

FACT SHEET

Local Government Electoral Bill 2026

This Bill establishes Tasmania's first standalone legislation for local government elections. It delivers important reforms to modernise the local government electoral framework, by bringing it into line with many elements of the State *Electoral Act 2004*, and addressing a range of longstanding challenges around accessibility, integrity, franchise eligibility, electoral advertising, and the growing limitations of a universal postal ballot model.

The Bill enables flexibility in future election formats, to be determined by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC).

An augmented postal ballot (featuring a pre-poll/early returns period) will be the 'default' method, while the flexibility in the Bill enables an attendance ballot option where the TEC forms the view that postal standards are a significant risk to conducting an election.

Other electoral reforms delivered through the Bill include:

- Ensuring electors are only entitled to one vote in a municipal area;
- Enabling alternative voting for classes of electors who face barriers to voting (e.g. voters with a print disability);
- Continued voting rights for non-citizens, but now subject to a person having 12 months' continuous Tasmanian residency;
- Transfer of responsibility for the supplementary electoral rolls managed by councils to the TEC, including improved verification and prohibition on dual enrolment;
- Clarifying who is an 'occupier' of land for the purposes of enrolment on the supplementary electoral roll;
- Enhanced donation transparency and electoral advertising reforms, including expenditure limits, timely disclosures, and alignment with state electoral laws; and
- TEC investigatory powers and enforcement provisions, aligned with the *Electoral Act 2004*.