

Report calls for voting centre improvements ahead of state election

Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee has called for changes to election timelines and stronger management of poor behaviour at voting centres, in a report tabled today.

The Committee examined the conduct of the 2025 Prahran and Werribee by-elections and voter turnout.

It found that, overall, both by-elections were delivered fairly and democratically.

"The Committee's overall assessment of the by-elections is positive and we found no reason to doubt the results," said Committee Chair, Dylan Wight.

However, the Committee identified several critical areas for improvement before the 2026 state election. Those include ensuring that staff at voting centres behave impartially, follow correct procedures and effectively enforce rules at voting centres.

"Problems with training appear to have been a major factor leading to issues at the by-elections," Mr Wight said.

The report contains 27 findings and makes 12 recommendations to both the Victorian Government and the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Recommendations include extending timelines for by-elections to increase both candidate preparedness and voter turnout, measures to manage poor behaviour at voting centres and various areas for improvement for the Victorian Electoral Commission.

"With a general election now less than 12 months away, this work has been timely," Mr Wight said.

"I strongly encourage the Victorian Electoral Commission to take note of these findings and incorporate them into its planning processes."

The Committee heard from Victorians, political parties and the Victorian Electoral Commission through submissions and public hearings.

The report is available on the Committee's website.