Annual report

Victorian Electoral Commission

2025–26



Responsible body's declaration

The Hon Ben Carroll MP
Premier of Victoria
Level 3, 1 Treasury Place
Melbourne Vic 3002

Dear Premier

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (Vic), I am pleased to present the Victorian Electoral Commission's annual report for the year ending 30 June 2026.

Yours sincerely



Sven Bluemmel
Electoral Commissioner

Acknowledgement of Country

The Victorian Electoral Commission acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We honour the unique cultural and spiritual relationships that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the land, waters and seas, and recognise their enduring contributions to our community and society.

Annual report 2025–26

Cover explanation:

The cover is a graphic representation of Strategy 2027, our plan outlining organisational objectives and priorities from 2023 to 2027. The cover highlights the achievement that recorded the greatest improvement in performance on the previous year – our website accessibility, which increased from 70.5% to 95.9%.

Represented pillars:

- Trust
- Voters
- Processes and systems

Contents

About us **7**

What we do 8

About this report 9

Introduction **11**

Our year 12

Enterprise Strategy and Partnerships **15**

Achievements, outlook and challenges 16

Our strategic plan 17

Research and evaluation 22

Electoral bodies 22

External advisory groups 24

Inclusion and participation 27

Communication services 29

Electoral Integrity and Regulation **31**

Governing legislation and tribunals 32

Regulation 33

Compulsory voting enforcement 41

Event Strategy and Delivery **45**

Candidate and political party services 46

Electoral activity 51

Register of electors 55

Logistics and resourcing 62

Information and Digital Services **63**

Information technology 64

Corporate Services **67**

Organisational structure 68

The Executive Leadership Team and portfolios 69

Our people 72

Staff profile 75

Occupational health and safety 77

Corporate governance 82

Accountability and transparency 85

Disclosures 89

Finance at a glance 95

Financial statements **97**

Declaration in the financial statements 98

Comprehensive operating statement 99

Balance sheet 100

Cash flow statement 101

Statement of changes in equity 102

Notes to the financial statements 103

Auditor-General's report 127

Appendices **129**

Appendix A: Disclosure index 130

Appendix B: Governing legislation and regulations 133

Appendix C: Additional information available on request 134

Appendix D: Reporting procedures under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012 135

Appendix E: Making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 136

Appendix F: Attestation for compliance 137

Appendix G: Asset Management Accountability maturity assessment for year ended 30 June 2026 138

Appendix H: Social procurement reporting 139

Appendix I: Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission 2025–26 141

Appendix J: Environmental and sustainability reporting 142

Glossary and list of abbreviations 143

List of tables

Table 1: Progress towards *Strategy 2027* by theme, 2025–26 19

Table 2: Advisory group effectiveness measures, 2025–26 26

Table 3: Investigation activity, 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 38

Table 4: Investigations related to the Nepean District by-election 38

Table 5: Donations and disclosures indexed values for 1 July 2025 to 14 April 2026 39

Table 6: Donations and disclosures indexed values for 15 April to 30 June 2026 39

Table 7: Timeliness for donations published, 2025–26 40

Table 8: Donor and recipient compliance 40

Table 9: Enforcement of compulsory voting, 2025–26 42

Table 10: Registered political parties at 30 June 2026 48

Table 11: Support to other electoral commissions, 2025–26 53

Table 12: Local council electoral activity, 2025–26 53

Table 13: Fee-for-service elections and polls, 2025–26 53

Table 14: Electoral activity, 2021–22 to 2025–26 54

Table 15: Electoral representation reviews, 2021–22 to 2025–26 54

Table 16: Joint enrolment program transactions, 2021–22 to 2025–26 57

Table 17: Number of enrolled Victorians at 30 June, 2022 to 2026 57

Table 18: Proportion of eligible population enrolled at 30 June, 2022 to 2026 57

Table 19: Enrolment rate by age range at 30 June, 2022 to 2026 58

Table 20: Voter statistics by region at 30 June 2026 59

Table 21: Voter statistics by district at 30 June 2026 59

Table 22: Information sharing agreements, 2025–26 61

Table 23: Recruitment, departures and turnover, 2021–22 to 2025–26 74

Table 24: VEC active staff demographics 75

Table 25: Hazards, incidents and injuries reported, 2021–22 to 2025–26 77

Table 26: Reported incidents, hazards and near-misses by type, 2025–26 78

Table 27: Our performance against OHS management measurements, 2021–22 to 2025–26 79

Table 28: Customer feedback submissions by type 88

Table 29: Customer feedback submissions by event 88

Table 30: Advertising campaigns over $100,000, 2025–26 92

Table 31: Consultancies over $10,000, 2025–26 93

Table 32: Grants to external bodies, 2025–26 94

Table 33: 5-year financial summary, 2021–22 to 2025–26 96

List of figures

Figure 1: VEC organisational structure at June 30 2026 68

Figure 2: Our governance and consultation structure at 31 December 2025 84

Figure 3: Our corporate governance model from 1 January 2026 84

About us

What we do

Our history

Victorian Parliament elections began in 1851. In 1910, the state's first Chief Electoral Inspector was appointed to lead the new State Electoral Office.

This office belonged to a department for 70 years, but it became increasingly clear that elections should operate without ministerial direction. On 1 January 1989, the independent statutory office of the Electoral Commissioner was established. Reporting directly to Parliament instead of a minister, the office was renamed the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) in 1995.

Our vision and purpose

Our vision is for all Victorians actively participating in their democracy.

Our purpose is building a stronger future for Victorian democracy.

Our commitment is delivering a trusted democratic process through excellence and impartiality.

Our values

We are proudly independent. This means we:

- serve with integrity and always do the right thing
- take responsibility
- do what we say because trust is built on accountability.

We work as one. This means we:

- value ideas and share knowledge
- listen and learn
- understand our roles, trust each other and collaborate
- achieve more together.

We lead with purpose. This means we:

- move forward with purpose for the people of Victoria
- think before we act
- learn from mistakes
- ask the right questions
- shape a future for all.

Our governing legislation

We are governed by the Victorian:

- *Constitution Act 1975* (Constitution Act), which sets out:
  - who can enrol to vote
  - who can be elected to the Victorian Parliament
  - the size and term of Parliament
- *Electoral Act 2002* (Electoral Act), which:
  - establishes us as an independent statutory authority
  - sets out our functions and powers
  - sets out state election processes
- *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act 1982* (Electoral Boundaries Act), which:
  - sets out how state electoral boundaries are determined
  - provides that the Electoral Commissioner is a member of the Electoral Boundaries Commission
- *Local Government Act 2020* (Local Government Act), which:
  - sets out the conduct of local council elections, electoral structure reviews and ward boundary reviews
  - provides that the Electoral Commissioner or their representative must be a member of any electoral representation advisory panel established by the Minister for Local Government
- *Financial Management Act 1994* (Financial Management Act), which sets out how we manage finances and financial reporting
- *Infringements Act 2006* (Infringements Act), which applies to stages 2 and 3 of compulsory voting enforcement.

Appendix B contains a complete list of our governing legislation and regulations.

Our responsibilities

Our responsibilities are to:

- conduct parliamentary elections, by-elections, and referendums
- conduct local council elections, by-elections, and countbacks
- conduct some statutory elections
- consider and report to the minister responsible on issues affecting the conduct of parliamentary elections, including administrative issues requiring legislative change
- ensure eligible voters are enrolled
- prepare:
  - electoral rolls for parliamentary elections
  - voters' rolls for local council elections
  - jury lists
- provide enrolment information to members of parliament and registered political parties
- contribute to public understanding and awareness of elections and electoral matters through information and education programs
- conduct and promote research into electoral matters that are in the public interest
- administer and regulate Victoria's political funding and donation laws
- regulate obligations under the Electoral Act
- provide administrative and technical support to state electoral boundary reviews and local council electoral structure reviews, and lead ward boundary reviews
- report to Parliament on our activities.

Our people and partners

At the VEC we:

- strive to make sure our people are engaged and equipped to deliver Victoria's electoral system
- prioritise staff development to meet our service delivery needs
- recruit for ability and attitude, and encourage new ways of working
- foster concrete learning and reflective practices.

Our core staff are supported by our essential casual election workforce and contractors. Our suppliers also contribute to our success. Fundamentally, we strive for a safe, diverse and inclusive VEC that reflects the community we serve.

Our Public Engagement Charter explains how we work with the Victorian community and what they can expect from us. It details how we will support stronger engagement with the electoral process to increase turnout and reduce the number of informal votes.

We work closely with advisory and community groups comprising members of under-represented communities and their representatives. The groups represented include:

- First Nations communities
- young people
- people in prison
- people without a home
- people with disability
- multicultural communities.

We thank our advisory and community group members for their collaborative partnership in 2025–26.

About this report

The 2025–26 *VEC Annual Report* summarises the activities, programs and initiatives we undertook this financial year to deliver our responsibilities and strategic plan. We publish it under Financial Reporting Direction 30D.

We use environmentally friendly paper and printing processes and print the minimum number of reports only.

This year, our report follows our new organisational structure. Instead of grouping activities by type, we have organised the report by portfolio. A portfolio is a group of related functions within the VEC.

Introduction

In this section, Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel reflects on the electoral landscape and how we are responding to challenges.

Enterprise Strategy and Partnerships

In this section we:

- summarise our achievements against our strategic plan
- highlight our work to increase electoral participation and engage voters
- outline the achievements of our education and engagement plans
- introduce our new Public Engagement Framework
- summarise our communication services to voters, the media, political parties and candidates
- showcase our work with national and international electoral bodies to support innovation and harmonisation
- cover our research initiatives and activities.

Electoral Integrity and Regulation

This section covers our work in:

- administering and developing political funding and donation disclosure laws, including our response to the High Court decision on Part 12 of the Electoral Act
- supporting candidates and political parties
- administering compulsory voting enforcement
- delivering an electoral compliance program.

Event Strategy and Delivery

This section covers our core business activities of:

- maintaining the register of electors
- preparing for and conducting elections
- election logistics and resourcing.

Information and Digital Services

This section details how we protect electoral data and support electoral integrity with robust systems and applications.

Corporate Services

This section covers our:

- governance and organisational structure
- Executive Leadership Team
- internal committees and external advisory groups
- corporate governance processes and public disclosures
- corporate services that support our operations.

Our people content highlights how we are building capability across the organisation. It covers our continued efforts to make the VEC an empowering, engaging and inspiring place to work.

Our finance content demonstrates our commitment to robust financial management and transparent reporting. It includes our public disclosures.

This section also contains our audited financial statements for 2025–26.

Our appendices can also be found in the Corporate Service section and are referred to throughout the report.

Glossary and list of abbreviations

The glossary and list of abbreviations support readers to understand specific terms.

Introduction

Reflections from the Electoral Commissioner.

Our year

Reflections from Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel

The 2025–26 financial year has been defined by one of our most significant undertakings: preparing to deliver the 2026 Victorian state election. The electoral landscape has shifted notably in the last 4 years, and meeting our responsibilities as an electoral commission has required us to rethink how we prepare for and deliver state elections. The 2026 state election is a distinctly different undertaking, requiring new capabilities and, in some areas, a departure from established ways of working.

Preparations for the election for the 61st Parliament of Victoria have been shaped by new legislation, a bigger and more dispersed electorate, and a workforce and systems we have had to expand and rebuild to meet demand. In response, we have made significant changes to how we will deliver the election and introduced governance enhancements that strengthen our stewardship of Victoria's electoral system.

While much has changed in how we work, the foundations of our work have not. Our purpose and our commitment to delivering fair, accessible, transparent and trusted elections remain steadfast.

Throughout the year of considerable change, our work has continued to be guided by our 3 organisational values:

- we are proudly independent
- we work as one
- we lead with purpose.

State election preparations

The scale of the 2026 state election called for greater capability. Our in-house ballot paper production process is a first for this organisation, and our new Operational Command Centre (OCC) represents a significant improvement in how we coordinate our efforts across the state during our peak delivery period. We did not take either on faith but tested them at our dedicated state election rehearsal and in the real-world environment of the Nepean District by-election. The results were clear: our Print Workshop and OCC give us the capacity we need to meet an election on this scale.

Another significant shift is under way in how Victorians vote above the line. Group voting tickets were an electoral system that allowed political parties and groups of candidates to control preference flows. However, this system has been abolished ahead of the 2026 Victorian state election. This is in keeping with the Electoral Matters Committee's (EMC) recommendation in November 2024 to remove group voting tickets. We are adjusting our ballot papers and voter information assets accordingly. This is a foundational change and is one more example of why this election calls for a different kind of preparation from that required for previous elections.

Beyond our internal processes, the political environment continues to evolve and challenges arise accordingly. Mis- and disinformation remain a live and growing challenge, and we continue to monitor developments in this space and work to ensure that Victorians have access to reliable and unbiased information about their voting rights and how to exercise them.

Part 12 of the Electoral Act

The High Court's decision to invalidate the funding and disclosure laws in the Electoral Act required a substantial organisational response. We are always committed to faithfully and independently administering the law as it stands. However, the new legislative framework introduced just 6 months before a state election created complex and fast-moving work across the organisation. Our teams responded with professionalism and agility, and by the end of the reporting period, we were ready to administer the new laws passed by Parliament in June.

New governance structure and work precinct

To match the complexity of what we are now delivering and regulating, we implemented a new corporate governance framework on 1 January 2026. The new framework provides clearer reporting lines and accountabilities for our portfolios and enhances organisation-wide decision-making.

We reached another major milestone in early 2026, when over half of the VEC workforce relocated to our new facilities in Port Melbourne. This was an

exciting opportunity to co-locate our operational functions and support collaboration across teams in our largest portfolio, Event Strategy and Delivery. The new precinct comprises facilities for centralised election activity and is also home to our new Print Workshop. These facilities allow us to reduce election delivery risk while improving efficiency at the scale the 2026 state election requires.

