

Government response to the recommendations made by the Electoral Matters Committee in its 2022 report on its *Inquiry into whether Victoria should participate in a national electoral roll platform*

Background

The Victorian Government thanks the Electoral Matters Committee (EMC) for its report on its *Inquiry into whether Victoria should participate in a national electoral roll platform* (Report), and acknowledges the valuable work undertaken by the EMC.

Response

The Government response to each of the EMC's recommendations to the Government is as follows. Note that only recommendation 2 and 4 are directed to the Government.

No.	EMC Recommendation	Government Response
2	That the Government amend the <i>Electoral Act 2002</i> (Act) to specify what data can be stored in the register of electors. The legislation should specify what data must be stored and what data may be stored for each elector, as in the Australian Capital Territory's Electoral Act. The legislation should also provide for flexibility by allowing further data categories to be specified in subordinate legislation.	<p>The Government supports-in-principle the recommendation.</p> <p>The Government notes the finding that the Act lacks clarity around what data are to be stored in the register of electors, and that legislation in other Australian jurisdictions is clearer.</p> <p>The Government notes that further analysis will be required to determine how the Act should be amended and whether additional amendments are required to other provisions of the Act to support the implementation of the proposed reform. The Government will consult with relevant stakeholders, including the Victorian Electoral Commission, the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner, and the Australian Electoral Commission on any proposed reforms.</p>
4	That Victoria not commit to a national electoral roll platform (NEP) until details of the design and governance structure are more developed. At that time, an assessment can be made as to whether or not a NEP would meet Victoria's needs.	<p>The Government supports-in-full the recommendation.</p> <p>The Government notes the finding that a NEP has the potential to meet Victoria's needs and provide other benefits such as better cyber security, greater accuracy and completeness, and costs savings over time. However, it is not possible to make an informed assessment as to whether Victoria will participate in the NEP until the details are more developed. The Government will consider whether to commit to participate once the details and governance structure for the NEP are more developed. This will enable the Government to undertake an informed assessment, including as to whether any legislation amendment would be required to enable Victoria's participation in the NEP.</p>