

Government response to recommendations made to the Government by the Electoral Matters Committee (EMC) in its 2017 report, *Inquiry into Electronic Voting*

#	Recommendation	Government Response
1	<p>“The committee supports in principle the provision of a system of remote voting at Victorian state elections. The system should be available to a limited category of electors; those who are blind or have low vision, those with motor impairment, those with insufficient language or literacy skills, and eligible electors who are interstate and/or overseas.”</p>	<p>The Government supports-in-principle the recommendation.</p> <p>The Government recognises that there is an opportunity to improve voting options for voters with mobility issues or other issues which make participation at voting centres challenging. Providing these voters with the means to vote remotely, on or before Election Day, in a secret ballot via an electronic system is likely to improve their voting experience and to increase electoral participation.</p> <p>The Government agrees that a system of remote electronic voting should, in the first instance, be available to a limited category of electors only to test participation, help to manage risks posed by electronic voting systems and to allow for issues such as scalability to be tested.</p> <p>As a first step towards the adoption of remote electronic voting in Victoria, the Government supports referring remote electronic voting to COAG to consider the development of a national approach, consistent with the Committee’s Recommendation 2.</p>
2	<p>“The committee recommends the Victorian Electoral Commission work closely with the Australian Electoral Commission, state and territory electoral commissions to develop agreed principles of integrity and security for any electronic voting system, as part of a coordinated effort to develop a national electronic voting capability in Australia.”</p>	<p>The Government notes that it is critical that any remote voting system is underpinned by stringent security and integrity measures.</p> <p>The Government supports referring remote electronic voting to COAG to consider the development of a national approach to remote electronic voting together with the integrity and security principles that underpin it.</p>
3	<p>“The committee recommends that any remote voting systems should be underpinned by the most rigorous security standards available to the VEC. To ensure these standards are met, the committee recommends the Victorian Parliament establish an Electronic Voting Board to oversee technical and traditional scrutiny</p>	<p>The Government supports-in-principle the recommendation.</p> <p>The Government recognises that there are technical risks associated with any electronic voting system. The Government supports the recommendation that remote electronic voting systems must be underpinned by rigorous security standards. The Government notes that in addition to risks associated with the integrity of an electronic voting system</p>

<p>arrangements for remote voting. The Board should include members of academia with technical expertise in electronic voting, electronic voting specialists and representatives from registered Victorian political parties.”</p>	<p>such as voter authentication, verification of votes and voter anonymity, remote electronic voting also presents a risk of interference and data corruption from cybercrime, which could compromise the integrity of election processes.</p> <p>The Government supports-in-principle the establishment of appropriate mechanisms to ensure there is independent oversight of technical and scrutiny arrangements for remote voting and notes that careful consideration will need to be given to how such mechanisms should be established and operated.</p>
<p>4 “The committee recommends that the Victorian Parliament amend the <i>Electoral Act 2002</i> (Vic) to provide that the details of electors registering to use any potential remote voting system are shared by the VEC with registered Victorian political parties.”</p>	<p>The Government supports the recommendation, in the event that any remote electronic voting system is made available in Victoria.</p> <p>The Government recognises that amending the <i>Electoral Act 2002</i> (Vic) to allow the VEC to share the details of electors who have registered to use any potential remote voting systems with registered Victorian political parties would maintain consistency with existing arrangements for postal voting. The Government supports the recommendation, noting that the information-sharing arrangements for electronic voting applicants would need to be subject to the same privacy safeguards as apply to postal vote applicants.</p>
<p>5 “The committee recommends that the VEC prepare a detailed cost-benefit analysis for rolling out electronic roll mark off facilities to all Victorian polling places, including early voting centres and Election Day voting centres, at the 2018 Victorian state election. This information should be included in the VEC’s 2017/18 annual report.”</p>	<p>The Government notes that this recommendation is not directed to the Government.</p>
<p>6 “The committee recommends that the VEC further investigate electronic ballot paper scanning for the 2018 Victorian state election, and report back to the committee.”</p>	<p>The Government notes that this recommendation is not directed to the Government.</p>