Collaboration and engagement

Throughout the year, we continued exploring innovation in the electoral sector through our membership of the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ). ECANZ brings together electoral commissions across both countries with the common goal of improving electoral services for the jurisdictions that each of us serves. The VEC hosted the November 2025 ECANZ meeting, where we showcased our Port Melbourne facilities to strong interest among ECANZ representatives.

We continued to contribute to professional development across the sector. In September 2025, we participated in the Electoral Regulation Research Network course, delivering a joint presentation with the New South Wales Electoral Commission on de-risking election delivery. This included insights into our delivery model, the role of testing and rehearsal, and partnerships with service providers such as Australia Post.

In March, we appeared before the EMC for its inquiry into voting centre accessibility. Our submission noted the significance of this inquiry and our ongoing investment into accessible voting services for all Victorians. With planning for the 2026 state election as at 30 June 2026, and many initiatives already committed, we anticipate providing our formal response to the inquiry's findings and recommendations early in the 2027 calendar year.

Engagement with stakeholders remains central to how we do this work. We hosted a meeting of all our advisory groups in February, reinforcing our focus on inclusion, participation and engagement for groups that face additional or specific challenges in making their voice heard. Their advice continues to shape our service delivery and our work in the community. I would like to thank our advisory groups for their active participation in building a stronger democracy where every vote matters.

Looking ahead

The 2026 state election in November will require more from this organisation than previous elections. We move towards November in a period of transition–new laws, new systems, a new precinct and a scale of delivery without precedent in Victoria. The work of 2025–26 has been about ensuring we are ready for that change: building new capabilities, testing new approaches and strengthening the organisation that will deliver them.

Though this election may look different, what Victorians should expect from us remains unchanged. Our independence, our purpose and our commitment to delivering a fair, accessible and trusted election remain at the centre of everything we do.

Our systems are stronger, our capabilities greater, and our people are ready. We look forward to the challenge.

Sven Bluemmel
Electoral Commissioner

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Enterprise Strategy and Partnerships

Details of our strategic direction, achievements and outlook; research and evaluation; our work with electoral bodies and external advisory groups; and our broader efforts to support inclusion, voter participation and effective communication.

Achievements, outlook and challenges

This section covers achievements, outlook and challenges across the whole organisation. It includes key achievements under Strategy 2027, our strategic plan setting out 4 themes and our priorities from 2023 to 2027, coordinated by our Enterprise Strategy and Partnerships portfolio.

Achievements

In this reporting period, our achievements included:

- establishing a new corporate governance structure to support the Electoral Commissioner in executing their powers, duties and functions. The new structure comprises 5 functional committees with governance oversight for their focus areas. These committees report to our Executive Leadership Committee (ELC), which provides organisation-wide oversight
- establishing an evidence-based framework to guide public engagement and improve electoral participation in key Victorian regions with low voter turnout and high voter informality
- launching a peer-led prison education program with Corrections Victoria to support greater understanding of voting rights and responsibilities among people in custody
- Parliament legislating critical recommendations from our report on the 2022 state election and the first report of the independent Electoral Review Expert Panel. These reforms included changes that reduced complexity and eased pressure on early phases of state election timelines
- delivering the reports to Parliament on the 2024 local council elections and 2025 Prahran and Werribee District by-elections. These reports outlined recommendations to improve election delivery
- articulating our regulatory objectives derived from our legislative framework. Embedding these in our first regulatory strategy and regulatory governance framework
- launching state election information sessions to give prospective candidates, registered political parties, and interested others earlier and more regular access to critical information
- delivering a successful state by-election for Nepean District
- implementing our season model for local council by-elections to improve efficiency and reduce costs
- implementing program governance and operational changes as we prepare for the state election in November 2026. These changes include checkpoints to test election delivery readiness against key milestones and delivering an election dress rehearsal of over 200 test scenarios.
- preparing a field compliance model for the 2026 state election, including specialist training and resources to promote and support compliance with electoral laws
- implementing a new Gender Equality Action Plan that will drive an environment of balanced workforce representation, improved pay alignment, and consistent and equitable recruitment practices and learning opportunities.

Challenges

Our challenges during the financial year included:

- the High Court severing the political finance part from the Electoral Act after a legal challenge to the legal treatment of nominated entities. This impacted our regulatory functions and created uncertainty among the entities regulated by the laws
- mapping over 200 operational changes arising from the *Electoral Amendment Act 2026* (Vic), including changes with immediate effect or that impacted state election planning
- managing one of the shortest election timelines in Australia. When combined with the second-highest population, this means heightened operational complexity and risk of election failure
- managing increasing cost pressures on local council by-election delivery.

Outlook

Our outlook for the next reporting period includes completing *Strategy 2027* and supporting strategies for:

- election service delivery
  - regulation
  - information and technology
  - people development
  - community engagement
  - corporate compliance
- launching a new enterprise strategy for the next 8 years
- delivering the 2026 state election in November
- conducting local council ward boundary reviews to balance voter numbers across council wards. This will prepare us to deliver the 2028 local council elections
- publishing our first campaigner handbook to complement existing candidate and scrutineer handbooks. The new handbook will include content co-designed with representatives from registered political parties to capture their expectations and perspectives.

Our strategic plan

In August 2023, we launched *Strategy 2027* with 4 strategic outcomes to guide us:

- reinforcing public trust
- improving the voter experience
- responding to a complex environment
- prioritising staff safety and wellbeing.

This chapter highlights our progress on the 4-year strategy. Read the complete strategy on our website at vec.vic.gov.au/about-us

Refreshing our vision and values

In July 2025, we confirmed our vision. We also introduced our new purpose, commitment and corporate values to guide how we work.

Our vision

All Victorians actively participating in their democracy.

Our purpose

Building a stronger future for Victorian democracy.

Our commitment

Delivering a trusted democratic process through excellence and impartiality.

Our values

- We are proudly independent.
- We work as one.
- We lead with purpose.

Reinforcing public trust

We are trusted to deliver electoral services with integrity and high quality.

Success measures

- Our electoral performance measures indicate we deliver high-quality services.
- Our reputation, media impact and confidence scores indicate that the public and stakeholders trust us.
- We implement a framework where electoral integrity is at the centre of everything we do.

Improving the voter experience

We deliver a great voter experience.

Success measures

- Take-up and satisfaction with accessible options indicate we minimise barriers to voting.
- Our education and outreach activities make a positive impact on under-represented communities' participation and knowledge of voting.
- Voter satisfaction with our services improves.
- We clearly articulate a reform agenda that allows us to make meaningful recommendations for regulatory and legislative change.

Responding to a complex environment

Our processes and systems respond to a complex environment.

Success measures

- Our projects are delivered as planned.
- Our processes are continuously improving.
- Voter, candidate and party satisfaction with our digital services shows the online user experience is improving.
- We deliver a strong governance framework for regulatory activities.

Prioritising staff safety and wellbeing

Our people are capable, engaged and satisfied.

Success measures

- We have a sustainable workforce that allows us to deliver our services and manage workloads.
- Our people are engaged, satisfied, have high levels of wellbeing and reflect the diversity of Victoria.
- Our people are capable, have access to training and can advance their careers.

Implementation

In 2025–26, we entered the final phase of *Strategy 2027*. We achieved stability or improvements in the thematic areas towards our strategic objectives.

At the start of the financial year, we reviewed the strategy's enabling actions and key performance indicators to ensure they continued to be fit for purpose. Through this process, we identified 4 new strategic initiatives and made minor updates to 2 actions. We also added 3 new performance indicators and amended 2 performance indicators.

As a result of these updates, we started the year with 21 outstanding enabling actions and have since delivered 4, including:

- development of an implementation plan to realign the Electoral Integrity Framework and embed it into electoral processes
- phase 1 of our advocacy program
- refinement and implementation of a new corporate governance model
- development of a Regulatory Governance Framework.

The remaining 17 actions are in progress. These include (but are not limited to):

- development of our evaluation framework for electoral events
- finalisation of our strategy to combat misinformation
- data integrity readiness for the 2026 state election

- implementation of our Electoral Participation Plan
- improvement in the accessibility and user experience of the VEC website
- implementation of our Health, Safety and Wellbeing Framework.

An overview of our progress appears on the following pages.

Table 1: Progress towards *Strategy 2027* by theme, 2025–26

Theme	Outcome and success measures
Trust	*Services* We continued implementing the Election Delivery Framework for the 2026 state election. The framework aims to strengthen evaluation, performance monitoring and continuous improvement. We progressed new: › election evaluation processes › performance measures › supporting systems. These enable more consistent, reliable and transparent reporting of election outcomes. *Reputation* Public confidence and trust in the VEC remained steady during the reporting period, with minor movements in positive and negative reputation and confidence measures over the course of the year, to be monitored in future research. We have advanced progress on a strategic approach to mis- and disinformation in the electoral environment. This work will inform our communication, engagement and media strategies for the state election. *Integrity* We continued to embed the Electoral Integrity Framework across the organisation. We further strengthened our: › data integrity processes › reporting standards › governance arrangements. These help us manage electoral information securely and accurately.

Theme	Outcome and success measures
Voters	*Accessibility* We continued implementing initiatives to improve accessibility and reduce barriers to participation. We progressed planning for expanded early voting services, including: › more early voting centres › trialling extended operating hours › low-sensory voting options in all districts. We also continued improving website accessibility and Easy Read content for more inclusive voter engagement. *Satisfaction* We improved training and instructional products for our temporary election workforce, who help deliver high-quality voter experiences. We tested draft training products in our election rehearsal and refined these for the state election. *Reform agenda* We continued progressing our reform priorities to improve election efficiency and processes. During the reporting period, we focused on: › priority legislative reform initiatives › measures to improve vote counting › overall service delivery outcomes.
Processes and systems	*Major projects* Project delivery performance was strong during the reporting period, with our major initiatives meeting election readiness requirements. *Process improvement* As part of our Election Delivery Strategy roadmap, we: › transitioned completed initiatives into business-as-usual operations › advanced longer-term initiatives to meet timeframes. *User accessibility* We continued improving our digital services and website accessibility to support a more inclusive and user-focused experience. *Corporate governance, risk and compliance* We strengthened our governance and compliance arrangements through the Corporate Compliance Framework and revised governance committee structures. These changes have improved oversight, accountability and consistency across organisational decision-making.

Theme	Outcome and success measures
Wellbeing	*Sustainable workforce* We continued strategic workforce planning for future requirements and readiness for the state election. This work focused on identifying critical workforce needs, capability gaps and planning requirements for peak periods. *Health, safety and wellbeing* As election preparations intensified, we progressed initiatives to strengthen: › employee wellbeing › psychosocial safety › organisational support mechanisms. These included targeted health and safety improvements and enhanced reporting and consultation mechanisms. *Workplace inclusion* We continued to focus on creating a workplace that reflects the diversity of Victoria and supports all staff to feel welcome, heard, respected and appreciated. We submitted our Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) to the Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector and our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Framework is well advanced. *Talent management* We continued to work on improving our: › employee experience › people management practices › recruitment processes › workforce capability development. These initiatives support stronger leadership, improved employee lifecycle management and enhanced organisational performance.

Research and evaluation

We conduct ongoing research on electoral matters in the public interest. This is guided by a research policy and plan. The findings from our research inform initiatives designed to improve service delivery and electoral participation for different stakeholder groups.

In 2025–26 our research function moved into the Enterprise Strategy and Partnerships portfolio. This gives research a broader remit to support operational and strategic decision-making.

Key research activities undertaken in the reporting period included:

- supporting the comprehensive evaluation framework for major electoral events
- enhancing data analysis and practice to better model vote estimates and 2-candidate-preferred predictions
- analysing voting patterns for factors that influence voter turnout.

Online Research Panel

Our Online Research Panel embeds the voices of voters into our communication and service design. It is a growing part of our research capability.

During 2025–26, we recruited a new panel of over 2,000 voters randomly selected from the register of electors. Surveys with the panel have covered:

- voting and non-voting attitudes and behaviours
- the VEC's reputation.

Future surveys will help us plan for the 2026 state election.

Electoral Regulation Research Network

We joined the New South Wales Electoral Commission and the University of Melbourne in March 2012 to establish the Electoral Regulation Research Network (ERRN). The purpose of ERRN is to foster discussion on electoral regulation research among academics, electoral commissions and other interested groups.

ERRN hosts or sponsors seminars and workshops on election-related topics, available in-person and online. In 2025–26, we participated in ERRN events on topics including:

- the 2025 federal election
- the Australian Electoral Study.

In this reporting period, the Northern Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, Victorian and Tasmanian electoral commissions formed the ERRN Research Council. The council supported ERRN to launch an annual 'thematic report' program. This program promotes investigation of policy themes relevant to Australian electoral commissions. For 2026 the theme is 'maintaining public confidence in elections'.

Australian Research Council partnership on informal voting

We participated in a research partnership with the University of Adelaide and Flinders University on informal voting. This covered Victorian state and local council elections over 3 election periods. A full report of the study will be released in 2026–27.

University partners will also independently produce policy recommendations. We will use these findings to inform our election, engagement and communication services.

Electoral bodies

We work with various national and international bodies to increase electoral harmonisation. Sharing ideas and collaborating on research with these bodies fosters our continued innovation. These relationships also support our capacity to advise on legislative change.

Electoral Boundaries Commission

As required by legislation, we provide administrative and technical support to the Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC), an independent statutory agency comprised of the:

- Chief Judge of the County Court
- Surveyor-General
- Electoral Commissioner.

The EBC met once in 2025–26. The report of the EBC is at Appendix I on page 141.

The last state redivision by the EBC was finalised in 2021 and is noted in table 15 on page 54.

Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand

ECANZ is a consultative council of electoral commissioners from the Commonwealth, states and territories of Australia and New Zealand.

Formed in 2012, ECANZ has evolved into a forum to:

- discuss all aspects of electoral administration
- encourage cooperation
- address challenges to improve access and equality for all voters.

