nous Group was commissioned by the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) in November 2023 to undertake an independent external evaluation of the 2024 local government elections. In March 2024, the scope of the evaluation was expanded to include specific focus on known election day issues, including wait times and ballot paper shortages experienced at some booths on election day. The ECQ accepted all findings of the evaluation and implemented all recommendations of the Nous Group's report *Review of Election Day Issues at the 2024 Queensland Local Government Elections*.

The ECQ implemented process and planning improvements to enhance the voter experience at the October 2024 State general election and provided a variety of services to enable eligible Queenslanders to cast their ballot, including postal voting, telephone voting, and in-person voting at early voting centres and election day polling booths. The ECQ increased its capacity at early voting centres and election day polling booths, expanding early voting opening hours, increasing the election workforce and training, and purchasing over 4,000 additional laptops so that there was additional capacity for staff to mark-off electors more efficiently.

Over 3.23 million electors cast a vote at the State general election and voter turnout was approximately 87.75%. Approximately 50% of voters cast their ballot at an early voting centre, making it the most popular voting service at the October election. Ahead of the next State and local government quadrennial elections in 2028, the ECQ will consider the available data from the 2024 elections in planning its voter services.

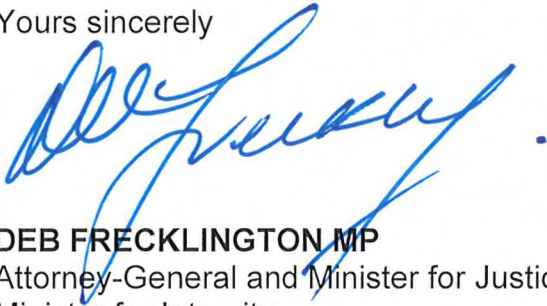
Regarding the petitioners' view about recounts, I can advise that the ECQ conducts recounts in accordance with provisions of the *Electoral Act 1992*, which currently does not stipulate mandatory thresholds for election recounts in Queensland. Where a

recount is requested, the Electoral Commissioner considers several factors, including if a recount would provide confidence to all stakeholders about the integrity of the electoral process and the accuracy of the outcome.

The ECQ will continue to deliver elections with the overarching goal of maximising voter participation and increasing public confidence in the electoral process. Internal and external evaluations of both the 2024 State and local government elections will be used to inform operational and service planning for future elections.

I thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Yours sincerely



DEB FRECKLINGTON MP

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