The ECANZ charter is available at ecanz.gov.au

ECANZ met on 3 occasions in 2025–26 and considered broad themes relating to:

- the delivery of election events and updates on legislative reforms
- the influence of AI and mis- and disinformation on electoral service delivery and integrity.

The efforts of ECANZ are also supported by a forum of deputy electoral commissioners known as the DEC Group. The Deputy Electoral Commissioner participates in meetings and other DEC Group activities.

We also participated in the following ECANZ information and knowledge sharing communities of practice:

- Funding and Disclosure
- Finance
- National Election Operations
- Human Resources, Training and Work Health and Safety (established July 2025)
- Communication, Education and Engagement (established June 2025).

Electoral Matters Committee

We regularly contribute to inquiries by the EMC of the Parliament. The EMC's powers and functions are determined by the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003* (Vic) and include inquiring and reporting to Parliament on:

- the conduct of elections for parliament and referendums in Victoria
- the conduct of local council elections in Victoria
- other matters to do with electoral law in Victoria.

The EMC published its final reports on 2 inquiries in December 2025. These were the inquiries into:

- Victoria's upper house electoral system
- the 2025 Prahran and Werribee District by-elections.

We published our responses to the EMC's recommendations in March 2026.
Our responses indicated whether we supported each recommendation and indicated a budget impact for each.

In December 2025, the EMC commenced a new inquiry into voting centre accessibility. We made a submission to the inquiry in February 2026, providing information about:

- our approach to disability access and inclusion
- our venue selection process
- the ways we provide accessible voting experiences
- our communication to disability communities and about accessible voting services
- alternative voting options available to voters with disability.

We also made 6 recommendations for the EMC's consideration. The Electoral Commissioner and other VEC representatives appeared before the EMC at a hearing on 23 March 2026 to speak to our submission and answer questions.

The EMC is due to report on its inquiry no later than 30 September 2026.

External advisory groups

Our advisory groups include people with lived experience and representatives from community organisations.

The following 5 groups support our work to increase electoral participation:

- Aboriginal Advisory Group, representing First Nations communities
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Advisory Group, representing multicultural communities
- Electoral Access Advisory Group, representing people with disability
- Prisons and Without a Home Advisory Group, representing people experiencing homelessness or incarceration
- Young People Advisory Group, representing people up to the age of 29.

All groups met 3 times this financial year, both individually and as a group.

We thank members for their commitment and advice. They continue to support increased electoral engagement for underrepresented groups.

Aboriginal Advisory Group

The Aboriginal Advisory Group includes representation from Elders, community leaders, and partner organisations from metropolitan and regional Victoria. Members include:

- Andrew Jackomos (Yorta Yorta, Gunditjmara)
- Nellie Flagg (Bunurong, Wemba Wemba, Dja Dja Wurrung)
- Stacie Nicholson-Piper (Wurundjeri, Dja Dja Wurrung, Ngurai Illum Wurrung)
- Patsy Doolan (Barkindji) – retired in 2025
- Marie Pewhairangi (Te Whanau a Ruataupare, Ngati Porou)
- Diane Kerr (Wurundjeri)
- Jenaya Bartlett (Wiradjuri)
- Merilyn Duff (Palawa).

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Advisory Group

The CALD Advisory Group comprises representatives from community and government organisations. These include:

- Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network
- Carringbush Adult Education
- Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District
- Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne)
- Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
- AMES Australia.

The group ensures our work reflects the needs of multicultural communities and recognises new and emerging voices.

Electoral Access Advisory Group

The Electoral Access Advisory Group includes representatives from community and government organisations alongside people with lived experience. These include:

- Scope
- Vision Australia
- Blind Citizens Australia
- Amaze
- Yooralla
- Carers Victoria
- Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability (VALID)
- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission
- Action on Disability within Ethnic Communities
- Brotherhood of St Laurence.

In 2025–26, the group helped us improve access and inclusion across our services in preparation for the 2026 state election.

Prisons and Without a Home Advisory Group

The Prisons and Without a Home Advisory Group represents people experiencing homelessness and incarceration. Group members in the reporting period were:

- Council to Homeless Persons
- St Mary's House of Welcome – retired November 2025
- Sacred Heart Mission
- Salvation Army – retired March 2026
- Corrections Victoria
- Fair Collective
- Vacro
- Victorian Statewide Homelessness Network
- people with lived experience.

The group advised us on:

- strengthening relationships with youth justice and youth out-of-home care providers
- developing digital information and education resources for prisons
- supporting enrolment and voting for the state election
- delivering regular information sessions in the homelessness sector
- expanding our mobile voting in prisons and the homelessness sector.

Young People Advisory Group

The Young People Advisory Group is comprised of youth members and representatives from government and peak bodies including:

- YMCA Victoria
- Foundation for Young Australians
- Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
- Parliament of Victoria.

The group provided feedback on:

- the state election advertising campaign
- our use of social media to engage with young people
- our stakeholder engagement plans and opportunities for expanding our networks
- our school education resources and outreach.

2025–26 advisory group effectiveness

We want our advisory group members to feel heard as they work with us to address the barriers facing their communities.

In 2025–26, we consulted the groups in our review of the Public Engagement branch and planning for the state election.

Group feedback was vital to preparing our:

- Public Engagement Framework
- Electoral Participation Plan
- state election work.

The data in Table 2 does not include this work but shows outcomes from our regular advisory group meeting schedule.

Table 2: Advisory group effectiveness measures, 2025–26

Measure	Result
Advisory group meeting attendance rate	58%
Members demonstrate reach with the relevant population group	Assessed as met
Group member composition criteria met in relation to: › lived experience › peak body involvement › gender › geographic location › whole sector representation › intersectionality	Assessed as met
Number of times advisory group advice sought (formally and informally) for planning or implementation	10
Proportion of member recommendations adopted (in full or part) in planning or implementation	84%

Inclusion and participation

We understand the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion to ensure all Victorians can actively participate in their democracy.

Throughout 2025–26 we continued work on the goals in our 5 education and engagement plans, with a focus on preparing for the state election.

We reviewed our inclusion and participation work, which led to the development of a new approach to education and engagement, including developing our new Public Engagement Charter and Electoral Participation Plan 2026–2031. The charter explains how we work with communities and what they can expect when they engage with us; the Electoral Participation Plan explains how we will focus our efforts, share information, and test new ideas to improve participation in elections.

Our democracy ambassador (DA) program provides peer-to-peer electoral education to our 6 priority communities.

In the last financial year, we provided 187 outreach sessions.

Aboriginal communities

In 2025–2026, we launched our *Ngabun-Bambunj Aboriginal education and engagement plan* to guide our work with Victorian Aboriginal communities. In the reporting period, following the goals in the plan, we:

- recruited new First Nations DAs
- delivered outreach sessions across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria
- developed resources and outreach programs for the state election
- delivered internal events for Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week.

Democracy ambassadors

Our DAs attended outreach events with our Aboriginal engagement staff to support awareness of the state election and encourage electoral participation.

In 2025–26, we focused on delivering outreach sessions in the Shepparton area and Mallee region.

Sector partnerships

We continued our partnership of the Koorie Emerging Leaders in Schools (KELiS) program.

Our partnership with the Kiilalaana Foundation finished at the end of 2025.

Our work continues in the development of partnerships across regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne to support outreach and engagement for the November state election.

Multicultural communities

Our current *Multicultural education and engagement plan* was launched in May 2025. In line with its goals, during the reporting period, we:

- prepared culturally appropriate and accessible resources for the state election
- expanded the delivery of our Active Citizenship workshops
- researched changing trends in migration to update our focus areas and languages
- continued to deliver DA sessions.

Active citizenship education

We partnered with organisations to present Active Citizenship workshops ahead of the 2026 state election. These included:

- Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- Cultural Spring
- Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District.

Engaging communities, service providers and staff

Our DAs and engagement staff attended community and cultural events, conferences, forums, and professional networking events across the state.

In addition to outreach by DAs, the Multicultural Engagement Coordinator presented to 54 conferences, forums, and professional networks.

Our Talking Democracy Toolkit webpages were visited 793 times, with 398 resource downloads.

People experiencing homelessness or incarceration

In the first year of our *Prisons and without a home education and engagement plan*, we:

- launched our prison education program, delivering 8 sessions in prisons
- developed an Easy Read election guide for people in prison
- provided regular information sessions through homelessness service providers
- attended key sector events and network meetings
- began developing education programs for youth in out-of-home care and justice services
- employed people with lived experience as DAs.

Sector partnerships

Our partnerships with the prison sector support education and engagement for people sentenced or on remand in Victoria.

In 2025–26 we worked with Corrections Victoria on digital and web-based resources for prisons. These will be delivered in the next financial year.

We also partnered with the homelessness sector in key regional areas such as Shepparton and the Mallee. This included outreach and information sessions and working with consumer participation groups.

People with disability

In the first year of our *Disability education and engagement plan* we:

- developed co-designed promotional and information resources for carers and support workers
- reviewed our voting centre building access checklists
- supported the low-sensory voting initiative
- prepared information handouts, social stories, Easy Read guides and other resources for the state election.

Democracy ambassadors

This reporting period, we delivered 28 sessions in the disability sector and recruited new DAs with lived experience as carers.

We attended events hosted by the disability sector to provide information and education on electoral participation. This included presenting to over 1,500 people at large events including the VALID conference and Down Syndrome Victoria's StepUP! event.

We also worked with service providers to develop resources for sector staff.

Carers and supporters

In 2025–26, we worked with our 'carers and supporters' working group to co-design:

- electoral education
- information
- promotional resources.

These materials will support carers and family members for the upcoming state election.

Young people

In the first year of delivering our *Young people education and engagement plan* we:

- employed more young people as DAs
- consulted with young people on our advertising campaigns
- updated the Passport to Democracy website
- began work on an education resource for youth in out-of-home care.

Youth Parliament and Young Mayors

We sponsored 5 teams of young people for the 2025 YMCA Youth Parliament program. These teams comprised people aged 15 to 25 from our priority community groups. This year's teams represented:

- CREATE Foundation
- Multicultural Community Services Geelong Youth Council
- Kyabram P-12 College
- Mildura Rural City Council
- The Grange College.

We also worked with the Foundation for Young Australians' Young Mayors program, supporting its Hume City Council election in October 2025.

Passport to Democracy

Our longstanding Passport to Democracy program continued to support electoral education for schools, teachers and young people. The program website provides important civics and electoral information and was accessed by 9,466 total users, with 13,569 views and 1,751 resource downloads.

We also delivered civics training for regional teachers with the Victorian Student Representative Council in Wodonga, Geelong, and Mildura.

Communication services

Advertising and campaigns

Statutory advertising

In 2025–26, we published statutory advertising for:

- the Nepean District state by-election
- 5 local council by-elections
- 5 local council countbacks
- the Victorian Strawberry Industry Development Order Poll 2026.

We published a total of 41 statutory and non-statutory advertisements for these events.

We also published 18 political party notices and 7 Victoria Government Gazette notices announcing local council by-elections.

Nepean District by-election campaign

We ran a multi-channel targeted advertising campaign across local and metro print, radio, digital audio, digital display and social media during the election period to promote key election information to voters.

Nepean EasyVote guide

We produced the Nepean EasyVote guide. This was sent by post to 40,000 households in Nepean District during the week of 13 April, just before the start of early voting. The guide provided information about when, where, and how to vote.

Media

We build and maintain productive relationships with media to deliver clear, transparent information to the public about elections and our regulatory work. Our approach includes publishing proactive media releases and responding to media enquiries in a timely fashion.

Proactive media releases

Throughout 2025–26, we issued 99 media releases about election events, our register of political parties and changes to legislation.

This included 7 proactive media releases about the Nepean District by-election and 35 about regulatory matters.

Responses to media

We aim to respond to all media queries in 3 business days. In 2025–26, we responded to 199 media enquiries, with:

- 171 on the same business day
- 18 in one business day
- 5 in 3 business days
- 5 in more than 3 business days.

Social media

Our social media channels continue to be a critical medium for community outreach, education and information about electoral events.

In the financial year, we published:

- 71 X posts
- 277 Facebook posts
- 84 Instagram posts
- 115 Threads posts
- 21 YouTube videos
- 66 LinkedIn posts.

These generated 9,930 visits to our website. Most of these came from Facebook (7,289), followed by X (1,528).

VEC website

Our website is the first point of contact for Victorians seeking:

- information about election events
- enrolment updates or information
- information about our programs and activities.

In 2025–26, a total of 771,938 users accessed the website, with over 1 million visits. Of those, 440,085 (57%) used a mobile device.

VoterAlert

We sent VoterAlert notifications to state-enrolled voters by SMS, email or both for:

- the Nepean District state by-election
- council by-elections in:
  - Darebin City Council, North West Ward
  - Whittlesea City Council, Lalor Ward
  - Wodonga City Council, Lake Hume Ward
  - Greater Bendigo City Council, Lockwood Ward
  - Whittlesea City Council, Thomastown Ward
  - Latrobe City Council, Morwell River Ward
  - Kingston City Council, Melaleuca Ward
  - Wyndham City Council, Heathdale Ward.

For Nepean District we sent reminders about:

- the close of roll date
- the EasyVote guide and opening of early voting
- missed entitlements
- an election day reminder (to subscribers who hadn't voted early).

Across council by-elections, VoterAlert reminders were sent to state-enrolled voters about:

- the close of roll date
- the ballot pack mail-out period
- the last week to return completed ballot material.

VoterAlert will continue to be deployed at all future elections to raise awareness of upcoming electoral events.

Electoral Integrity and Regulation

Details of our regulatory and compliance work, including our response to the High Court's decision on Part 12 of the Electoral Act, administration of political funding and donation disclosure laws, and our electoral and compulsory voting enforcement activities.

Governing legislation and tribunals

Our primary responsibilities are set out in the following Victorian legislation:

- Constitution Act
- Electoral Act
- Local Government Act
- *City of Melbourne Act 2001* (City of Melbourne Act).

Under these Acts, we conduct state parliamentary and local council elections. We also conduct some statutory and fee-for-service elections.

We report to the Parliament of Victoria on the conduct of elections and provide recommendations. We also make submissions to the EMC on its inquiries.

Other legislation and regulations imposing duties on the VEC are listed in Appendix B.

Legislation

On 15 April 2026, the High Court of Australia declared Part 12 of the Electoral Act invalid. The reason for the declaration was that Part 12 'impermissibly burdened the freedom of political communication implied under the Australian Constitution' (*Hopper v Victoria* [2026] HCA 11, [*Hopper*]). As a result, political finance laws were severed from the Electoral Act from the date of the decision until the Parliament's legislative response was finalised. This meant there were no mechanisms to:

- pay political funding
- take compliance actions related to Part 12
- regulate and publish political donations.

Electoral Amendment Act 2026

On 25 May 2026, parts of the *Electoral Amendment Act 2026* (Vic) (First Amendment Act) commenced, making changes to the Electoral Act. These included:

- changes to the timeline for state elections and by-elections
- changed electoral processes, such as conducting 2-candidate-preferred counts for all Legislative Assembly district elections
- new deadlines and requirements for political party registration
- changes to authorisation requirements for electoral material
- changes to enrolment processes, including additional protection for silent elector enrolment information
- flexibility to appoint alternative voting centres in emergencies
- clarifying arrangements for supplementary elections and re-elections
- updated definitions and delegations to modernise and streamline electoral processes.

Electoral Further Amendment Act 2026

On 5 June 2026, Parliament passed the *Electoral Further Amendment Act 2026* (Vic) (Further Amendment Act) to reintroduce political finance laws to the Electoral Act following the High Court's decision in *Hopper*.

The Further Amendment Act included provision for obligations, functions and powers to be backdated to the *Hopper* decision date.

We are undertaking extensive external communications, targeted engagement and process uplift to ensure stakeholders have the information and tools they need to comply with the new laws as the 2026 state election approaches.

Legal matters

Our exercise of statutory powers is subject to judicial and merits review. In 2025–26, no electoral matters were brought before the Supreme Court of Victoria in its original jurisdiction. There were also no matters brought before the Supreme Court of Victoria sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns.

Our work was significantly impacted by the High Court of Australia in *Hopper*. While we were not a party to the proceedings, we provided information to inform the parties' submissions. We also monitored the progress of the matter through the Court and prepared for potential outcomes.

An application for review of our decision to refuse a name-change request was before the Victorian

Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) at 30 June 2026. We must refuse an application to change a party's name under section 47 of the Electoral Act, which includes circumstances where the requested name is the same or similar to that of another recognised political party.

The First Amendment Act also clarified that any potential for confusion between the names of registered political parties should be considered against the register of political parties for the last 10 years.

Compliance support

Determinations made

The Electoral Commissioner issued the following determinations in 2025–26:

- scrutineering at an election
- signage at voting centres
- instructions on secrecy during the early processing of votes
- how-to-vote-cards at mobile voting centres
- requirements to include or change a political party logo for use on ballot papers
- verifying the identity of an elector applying by electronic means to vote by post
- logos, emblems and insignias appearing on how-to-vote-cards
- electronic-assisted voting
- filling extraordinary vacancies on local councils
- authorisation of electoral material
- sufficient reasons for failing to vote
- publication of the election manual
- campaigning at voting centres.

All determinations are published on our website vec.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation/determinations

Regulation

Regulatory uplift

The VEC regulates electoral participants – voters, candidates and campaigners, registered political parties and others – to safeguard free and fair elections. We ensure transparency in electoral processes, and deliver elections with integrity and results that people can trust.

As part of our regulatory uplift program during 2025–26, we undertook significant work to become a more capable, competent and credible regulator. This included:

- publishing our regulatory objectives:
  - active participation: we administer electoral enrolment, candidate nominations, party registration and compulsory voting to enable active participation in elections
  - transparent political finance: we administer political finance obligations to promote accountability, equity and transparency in Victorian state elections
  - trust in elections: we enforce the rules that apply to electoral advertising, campaigning, and voting to deliver free, fair and safe elections
- launching our first regulatory strategy
- reviewing and refocusing our regulatory governance arrangements
- expanding our engagement with the electoral participants we regulate
- progressing legislative advocacy about our regulatory powers and tools
- assessing our technological capability and identifying areas to enhance.

Our regulatory governance arrangements have established a Regulatory Advisory Committee to commence in 2026–27 to provide independent:

- expert advice
- assurance
- oversight
- regular monitoring.

The regulatory uplift program concluded on 30 June 2026 and responsibility for maintaining this work was passed to relevant business areas in our Electoral Integrity and Regulation portfolio.

Funding and disclosure

We administer Victoria's political funding and donation disclosure laws under the Electoral Act.

The laws were declared invalid and severed from the Electoral Act by the High Court of Australia's decision in *Hopper* on 15 April 2026. This meant we paused our administration and regulation of political funding and disclosure laws for 55 days until the *Further Amendment Act* received royal assent on 9 June 2026.

In this section, we report broadly on the activities performed during 2025–26 under either the old or new laws.

Political donations overview

Political donations in Victoria are regulated under the Electoral Act.

Key elements include:

- mandatory disclosure of political donations that met or exceeded the disclosure threshold ($1,240 until 14 April 2026 and $1,250 from 15 April 2026)
- a ban on donations over the general cap ($4,970 until 14 April 2026 and $5,030 from 15 April 2026) in the 4 years between general elections
- a provision for eligible independent candidates and eligible registered political parties to apply to be registered as a new entrant and access a higher general donation cap of $10,060 (applies from 15 April 2026)
- a prohibition on foreign donations
- a ban on anonymous donations above the disclosure threshold and requiring anyone who made or received donations above the disclosure threshold to disclose the donation.

If a donation recipient accepted a prohibited donation or a donation over the general cap, they were required to repay or forfeit the donation.

Donations are disclosed using our online portal, called VEC Disclosures, to support our objective of transparent political finance.

Monitoring political donations

We monitored compliance with political donation obligations including:

- the requirement to disclose donations that met or exceeded the disclosure threshold within 21 days of the donation
- the prohibition on donations exceeding the general donation cap
- the prohibition on donations from certain sources
- attempts to circumvent funding and disclosure laws.

In the financial year, 646 donations were published on VEC Disclosures. Of these, 61 donations were made or received after 15 April 2026 when the new laws applied.

Where appropriate, we use a constructive compliance approach to engage and educate electoral participants about their obligations.

We engage with donors and recipients to inform them about their disclosure requirements. During 2025–26, this included:

- raising awareness of disclosure obligations
- helping users navigate the VEC Disclosures system
- sharing information about restrictions and prohibitions on donations in Victoria.

If education failed to address non-compliance, or we suspected an offence, we had powers to investigate and act.

Annual returns overview

Annual returns were required from certain entities in relation to their political finance activities during each reporting period.

We review annual returns after they are submitted to ensure they include all required information. Where necessary, we raise potential issues or omissions and seek clarity from stakeholders.

We published annual returns for 2024–25 in December 2025 on VEC Disclosures. This practice supports our regulatory objective of transparent political finance.

Annual returns 2024–25

Annual returns for the 2024–25 financial year were required to be submitted by 20 October 2025.

We received annual returns from 81 entities. Of these, we reviewed and published 75. The remaining 6 were not published as they contained no financial information (they were 'nil' returns).

We also received 58 declarations from stakeholders stating that they did not have an obligation to submit an annual return.

The 75 annual returns we published were made up of:

- 16 from registered political parties
- 49 from associated entities
- 3 from nominated entities
- 5 from independent candidates or independent elected members of parliament
- 2 from third party campaigners.

Political funding overview

We administer 3 streams of political funding:

- Administrative expenditure funding – for general administrative or office costs, not campaigning. This was paid quarterly, in advance, and available to:
  - independent elected members of Parliament (a set annual amount)
  - registered political parties with members elected to Parliament (an amount dependent on the number of elected members the party had).
- Public funding – for campaign costs. This was available to parties and candidates who received at least 4% of the first preference votes at a state election. Typically paid after an election, recipients could also receive advance public funding in yearly instalments. The amount available was capped based on the number of first preference votes that the party or candidate received at the last election.
- Policy development funding – reimbursement for developing policies. This was available to registered political parties who met the criteria, which included that they had not received another funding type. The maximum amount depended on the first preference votes for the party in the last election. We paid policy development funding to applicants once a year.

Funding recipients had to either apply to receive funding or submit audited statements showing relevant expenditure.

Recipients of administrative expenditure funding were also required to submit an annual return each calendar year showing the expenditure they incurred. This allowed us to reconcile how much funding had to be returned to the state.

Political funding payments

During the 2025–26 financial year we paid a total of $13,059,408.39 in political funding on behalf of the state. This consisted of:

- Administrative expenditure funding: $7,108,724.80 (note – this amount includes $2,025,567.80 paid in advance for the July – September 2026 quarter).
- Public funding: $5,950,683.59

In some instances, we withheld funding amounts due to previous overpayments. We also issued invoices for overpayments, for example, if a party's entitlement changed after an advance payment was made, or when a candidate was no longer eligible for funding.

As a result of *Hopper*, we did not make funding payments from 15 April to 9 June 2026. We promptly engaged with impacted stakeholders to advise of payments that would not be made due to *Hopper* and then again when the funding streams were reintroduced from 9 June 2026.

We published an updated funding register in late 2025. The updated register showed all payments made between the 2022 state election and September 2025. This was published to support our regulatory objective of transparent political finance.

Stakeholder engagement

Throughout the reporting period we delivered enhanced, customer-centric engagement and communication to:

- candidates
- registered political parties
- independent elected members
- political participants
- political donors.

This included information about our regulatory role, Victoria's political funding and donation laws, and the impact of the *Hopper* decision including the reintroduction of political donation and funding laws.

In line with our constructive compliance and regulatory approach, our engagement focused on education. This improved voluntary compliance. Examples include:

- providing information about donation obligations to first-time donors and helping them navigate VEC Disclosures
- issuing reminders and delivering information sessions to political participants about reporting deadlines (including annual returns) and encouraging early engagement
- briefing newly appointed registered officers or registered political parties about their funding and disclosure obligations
- delivering an information session to potential candidates and parties about political finance ahead of the 2026 state election.

Electoral compliance and enforcement

Regulatory approach

Most allegations of offences are referred to the Electoral Compliance team through our complaints process. In addition, we receive internal referrals, information and intelligence from other law enforcement and integrity agencies. We can also initiate own-motion investigations.

When assessing new matters of non-compliance, we consider the extent of harm in line with a risk-based approach, which informs our regulatory response. We seek to engage in constructive compliance and provide electoral participants information and guidance about their obligations. This approach ensures participants have the information they need to meet their obligations and to encourage future compliance with the Electoral Act.

Matters may also be formally investigated. Outcomes and regulatory action are proportionate to the level of harm.

Our proactive approach reinforces the foundation of electoral integrity. During the reporting period we:

- opened 86 new investigations
- closed 72 investigations
- carried over 9 open investigations from the previous reporting period.

All investigations relevant to Victoria's political funding and disclosure laws were paused from 15 April 2026 to 9 June 2026 as a result of *Hopper*. As of 30 June 2026, there were 23 active investigations.

Field compliance and support – Nepean District by-election

In line with our regulatory approach to safeguard free and fair elections, reduce the risk of harm to electoral participants, and improve standards of behaviour, our Electoral Compliance staff were deployed into the field for the Nepean District by-election.

Team members were trained and upskilled in electoral offences so they could detect and respond to alleged breaches of the Electoral Act. Staff were in the field during early voting and on election day.

Our staff received 12 referrals for potential breaches or offences. These came from our complaints function or were referred through our internal Regulatory Advice and Incidents Desk. In addition, some matters were identified in the field by Electoral Compliance staff and some were reported by voting centre staff. Of the 12 matters reported during the Nepean District by-election, 10 were resolved through constructive compliance measures, with 2 currently under formal investigation as at 30 June.

State election field compliance support

Our Electoral Compliance team currently support field compliance for election events. Ahead of the 2026 state election, we will bolster and expand our field compliance presence and shift from a responsive model to a proactive model – engaging, monitoring, escalating and enforcing where required.

Increased numbers of compliance officers, additional surge staff, along with a professional training program and toolkit will strengthen our capacity in the field. This will also enable field presence at voting centres across Victoria.

Coercive powers of compliance officers

The Electoral Act provides for VEC employees to be appointed as compliance officers. The limited powers allow officers to require certain people to produce documents or other information or appear to give evidence. We are conscious of the responsibility of this power and manage its use accordingly. The Coercive Notice Control Board (CNCB) provided oversight and advice to the Electoral Commissioner on the use and review of compliance officer powers.

For the reporting year, the CNCB comprised:

- 2 senior executive service employees: the Chief People Officer and the Chief Information Officer
- an independent member, as the Chair of the CNCB. This independent member was also Chair of the VEC's Audit and Risk Committee.

During the reporting period, compliance officers issued 15 written notices under Part 12 of the Electoral Act. No person issued with a notice requested a review, and all notices were complied with. No coercive notices were issued from 15 April to 9 June 2026 because the decision in *Hopper* removed our mechanism to issue coercive notices for this period.

The CNCB formally finished operation on 30 June 2026 and will be replaced by our new Regulatory Advisory Committee. The new committee absorbs the functions of the CNCB and also has a broader remit following our regulatory uplift program. The new committee will provide the VEC with independent expert advice, assurance, oversight and regular monitoring to support our work as a regulator. The new committee will commence operation in 2026.

Intelligence Cell

Our Intelligence Cell supports Electoral Compliance staff to gather, analyse and share strategic and tactical information. During 2025–26, the cell:

- monitored various internal and external information sources for trends and indicators of non-compliance
- produced intelligence products to inform our regulatory decision-making and provide situational awareness to staff during election events
- acted on capability planning and continuous improvement measures identified last financial year
- conducted analysis to select regulatory priorities.

Table 3: Investigation activity, 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Category	Number of new investigations
Preliminary investigation	17
Investigation: Part 3 of the Electoral Act (enrolment procedures and information)	0
Investigation: Part 5 of the Electoral Act (election procedures)	8
Investigation: Part 6 of the Electoral Act (voting)	1
Investigation: Part 9 of the Electoral Act (enforcement and offences)	4
Investigation: Part 12 of the Electoral Act (election expenditure and political donations)	5
Investigation: Miscellaneous (multiple parts of the Electoral Act/other legislation and *LGI 2024 failure to vote matters)*	51
Total new investigations	86
Total investigations closed	72
Open investigations carried over from 2024–25 reporting year	9
Total active investigations at 30 June 2026	23

Table 4: Investigations related to the Nepean District by-election

Total cases created and category – Nepean District by-election	
Offence	**Number of investigations**
Authorisation of electoral material (online)	2
Authorisation of electoral material (signage)	6
Conduct near voting centres	3
Voting offences	1
Total	12

Table 5: Donations and disclosures indexed values for 1 July 2025 to 14 April 2026

Item	Topic
Disclosure threshold	$1,240
General cap	$4,970
Public funding MLA	$7.46 per first preference vote
Public funding MLC	$3.72 per first preference vote
Administrative expenditure funding (per year), capped at 45 members	$248,460 for the 1st member $86,950 for the 2nd member $43,490 for the 3rd to 45th member
Policy development fundings	$1.24 per first preference vote or $31,050 (whichever is more)

Table 6: Donations and disclosures indexed values for 15 April to 30 June 2026

Item	Topic
Disclosure threshold	$1,250
General cap	$5,030
Public funding MLA	$7.46 per first preference vote
Public funding MLC	$3.72 per first preference vote
Administrative expenditure funding (per year), capped at 45 members	$300,000 for the 1st member $100,000 for the 2nd member $55,000 for the 3rd to 45th member
Policy development fundings	$1.24 per first preference vote or $31,050 (whichever is more)

Note: The below tables consider the compliance for donations published between 1 July 2025 and 25 March 2026, being 21 days before Part 12 was invalidated by the High Court of Australia's decision in *Hopper*. This is because donors and recipients must disclose their donations within 21 days of the donation being made or received. As a result of the *Hopper* decision, donors and recipients ceased to have compliance obligations and we removed VEC Disclosures which meant that donations could no longer be disclosed.

Compliance rates for donations made and received between 15 April and 30 June 2026, once the new Part 12 came into effect, have not been reported. This is because the first day compliance was required was outside the reporting period (1 July 2026).

Table 7: Timeliness for donations published, 2025–26

Compliance status	Timeliness status	Number	% of total
Fully compliant	Donation disclosed on time by both donor and recipient	268	49.54%
Partially compliant	Donation disclosed late by one party to the transaction	190	35.12%
Non-compliant	Donation disclosed late by both donor and recipient	83	15.34%
Total		**541**	**100%**

Table 8: Donor and recipient compliance

Donor and recipient compliance status	% non-compliant
Donors were late meeting their disclosure obligations	48.98%
Recipients were late meeting their disclosure obligations	21.39%

Compulsory voting enforcement

We enforce voting requirements after elections, by-elections and polls where voting is compulsory. The Electoral Commissioner appoints a staff member as the Prosecution Officer for compulsory voting.

During 2025–26, we finalised enforcement for the:

- 2024 local council elections
- 2025 Prahran District by-election
- 2025 Werribee District by-election
- 2025 Darebin City Council by-election
- 2025 Whittlesea City Council by-election
- 2025 Wodonga City Council by-election.

We also started the enforcement process for the:

- 2026 Greater Bendigo City Council by-election
- 2026 Nepean District by-election.

We conduct the first stage of the non-voter follow-up process under Part 9, Division 2 of the Electoral Act, or section 266 of the Local Government Act. If enrolled voters do not respond, or provide an invalid response, we follow up under the Infringements Act.

We manage 3 stages of enforcement:

- Dispatching 'apparent failure to vote' notices to enrolled voters who appear not to have voted. Non-voters have 28 days from the date of the notice to provide a valid excuse for failing to vote.
- Issuing 'infringement' notices to people who did not respond to stage 1, or provided an invalid response. A penalty amount is applied (for 2025–26 this was $102). Non-voters have 35 days to respond to the notice by paying the penalty or seeking a review.
- Sending 'penalty reminder' notices to people who did not pay the infringement penalty or have their matter withdrawn in stage 2. Penalty costs are added to the original amount (for 2025–26 this was $29.20). Non-voters have 28 days to respond to this notice by paying the penalty or seeking a review.

After the penalty reminder notice expires, we refer outstanding matters to Fines Victoria. Non-voters have several options under the Infringements Act. They may:

- pay the full penalty amount
- ask for a payment plan
- ask for an internal review of the infringement

or

- ask us to refer the matter to the Magistrates' Court.

We reconcile penalties collected during the infringement period and transfer these to consolidated revenue or forward them to councils as required.

We also collate and transfer all penalties collected by Fines Victoria. Most of the monies are collections via Fines Victoria from older elections. In 2025–26, a total of:

- $1,460,847.72 was paid into consolidated revenue from parliamentary elections
- $13,279,463.35 was forwarded to councils from local council elections held since 2016.

We will remit further payments to consolidated revenue and councils as we receive them from Fines Victoria.

Lodgement with the courts

Non-voters can choose to have their matter heard in the Magistrates' Court. In 2025–26, the court received 51 applications and had 17 matters under review.

Lodgement of outstanding matters with Fines Victoria

After the penalty reminder stage for elections enforced in 2025–26, we lodged 282,089 outstanding non-voter records with Fines Victoria.

Table 9: Enforcement of compulsory voting, 2025–26

Election	Notice type	Mailout	Records	Penalties collected to 30 June 2026	Fines Victoria lodgement date	Number of records lodged with Fines Victoria
2024 local council elections	Apparent failure to vote	17, 24 February 3, 11, 17 March 2025	532,168	$12,066,245.61	9 September – 20 October 2025	268,701
	Infringement	14, 22, 28 April 12, 19 May 2025	449,904			
	Penalty reminder	1, 7, 28 July 4, 11 August 2025	332,526			
2025 Prahran District by-election	Apparent failure to vote	14 April 2025	11,529	$305,904.86	27 October 2025	5,442
	Infringement	10 June 2025	9,278			
	Penalty reminder	12 August 2025	6,989			
2025 Werribee District by-election	Apparent failure to vote	14 April 2025	8,770	$185,338.08	28 October 2025	4,974
	Infringement	10 June 2025	7,160			
	Penalty reminder	12 August 2025	5,810			
2025 Darebin City Council by-election	Apparent failure to vote	15 September 2025	1,964	$43,949.61	23 March 2026	960
	Infringement	10 November 2025	1,557			
	Penalty reminder	20 January 2026	1,160			

Election	Notice type	Mailout	Records	Penalties collected to 30 June 2026	Fines Victoria lodgement date	Number of records lodged with Fines Victoria
2025 Whittlesea City Council by-election	Apparent failure to vote	15 September 2025	2,704	$54,140.80	23 March 2026	1,482
	Infringement	10 November 2025	2,246			
	Penalty reminder	20 January 2026	1,742			
2025 Wodonga City Council by-election	Apparent failure to vote	18 November 2025	972	$8,772	1 June 2026	530
	Infringement	28 January 2026	819			
	Penalty reminder	1 April 2026	624			
Total			**1,377,922**	**$12,664,350.96**		**282,089**

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Event Strategy and Delivery

Details of our work supporting candidates and political parties, preparing for and conducting electoral events, maintaining the register of electors, and coordinating the logistics and resourcing that underpin election delivery.

Candidate and political party services

Party registration

It is not compulsory for political parties to register to contest an election, but there are benefits to registering. Under the Electoral Act, registered political parties:

- can access funding
- can include the party name and logo next to candidate or group names on ballot papers
- can access enrolment information for permitted purposes.

Political parties must have at least 500 members to register. These members must be:

- on the Victorian register of electors
- members in line with the party's rules
- not members of another registered party or another party applying for registration.

On 31 March 2026, amendments to the Electoral Act were passed that changed the:

- deadline for applications to register political parties, or change the name or logo for registered parties ahead of the state election
- reasons the VEC must refuse to register a party name and logo.

Before the revised deadline of 1 June 2026, we engaged extensively with potential political parties to help them understand the new requirements.

Register of political parties

We maintain the register of political parties under the Electoral Act. In 2025–26, we decided on:

- 6 registered officer changes
- 4 name changes
- 2 logo changes.

No new parties were registered in 2025–26. 19 applications to register a political party were received by the deadline of 1 June 2026, including 2 that were subsequently withdrawn. We will decide on these applications in 2026–27.

Services to local council candidates

Prospective candidates can always access our candidate helpdesk and resources from our website.

From the opening of each by-election office, candidates can seek support directly from the election manager.

Services to state candidates and political parties

To support independent candidates and registered political parties for the Nepean District by-election on Saturday 2 May 2026, we held online information sessions on Monday 16 March.

Independent candidates could also liaise directly with our candidate helpdesk or election managers. Political parties had direct contact with our head office Candidate Services team to lodge nominations and to apply to register how-to-vote cards.

Ahead of the 2026 state election, we held election-year briefing sessions with registered political parties in February 2026, including 3 sessions where the Electoral Commissioner and senior executives presented to registered officers of registered political parties about our *Draft service plan for the 2026 state election*. During these sessions, and in response to feedback received directly from several registered political parties and through Parliament's EMC, we also provided an updated contact list for registered officers of registered political parties to report and escalate matters.

In March 2026, we commenced our election information session program for the 2026 state election. This is a new initiative in response to feedback from candidates and registered political parties, providing earlier and more frequent access to information to assist and inform candidates, political parties and others to understand state election processes.

Each election information session provides a live, interactive and online deep dive with our subject matter experts on one of the following topics:

- campaigning, complaints and regulation
- election operations
- how-to-vote cards (Legislative Assembly district elections)
- how-to-vote cards (Legislative Council region elections)
- nominations
- political finance.

We presented 6 election information sessions by 30 June 2026, with a further 12 planned at different times of the day and weekends during the coming months. Each topic will be presented at least 3 times through the calendar year, and the recordings are available on our website.

Candidate handbooks and online tools

We publish candidate and scrutineer handbooks with information about timelines, legal requirements and key processes for both state and local council elections.

In 2025–26, we updated handbooks for the Nepean District by-election and progressed work updating the full state election handbook suite for the 2026 state election to incorporate feedback and reflect process changes.

These handbooks and all relevant forms are available to candidates in candidate information kits at election offices. Scrutineer handbooks are available at all counting locations. We also publish these on our website.

Our Candidate Helper application supports candidates with their paperwork to fast track the nomination process. During 2025–26, we also replaced our bulk nominations tool used by registered officers of registered political parties to prepare nomination forms on behalf of endorsed candidates for state elections, including up to 128 candidates for each political party. The new endorsed nominations tool includes much more functionality, a modern web-based user interface and can be used by registered officers for state district by-elections.

Table 10: Registered political parties at 30 June 2026

RPP name and registration details	Logo	Registered officer	Address
Affordable Housing Now – Sustainable Australia Party Abbreviated name: Sustainable Australia Party First registered: 24 July 2018 Re-registered: 14 November 2024		William Bourke	20 Burlington St Crows Nest NSW 2065
Animal Justice Party Abbreviated name: AJP First registered: 2 October 2014 Re-registered 17 October 2024	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	Philip Waters	Ground floor, 470 St Kilda Rd Melbourne VIC 3004
Australian Greens Victoria Abbreviated name: The Greens First registered: 5 August 1997 Re-registered 24 October 2024	THE GREENS	Martin Shield	Suite 5, Level 1, 50 Queen St Melbourne VIC 3000
Australian Labor Party – Victorian Branch Abbreviated name: Australian Labor Party First registered: 26 March 1985 Re-registered 3 October 2024	Victorian Labor	Efstratios Steven Staikos	438 Docklands Dr Docklands VIC 3008
Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Abbreviated name: Labour DLP First registered: 26 March 1985 Re-registered 18 December 2024	DLP	Cary de Wit	441 Flemington Rd North Melbourne VIC 3051
End Mass Immigration – Reform AU First registered: 19 September 2022 Re-registered 21 November 2024	REFORM	Milton Wilde	40 Ayr St Doncaster VIC 3108

RPP name and registration details	Logo	Registered officer	Address
Family First Victoria Abbreviated name: Family First First registered: 6 October 2022 Re-registered 25 November 2024		Jane Foreman	Level 19, 180 Lonsdale St Melbourne VIC 3000
Freedom Party First registered: 29 September 2022 Re-registered 21 November 2024		Morgan Jonas	8/220 Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000
Legalise Cannabis Victoria Abbreviated name: Legalise Cannabis First registered: 13 October 2022 Re-registered 21 November 2024		Fiona Patten	2/9 Florence St Brunswick VIC 3056
Liberal Party of Australia – Victorian Division Abbreviated name: Liberal First registered: 26 March 1985 Re-registered 3 October 2024		Alyson Hannam	Level 12, 257 Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000
Libertarian Party Abbreviated name: Libertarian First registered: 3 November 2014 Re-registered 14 November 2024		Robert McCathie	117/757 Bourke St Docklands VIC 3008
National Party of Australia – Victoria Abbreviated name: The Nationals First registered: 26 March 1985 Re-registered 14 November 2024		Jake McKenzie-Edwards	Level 13, 30 Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000
New Democrats First registered: 6 October 2022 Re-registered 25 November 2024		Kaushaliya Virjibhai Vaghela	3A Bonview Circuit Truganina VIC 3029

RPP name and registration details	Logo	Registered officer	Address
Pauline Hanson's One Nation Abbreviated name: One Nation First registered: 31 May 2018 Re-registered 7 November 2024		Pauline Hanson	2/6 Boronia Rd Brisbane Airport QLD 4008
Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party Victoria Abbreviated name: Shooters, Fishers & Farmers Vic First registered: Victoria: 21 October 2014 Re-registered 2 December 2024		Nicole Bourman	Suite 504, 365 Little Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000
Victorian Socialists First registered: 6 June 2018 Re-registered 7 November 2024		Corey Oakley	83 Sydney Rd Brunswick VIC 3056

Electoral activity

We conducted 13 electoral events in 2025–26.

Local council by-elections and countbacks

An 'extraordinary' vacancy occurs when a councillor resigns, dies or can no longer hold office.

We conduct a countback when an extraordinary vacancy happens in a multi-councillor ward or unsubdivided council. During the reporting period, we conducted 5 countbacks online using Microsoft Teams and our web-based countback application. The average cost to councils was $960 (excluding GST). This included configuring the application and staff time; it excluded advertising in local newspapers.

We conduct a by-election when there is:

› an extraordinary vacancy in a single-councillor ward

› a failed countback

or

› no eligible candidates.

There were 5 local council by-elections in the reporting period.

All by-elections and countbacks complied with legislation and budgets. No elections failed or were overturned. Please see Table 12: Local council electoral activity, 2025–26 on page 53 for details of all by-elections and countbacks conducted in 2025–26.

State by-elections

A state by-election occurs if a member of parliament for the Legislative Assembly resigns or can no longer hold office. We conduct these as required, in prescribed timeframes.

There was one state by-election in the reporting period. This was conducted on 2 May 2026 for Nepean District. At the time of publication, the cost of the by-election is still being finalised, but is expected to be in the order of $1.8 million.

Other elections and polls

We are required to conduct certain elections and polls. Depending on the legislation, we may partly or wholly fund these.

We also conduct fee-for-service and non-statutory elections that meet certain criteria, including the:

› number of voters

› existence of formal election rules

› election timing.

We conducted 2 fee-for-service elections in the reporting period. These complied with relevant rules or legislation and were delivered on time and in budget.

Other electoral agencies

We provide voting services and information for other electoral bodies under reciprocal arrangements. The support we provided during 2025–26 is detailed in table 11.

Electoral representation reviews

No state redivisions, local council electoral structure reviews or ward boundary reviews took place in the reporting period.

Reviews conducted over the last 5 years are summarised in table 15.

State election preparations

We confirmed the program delivery structure for the 2026 state general election in October 2025. The program structure is supported by an operational command centre, which will manage operational logs and incidents.

We continue to refine how we prepare and deliver major election events. In November 2025, we published our *Draft service plan for the 2026 state election*. This highlighted some major operating model changes for the 2026 election, responding to lessons learned and feedback from previous events. The changes included:

- an increased number of early voting centres
- standardised hours of operation
- expanded electronic roll mark-off for voters
- new logistical 'hubs' housing election offices across the state.

We are implementing these changes in line with our strategic pillars of 'improving the voter experience', 'reinforcing public trust' and 'responding to a complex environment'.

While the public timeline for the election is defined by the issue and return of the writ, preparing for the election was our core focus in the 12 months before this. Major delivery milestones in the 2025–26 financial year included:

- venue sourcing
- roll management
- electoral process confirmation
- instructional products and training development
- election staffing readiness.

An election dress rehearsal was undertaken in March 2026 to test electoral processes, systems and our new command centre approach. We are incorporating lessons learned from the rehearsal in our final planning for the November election.

Table 11: Support to other electoral commissions, 2025–26

Election date	Jurisdiction		Vote types	Total votes issued
13 September 2025	New South Wales	Kiama state by-election	Early	0
21 March 2026	South Australia	South Australia state election 2026	Early	386

Table 12: Local council electoral activity, 2025–26

Election	Type	Close of voting date/ Countback date	Voting method	Voters
Darebin City Council, North West Ward	By-election	1 August 2025	Postal	12,312
Whittlesea City Council, Lalor Ward	By-election	1 August 2025	Postal	15,340
Macedon Ranges Shire Council, South Ward	Countback	1 September 2025	N/A	N/A
Wodonga City Council, Lake Hume Ward	By-election	3 October 2025	Postal	4,747
Surf Coast Shire Council, Torquay Ward	Countback	27 October 2025	N/A	N/A
Benalla Rural City Council	Countback	3 December 2025	N/A	N/A
Greater Bendigo City Council, Lockwood Ward	By-election	27 March 2026	Postal	10,533
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Countback	11 May 2026	N/A	N/A
Whittlesea City Council, Thomastown Ward	By-election	29 May 2026	Postal	13,711
Glenelg Shire Council	Countback	1 June 2026	N/A	N/A

Table 13: Fee-for-service elections and polls, 2025–26

Election	Election date/Close of voting date	Voting method	Voters
Victorian Strawberry Industry Development Order poll 2026	24 February 2026	Postal	73
Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust Committee of Management election 2025	4 March 2026	Attendance	156

Table 14: Electoral activity, 2021–22 to 2025–26

Type of activity	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
State elections (88 districts, 8 regions)	–	1	–	–	–
State supplementary elections*	–	1	–	–	–
State by-elections	–	–	2	2	1
Local council general elections	3	–	–	466	–
Local council by-elections	3	3	2	–	5
Local council countbacks	11	18	14	2	5
Liquor licensing polls**	2	–	–	–	–
Other elections and polls	4	3	2	4	2
Total	**21**	**26**	**20**	**474**	**13**

*Narracan District resulted in a failed election and led to a supplementary election.

**Amendments to the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* in December 2021 mean we no longer conduct these polls.

Table 15: Electoral representation reviews, 2021–22 to 2025–26

Type of activity	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
State redivisions (EBC Act) conducted by the EBC supported by the VEC	1	0	0	0	0
Electoral structure reviews (Local Government Act) conducted by an electoral representation advisory panel supported by the VEC	0	12	27	0	0
Ward boundary reviews (Local Government Act) conducted by the VEC	0	0	10	0	0
Total	**1**	**12**	**37**	**0**	**0**

Register of electors

We manage the Victorian register of electors and prioritise its accuracy and security. A range of activities and initiatives help keep the register current. Our objectives are to:

- increase how many eligible voters enrol each year
- maintain enrolment rates at or above the national average.

Joint enrolment programs

We share enrolment information with the AEC. This allows both electoral commissions to correctly enrol Victorians for all elections. The arrangement is led by a Joint Roll Management Committee that meets at least every 6 months.

In 2025–26, the committee prioritised reducing differences in voter details between state and federal rolls. This divergence is mostly due to electoral commissions running separate roll management programs in previous years. Divergence dropped from 25,286 to 20,705 in the reporting period – a reduction of 18%.

Register maintenance

Under the Electoral Act, organisations share information with us to maintain the register of electors:

- The Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Victoria provides data that we use to identify and remove deceased persons.
- The Department of Justice and Community Safety provides data about people serving prison sentences over 5 years, who are not entitled to enrol.

Enrolled voters

The number of Victorians enrolled to vote increased over the year by 65,990 (1.4%) to 4,661,213 at 30 June 2026.

Victorian enrolment rate

We estimate the enrolment rate at 30 June 2026 was 98.4%. This is within our target of +/-1% variation from the national enrolment rate, which was 97.8% at the same date. The enrolment rate has increased by 0.1 percentage points since 30 June 2025.

Enrolment rate by age

Enrolment rates for most age brackets remained stable. We also moved to report on 14 age brackets in 2025, in line with a recommendation from the EMC.

Table 19: Enrolment rate by age range at 30 June, 2022 to 2026 on page 58 shows how we use AEC data to track enrolment rates by age against the:

- national enrolment rate (the combined federal roll for all states and territories)
- average enrolment rates for other states and territories (OSTA).

We include 16-year-olds in the ‘under 18’ age bracket national and OSTA rates. This is because the age for provisional enrolment is 16 in all jurisdictions except Victoria, where it is 17.

As the eligible population is an estimate, we do not report enrolment rates over 99% due to potential overstatement.

Region voter statistics for 2025–26

- Total number of electorates: 8 regions.
- Total number of voters: 4,661,213.
- Average number of voters per region: 582,651.

District voter statistics for 2025–26

- Total number of electorates: 88 districts.
- Total number of voters: 4,661,213.
- Average number of voters per district: 52,968.

Enrolment information

Protecting voter information is fundamental. The register of electors contains:

- names
- enrolled and postal addresses
- dates of birth
- electorate information
- whether a person is a general postal voter.

The Electoral Act strictly regulates the way we collect, use and disclose this information.

Providing mandatory enrolment information

We only disclose information required or authorised by law. We must provide:

- a list of electors (excluding silent electors) for the public to view at our Collins Street office. The list shows names and addresses only and can be searched by name only. We are required to update it every 6 months
- statewide lists of Victorian electors to registered political parties, and district or region lists to members of parliament, for purposes connected to an election such as campaigning, monitoring the accuracy of electoral rolls and the register of electors, or performing functions as a member of parliament. These lists exclude silent electors and do not include phone numbers or email addresses
- a copy of the roll for state and local council elections to candidates, excluding silent electors. Details include names, addresses, postal addresses (if different to enrolled address) and electorate information. We do not provide phone numbers or email addresses.

We also share enrolment information under other law. Under the *Juries Act 2000* (Vic), we provide Juries Victoria with lists of people eligible for jury service on request. We also process exemptions from jury service monthly. In 2025–26, we provided a total of 37 jury rolls.

We share enrolment information with councils when necessary to prepare accurate voters' rolls for local council elections.

The Local Government Act allows us to release a copy of the voters' roll to council CEOs on request. CEOs can use this to engage with the community about the council's functions. In 2025–26, we provided 3 councils with a copy of their certified voters' roll for by-elections.

Providing discretionary enrolment information

The Electoral Act allows us to release enrolment information to other organisations in defined circumstances. We consult with the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner about information requests to determine whether providing the information is in the greater public interest than protecting its privacy. Strict conditions regulate these agreements and penalties apply to misusing the information. We never share details of silent electors.

Each year, we report on the information we've provided to ensure transparency. In 2025–26, we provided 5 organisations with access to enrolment information under existing agreements. To learn more about information-sharing agreements, visit vec.vic.gov.au/privacy/release-of-enrolment-information

Table 16: Joint enrolment program transactions, 2021–22 to 2025–26

Joint enrolment program transactions	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
New to roll	124,461	140,616	145,729	152,073	141,699
Reinstatements	29,853	33,417	29,019	31,883	21,921
Removals	83,601	72,704	118,287	116,773	105,395
Change of details	511,283	466,009	434,200	523,841	371,708
Total	749,198	712,746	727,235	824,570	640,723

Table 17: Number of enrolled Victorians at 30 June, 2022 to 2026

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of enrolled voters at 30 June	4,369,200	4,446,146	4,518,680	4,595,223	4,661,213

Table 18: Proportion of eligible population enrolled at 30 June, 2022 to 2026

Year	National average	Victoria	VEC upper target	VEC lower target
2022	97.1	97.8	98.1	96.1
2023	97.5	97.9	98.5	96.5
2024	97.9	97.9	98.9	96.9
2025	98.1	98.3	99.1	97.1
2026	97.8	98.4	98.8	96.8

Table 19: Enrolment rate by age range at 30 June, 2022 to 2026

Year	2022 (%)			2023 (%)			2024 (%)		
Jurisdiction	**Vic**	**OSTA**	**Nat**	**Vic**	**OSTA**	**Nat**	**Vic**	**OSTA**	**Nat**
Under 18	14.8	1.6	3.5	12.1	1.3	2.8	1.2	1.1	1
18–24	91.9	84.5	88.4	92.6	87.7	90.3	91.1	87.8	90.2
25–29	97.9	95.1	97	97.7	95.4	97.2	99	95.6	97.9
30–34	97.9	96.4	97.2	97.9	96.6	97.3	98.8	96.8	97.9
35–69	98.5	96.9	97.8	98.7	97.2	97.9	98.8	97.8	98.2
70+	98.9	98.3	98.9	98.6	98.7	98.9	98.8	98.9	99

	2025 (%)			2026 (%)		
Jurisdiction	**Vic**	**OSTA**	**Nat**	**Vic**	**OSTA**	**Nat**
Under 18	3.6	1.4	1.4	1.6	0.8	0.8
18	69.8	63.6	67.1	56.2	54.4	60.1
19	89.1	86	89.2	88.8	84.2	89.0
20–24	98.8	92.6	96.9	97.7	92.2	96.2
25–29	99.1	94.8	97.7	99	94	97.5
30–34	99.2	96.4	98	98.9	95.8	97.6
35–39	98.9	97.6	98.3	98.5	97	97.9
40–44	99.1	98.1	98.4	98.6	97.9	98.2
45–49	99.1	98.3	98.8	99	98	98.7
50–54	99	98.3	98.6	98.9	98.1	98.5
55–59	99.1	97.5	98.4	98.9	97.4	98.3
60–64	98.4	97	97.9	98.2	97.1	97.9
65–69	98.8	97.6	98.5	98.4	97.2	98.2
70+	99	99	99	98.8	99	99

Table 20: Voter statistics by region at 30 June 2026

Region	Voter count	Variance to average (%)
Eastern Victoria	575,318	-1.26
North-Eastern Metropolitan	561,211	-3.68
Northern Metropolitan	599,506	2.89
Northern Victoria	564,514	-3.11
South-Eastern Metropolitan	590,157	1.29
Southern Metropolitan	559,995	-3.89
Western Metropolitan	604,142	3.69
Western Victoria	606,370	4.07

Table 21: Voter statistics by district at 30 June 2026

District	Voter count	Variance to average (%)	District	Voter count	Variance to average (%)
Albert Park	50,126	-5.37	Bulleen	50,678	-4.32
Ashwood	52,636	-0.63	Bundoora	48,597	-8.25
Bass	56,665	6.98	Carrum	54,087	2.11
Bayswater	51,051	-3.62	Caulfield	50,462	-4.73
Bellarine	59,036	11.46	Clarinda	49,224	-7.07
Benambra	51,465	-2.84	Cranbourne	57,490	8.54
Bendigo East	55,560	4.89	Croydon	54,919	3.68
Bendigo West	49,375	-6.78	Dandenong	53,208	0.45
Bentleigh	54,230	2.38	Eildon	51,218	-3.30
Berwick	64,832	22.40	Eltham	50,090	-5.43
Box Hill	51,893	-2.03	Essendon	52,942	-0.05
Brighton	50,285	-5.07	Eureka	57,347	8.27
Broadmeadows	50,951	-3.81	Euroa	52,614	-0.67
Brunswick	55,523	4.82	Evelyn	52,620	-0.66

District	Voter count	Variance to average (%)
Footscray	51,221	-3.30
Frankston	50,709	-4.26
Geelong	53,379	0.78
Gippsland East	51,123	-3.48
Gippsland South	50,497	-4.67
Glen Waverley	50,506	-4.65
Greenvale	54,770	3.40
Hastings	50,327	-4.99
Hawthorn	51,368	-3.02
Ivanhoe	49,663	-6.24
Kalkallo	67,622	27.67
Kew	50,661	-4.36
Kororoit	60,398	14.03
Lara	51,186	-3.36
Laverton	54,973	3.79
Lowan	50,823	-4.05
Macedon	50,744	-4.20
Malvern	48,547	-8.35
Melbourne	55,758	5.27
Melton	59,057	11.50
Mildura	48,290	-8.83
Mill Park	47,973	-9.43
Monbulk	49,589	-6.38
Mordialloc	53,587	1.17
Mornington	49,597	-6.36
Morwell	54,849	3.55
Mulgrave	47,571	-10.19
Murray Plains	48,127	-9.14
Narracan	54,247	2.41
Narre Warren North	52,899	-0.13
Narre Warren South	56,323	6.33
Nepean	51,507	-2.76
Niddrie	52,177	-1.49
Northcote	53,147	0.34
Oakleigh	53,665	1.32
Ovens Valley	49,162	-7.19
Pakenham	54,296	2.51
Pascoe Vale	51,498	-2.78
Point Cook	54,684	3.24
Polwarth	54,656	3.19
Prahran	48,969	-7.55
Preston	53,020	0.10
Richmond	49,383	-6.77
Ringwood	54,315	2.54
Ripon	53,943	1.84
Rowville	50,227	-5.17
Sandringham	49,046	-7.40
Shepparton	52,097	-1.64
South Barwon	59,917	13.12
South-West Coast	54,038	2.02
St Albans	47,496	-10.33
Sunbury	50,639	-4.40

District	Voter count	Variance to average (%)	District	Voter count	Variance to average (%)
Sydenham	63,327	19.56	Wendouree	52,988	0.04
Tarneit	58,694	10.81	Werribee	60,887	14.95
Thomastown	54,892	3.63	Williamstown	49,646	-6.27
Warrandyte	51,527	-2.72	Yan Yean	55,862	5.46

Table 22: Information sharing agreements, 2025–26

Organisation	Lookups requested	Unsuccessful searches	Information provided
Adoption Services Victoria	75	27	48
Anglicare Victoria	4	1	3
State Revenue Office	(List of voters provided monthly)		
BreastScreen Victoria	(List of voters in relevant cohort provided quarterly)		
Victoria Police	9,293 searches		

Logistics and resourcing

The logistics and resourcing function is responsible for storage, maintenance, and logistics for election materials and equipment.

In 2025–26, we focused on:

- delivering multiple local council by-elections and one state by-election
- preparing for the state election in November 2026 and providing subject-matter expertise to work programs
- supporting the election dress rehearsal.

Transport and logistics

Transport and logistics activities in the reporting period included:

- creating a new internal transport request system for VEC staff
- scheduling and organising the transport of election materials for by-elections
- creating new transportation schedules and supporting dashboards for the state election
- working with a logistics provider to incorporate the OptimoRoute vehicle tracking system
- facilitating requests to move materials between VEC sites, including interstate.

Warehousing

Warehousing activities included:

- stocktaking inventory of all materials held at the warehouse
- testing and tagging 6,000 electrical items for the state election
- preparing state election furniture, equipment and materials for dispatch to our new Port Melbourne office and election hub sites
- building 2,500 voting centre kits, 450 election office kits and 1,650 hygiene kits
- rolling out Dynamics 365 for inventory management and control.

Resourcing

During 2025–26, our resourcing work included:

- collaborating with other work programs and projects to identify, confirm and update resourcing requirements for state election sites
- reviewing and updating EMS data
- checking algorithms reflect site-specific requirements
- collaborating with the Field Operations team to update and rationalise resourcing data to create a baseline for future election sites
- updating processes and documentation on ballot material allocations and movements between VEC sites.

Procurement

Procurement in the reporting period included:

- purchasing furniture to complement existing stock for election operations
- hiring furniture for hub sites where shortfalls exist in current allocations
- hiring vans for hub sites to improve our transport capacity
- organising disposal and recycling options for cardboard and materials.

Information and Digital Services

Details of our work to protect electoral data and support electoral integrity through our systems and applications.

Information technology

Major projects

In the past financial year, we delivered projects that improved the voter experience, strengthened core election systems, and enhanced technology service delivery.

Highlights for 2025–26 include:

- redeveloping our Roll Management System to a modern, fully supported technology stack. This positions us to deliver the 2026 state election and meet future electoral demands
- delivering a modernised electronic roll mark-off solution that:
  - supports offline operations
  - improves accuracy
  - provides near real-time visibility of ballot paper use.
- upgrading VEC identity management technologies to provide faster, more reliable, secure access for the growing number of staff, devices and systems needed to run today's elections
- successfully delivering IT infrastructure and support for:
  - by-elections
  - election readiness activities
  - technology deployed across election venues.
- developing and publishing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy and AI transparency statement to support responsible use of emerging technologies
- enhancing digital services to improve voter engagement, including online platforms to support community outreach and information sessions.

Service improvements

Cybersecurity

We maintain strong measures to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of electoral systems and data. We reinforce these further for major election events.

During the reporting period, we strengthened our cybersecurity capability through:

- policies and controls
- security assessments
- resilience planning
- data protection
- staff awareness
- governance oversight to support secure and resilient election operations.

We regularly load-test our systems and conduct security reviews. These confirm our readiness to manage frequent network probing and attempted cyberattacks.

We foster strong relationships with relevant state and federal agencies and follow applicable cybersecurity guidance and data protection standards. Our security program focuses on:

- establishing and maintaining policies and governance
- identifying and preventing threats
- identifying and reducing vulnerabilities
- detecting and responding to cyber and information security incidents early
- responding quickly to emerging issues.

This program protects our systems and data, and supports robust, risk-based defences against current and emerging security threats.

Our approach is supported by real-time threat intelligence feeds that help identify and block common cyberattacks along with security assessments of systems, third parties, and projects to manage cyber risk.

Our staff complete cyber and information security training when they join the VEC and undertake mandatory annual refresher training.

Enterprise architecture

This year, our enterprise architecture efforts focused on:

- strengthening governance
- improving visibility of our application landscape
- supporting more informed technology investment decisions.

Key activities included:

- expanding application portfolio management
- establishing an enterprise architecture repository
- refreshing architecture frameworks
- increasing alignment with industry best practice.

These initiatives support more structured and strategic management of the lifecycle and value of our technology assets.

Platforms

We operate secure and reliable technology platforms that meet Australian Government security standards, while continuing to modernise our environment to improve performance and resilience.

During the reporting period, we strengthened our platforms to support the successful delivery of the upcoming state election and prepare for future electoral events. This included:

- improving system reliability
- enabling large-scale device and user setup
- expanding cloud services for fast and consistent deployment across election locations.

We also enhanced monitoring, automation, and service management processes to improve system stability and support.

Ongoing performance and resilience testing ensures our systems can handle peak election demand without disruption. This gives us confidence that critical services will perform when needed most.

Planning for the future

Our technology and security strategies define a clear mission: to provide accessible election services using secure, reliable, and adaptable technology.

We are focused on:

- completing election readiness activities
- continuing to uplift cybersecurity capability
- progressing application modernisation
- strengthening enterprise architecture practices.

We leverage modern technology, data insights and user-centred design to enable innovation and enhance operational efficiency. This approach leads to better outcomes for voters, candidates, and other stakeholders.

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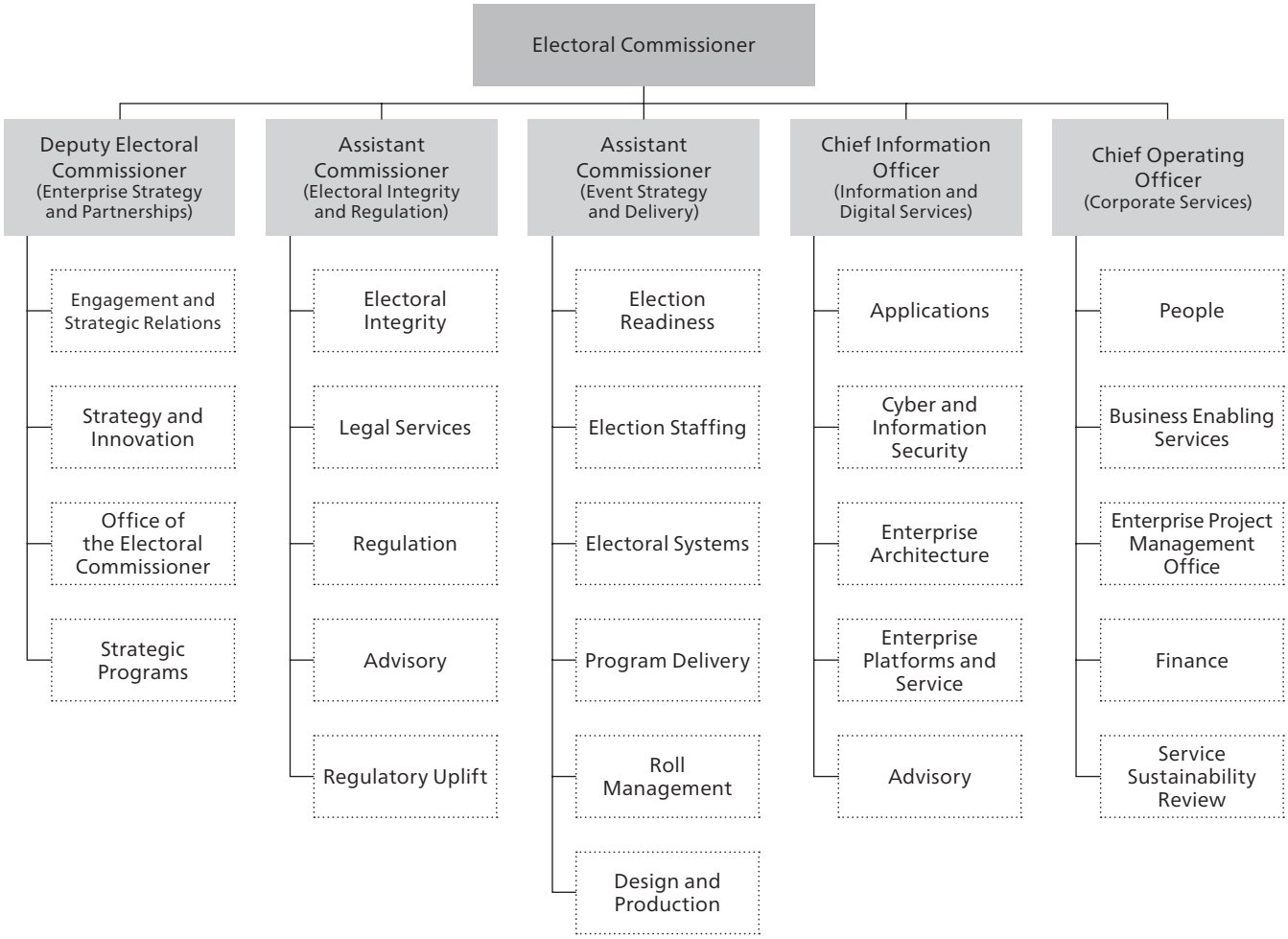
Corporate Services

Details of our organisational structure and leadership, our workforce and people services, and our approach to corporate governance, accountability, reporting and financial management.

Organisational structure

As our regulatory functions continued to grow, we reviewed our organisational structure at the executive level and within some teams and introduced a new structure from January 2026. This gave greater clarity to decision-making pathways and oversight of strategy, policy, risk, culture and operations.

Figure 1: VEC organisational structure at June 30 2026



The Executive Leadership Team and portfolios

Executive Leadership Team

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) comprises the VEC's most senior executive managers who support the Electoral Commissioner in executing the VEC's powers, duties and functions.

The ELT is made up of the Electoral Commissioner and their direct reports, including the:

- Deputy Electoral Commissioner
- Assistant Commissioner, Electoral Integrity and Regulation
- Assistant Commissioner, Event Strategy and Delivery
- Chief Information Officer
- Chief Operating Officer.



Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel

LLB (Hons), BSc, GAICD

Sven was appointed Electoral Commissioner for Victoria by the Governor in Council on 15 August 2023.

Each Electoral Commissioner is appointed for a period of 10 years and has ultimate responsibility for Victoria's:

- electoral enrolment process
- parliamentary elections and referendums.

As our Electoral Commissioner, Sven is responsible for all elements of performance and compliance at the VEC.

Before joining us, Sven was the inaugural Victorian Information Commissioner from 2017 to 2023. He previously served as Western Australian Information Commissioner and has held senior positions in the Western Australian and Commonwealth public sectors. He has also practised information and privacy law in the private sector in Melbourne and Perth.

He is a fellow of Leadership Western Australia and served as President of the Institute of Public Administration in Western Australia for 3 years.

Enterprise Strategy and Partnerships

The Enterprise Strategy and Partnerships (ESP) portfolio is responsible for:

- corporate communication, customer service and public engagement
- research, strategic planning and program delivery with a whole-of-agency focus
- partnerships that inform our service delivery and advance our advocacy priorities
- executive support and corporate governance functions to support clear decision-making.



Deputy Electoral Commissioner Dana Fleming

BCom, FCA, CTA, GAICD

The ESP portfolio is led by Dana Fleming. Dana was appointed Deputy Electoral Commissioner in August 2021.

With over 25 years' experience as a corporate leader and senior public servant, Dana has a track record of executive leadership in complex environments. She brings a wealth of experience from her previous roles as a senior partner at KPMG and acting as the Deputy Commissioner for Superannuation & Employer Obligations at the Australian Taxation Office.

Dana has a deep understanding of regulation and compliance, delivering government programs and working closely with stakeholders.

Event Strategy and Delivery

The Event Strategy and Delivery (ESD) portfolio oversees the planning and conduct of elections, by-elections and countbacks.

ESD is responsible for:

- maintaining the register of electors and producing electoral and voters' rolls
- planning and delivering parliamentary, local council and fee-for-service elections and polls
- enforcing compulsory voting
- developing election strategies and driving innovation in service delivery.



Assistant Commissioner, Event Strategy and Delivery Ben Sutherland

BSocSc (Criminal Justice), Juris Doctor, GDip Legal Practice, MAICD

Ben joined the organisation in 2021 and leads the ESD portfolio with a focus on service excellence and continuous improvement.

Ben has worked in senior roles with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and the Department of Justice and Community Safety. He brings significant experience in managing large-scale operations across Victoria.

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services portfolio is responsible for:

- governance, compliance, procurement and risk practices
- enterprise project management
- financial planning, budgeting and reporting
- crisis and business resilience management
- information and knowledge management
- infrastructure and facilities management
- workplace culture and capability, employee relations, health, safety and wellbeing programs and people services.



Chief Operating Officer Binh Le

BFin, GradCertAcct, FIPA, FFA, GAICD

Binh joined us in 2016 as Chief Financial Officer and was appointed Chief Operating Officer in December 2025. In leading the Corporate Services portfolio, Binh ensures we have an effective financial and workforce management and corporate governance environment.

Binh has held several senior financial positions in the private and public sector. These include group business manager in the agriculture, energy and resources portfolio in the Victorian Government, senior finance manager for the National Transport Commission, and financial controller for online travel agent Webjet.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants and graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Information and Digital Services

The Information and Digital Services (IDS) portfolio is responsible for:

- VEC application design, development, quality assurance, and support
- enterprise architecture
- cyber and information security
- enterprise cloud platforms, servers, and databases
- developing and deploying secure election networks, telephony, and IT at scale
- information technology services including our helpdesk.



Chief Information Officer Chris Pivec

BSc (Hons), MAICD

Chris joined us in 2021 and leads the IDS portfolio. Chris is responsible for creating and sustaining future ready, secure information technology so we can provide trusted and reliable services to the Victorian public. He values deep stakeholder engagement and an inclusive leadership style.

Chris has over 25 years' experience as a technology leader and CIO in organisations across the private, financial services, public, and not-for-profit sectors. He brings a wealth of experience in leading customer-focused teams to deliver business-critical services, major events and projects, enterprise transformation and continuous improvement.

Electoral Integrity and Regulation

The Electoral Integrity and Regulation portfolio:

- administers our integrity, compliance, enforcement and regulatory activities
- oversees Victoria's political funding and disclosure laws
- supports planning and delivery to enhance and protect the integrity of Victoria's electoral processes
- coordinates disputes and litigation involving the Electoral Commissioner
- partners with stakeholders to support electoral programs in a highly regulated environment.



Assistant Commissioner, Electoral Integrity and Regulation Keegan Bartlett

MPPM, BA, GDipCom, GAICD

Keegan joined the VEC in 2010 and has led the EIR portfolio since 2019. Keegan provides expert advice to the Electoral Commissioner on legal and policy matters and leads strategic engagements with our regulatory and integrity partners.

Keegan brings a breadth of experience from Australia and New Zealand in developing policies and relationships to promote:

- good governance
- compliant practices
- continuous improvement
- effective, transparent decision-making processes.

He is a graduate of the Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard Kennedy School.

Our people

The People Group plays a critical role in enabling our staff to meet the demands of large-scale electoral events.

Our strategic priority is to build and sustain a workforce that is capable, engaged, and inclusive. We exist to help all portfolios and groups succeed by ensuring our people feel:

- supported
- valued
- safe
- informed
- equipped to perform in current and future roles.

Aligning our workforce to strategy

During 2025–26, we progressed a program of work to strengthen how we plan, build and sustain our workforce to align with organisational strategy and service delivery demands.

This work was informed by an internal audit that identified the need for a comprehensive, long-term approach to workforce planning. This includes recruitment, retention, capability development and succession planning. In response, we prioritised developing a workforce planning strategy to provide a consistent, organisation-wide framework for how workforce decisions are made.

The draft strategy establishes clear principles, governance and guidance to support strategic, operational and tactical workforce planning. It aligns workforce priorities with organisational strategy, business and service plans. It introduces a more structured and consistent approach to workforce planning, supported by improved cost forecasting.

In parallel, we began developing our first strategic workforce plan, which details our future requirements and includes targeted strategies to address gaps. The plan analyses:

- critical roles and skills
- workforce requirements for business-as-usual and election delivery states
- labour market considerations.

We also progressed enhancements to workforce planning for election events. We established a dedicated capability through the Election Staffing branch and strengthened our policies and processes for recruitment, workforce planning and hours of work. These initiatives improve our ability to mobilise large-scale surge workforces.

We designed and introduced shift work as a core workforce planning pillar. This will support us to meet election demands while benefitting:

- health, safety and wellbeing
- workforce sustainability
- cost management.

Collectively, this work builds a more strategic, data-driven and sustainable approach to workforce planning. It positions us to deliver elections effectively now and in the future.

Expanding our expertise

This year, we strengthened the People group through investing in key capabilities to support our workforce and organisational priorities.

Focused recruitment enhanced expertise across:

- employee experience
- culture and engagement
- leadership development
- organisational capability.

We also established a dedicated Recruitment Services function to support efficient workforce mobilisation.

Capability was also strengthened in employee and industrial relations, business partnering, and policy to provide consistent and responsive support.

We progressed our diversity, equity and inclusion work, including through dedicated leadership to advance our Gender Equality Action Plan and broader inclusion framework. Investment in health, safety and wellbeing capability – particularly in injury management and wellbeing – supports a safe work environment.

Strengthening culture and capability

This financial year, we continued to strengthen our organisational culture and staff capability through a range of initiatives.

Our culture and capability team enhanced our feedback culture through delivering the:

- People Matter Survey
- internal pulse surveys
- focus groups and debriefs.

These insights have informed improvements to the employee experience and workplace culture. We successfully established the Culture Advisory Network, an employee representative group that links the workforce and executives. This helps:

- surface issues
- shape solutions
- drive continuous improvement.

Following the launch of our Shaping our Future program, we worked to embed our organisational values in everyday practice. This was supported by a values recognition program and enhancements to the performance development plan. Plans now include reflections on how staff demonstrate organisational values.

We continued investing in learning and development to support growth and uplift staff capability. Initiatives included:

- updating our capability framework
- implementing a new learning management system for election casuals
- delivering peer-assisted learning opportunities
- strengthening leadership capability through development programs.

Enhancements to induction processes and the Change-Fit program have further equipped our people leaders to lead through change.

These initiatives support a more engaged, capable and values-driven workforce.

People services and workplace relations

We also focused on strengthening our people services and workplace relations capability in 2025–26. This meant investing in recruitment, manager support and employee relations advisory, while continuing to mature our systems and processes.

We identified opportunities to review and update our policies and workflows to enhance the employee experience and improve consistency in service delivery.

We made process improvements across:

› performance and development

› probation management

› recruitment and onboarding.

In addition, we progressed enhancements to our recruitment platform and began implementing a new HR service desk to streamline access to support. Together, these initiatives reduce administrative complexity and enable more responsive, expert support for employees and managers.

Workforce profile

We continue to grow, increasing from 270 ongoing roles in 2024–25 to 297 ongoing roles in 2025–26 to support operational delivery. Growth in 2025–26 is a result of additional staff engaged for the 2026 state election.

Staff turnover was 16.31% in 2025–26, compared to 17.21% in 2024–25.

Gender diversity composition shifted slightly in comparison to previous years with 46.3% male, 53.1% female and 0.6% self-described. Across all age groups, gender representation is relatively balanced, noting that self-described individuals constitute a smaller and therefore less represented group.

Representation across all age groups is relatively balanced with a slight skew to the 35–44 age bracket.

The majority of staff (78.93%) were employed within the VPS 3 to VPS 5 classification levels, consistent with the organisation's operational workforce profile.

Table 23: Recruitment, departures and turnover, 2021–22 to 2025–26

Year	Headcount (ongoing)	FTE (ongoing, fixed term and casual)	Commencements (FTE)	Departures* (FTE)	Staff turnover
2021–22	168	160.87	53.62	30.64	19.05%
2022–23	191	233.37	43.40	46.00	19.71%
2023–24	229	321.47	79.90	40.00	12.44%
2024–25	270	329.88	75.23	60.70	17.21%
2025–26	297	440.55	159.90	66.63	16.31%

*Departures FTE includes resignations, fixed-term contract ends and dismissals.

Staff profile

Table 24: VEC active staff demographics

	2024–25					2025–26				
	Ongoing		Fixed term and casual		Total	Ongoing		Fixed term and casual		Total
	Head count	FTE	Head count	FTE	FTE	Head count	FTE	Head count	FTE	FTE
Gender										
Male	127	124.99	43	35.00	159.99	133	130.99	91	78.70	209.69
Female	142	135.46	51	31.43	166.89	162	154.86	95	73.20	228.06
Self-described	1	1.00	2	2.00	3.00	2	1.80	1	1.00	2.80
Total	**270**	**261.45**	**96**	**68.43**	**329.88**	**297**	**287.65**	**187**	**152.90**	**440.55**
Age										
Under 25	1	1.00	4	1.00	2.00	1	1.00	9	3.80	4.80
25–34	62	61.00	22	18.00	79.00	68	66.28	57	51.80	118.08
35–44	94	90.54	28	24.63	115.17	105	101.49	47	40.90	142.39
45–54	60	58.71	20	14.00	72.71	66	64.76	42	35.60	100.36
55–64	47	45.40	15	8.00	53.40	49	47.32	21	16.00	63.32
Over 64	6	4.80	7	2.80	7.60	9	7.80	10	3.80	11.60
Total	**270**	**261.45**	**96**	**68.43**	**329.88**	**297**	**287.65**	**187**	**152.90**	**440.55**
Classification										
Executive officer	0	0.00	2	2.00	2.00	0	0.00	2	2.00	2.00
Senior executive service	0	0.00	8	8.00	8.00	0	0.00	6	6.00	6.00
Senior Technical Specialist	10	10.00	3	3.00	13.00	13	12.90	6	6.00	18.90
VPS grade 1	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00

	2024–25					2025–26				
	Ongoing		Fixed term and casual		Total	Ongoing		Fixed term and casual		Total
	Head count	FTE	Head count	FTE	FTE	Head count	FTE	Head count	FTE	FTE
VPS grade 2	11	8.10	4	3.00	11.10	10	6.87	7	5.80	12.67
VPS grade 3	43	42.50	43	16.63	59.13	47	45.30	59	27.40	72.70
VPS grade 4	81	78.50	23	23.00	101.50	83	80.58	74	73.90	154.48
VPS grade 5	82	81.05	12	12.00	93.05	96	94.90	23	23.00	117.90
VPS grade 6	43	41.30	1	0.80	42.10	48	47.10	10	8.80	55.90
Total	**270**	**261.45**	**96**	**68.43**	**329.88**	**297**	**287.65**	**187**	**152.90**	**440.55**

Occupational health and safety

Initiatives and outcomes

In 2025–26, we strengthened our approach to employee wellbeing and safety as we prepared for the peak activity period of the state election.

We successfully sourced a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider better aligned to workforce needs. The new EAP provider has an increased focus on all aspects of wellbeing.

To support a more psychosocially safe workplace, aligned with updates to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*, we engaged an external provider to deliver a pilot program across 3 portfolios. This work will inform our psychosocial risk register, which we will refine and implement after the state election in 2026–27.

We also progressed policies and procedures for employee wellbeing and support, including guidance on pre-existing injuries and reasonable adjustments.

Our Safe@Work 2.0 program included the successful opening of the Plummer Street Precinct in Port Melbourne. From July 2025, we worked to prepare the site for a safe transition, incorporating:

- stakeholder engagement
- site safety planning
- traffic and contractor management
- an ongoing risk register.

Our work for the state election has been underway since October 2025 and will continue through to November 2026. Our focus is on helping uplift our safety preparedness for election delivery.

Our Health, Safety and Wellbeing team began managing the election wellbeing program after the dress rehearsal. We soon implemented wellbeing initiatives for the Nepean District by-election, improving catering and travel arrangements.

We continued to develop the VEC Health, Safety and Wellbeing Management System alongside core election readiness priorities. Since October 2025, this work has focused on identifying system gaps and developing supporting documents, with further enhancements continuing through 2026–2027.

Hazards, incidents and injuries

During 2025–26, we received a total of 56 incident notifications. There were 21 near-miss incidents and 35 injuries or illness.

Table 25: Hazards, incidents and injuries reported, 2021–22 to 2025–26

Year	Incidents and injuries	Hazards
2021–22	10	1
2022–23	190	3
2023–24	10	0
2024–25	96	39
2025–26	56	35

Table 26: Reported incidents, hazards and near-misses by type, 2025–26

Category	Hazard	Near miss	Injury/illness
Property damage	0	3	0
Biological	2	0	0
Manual handling	0	0	1
Vehicle/plant	7	3	0
Electrical	1	2	0
Ergonomics	0	0	0
Hazardous material/substances	0	1	0
Personal medical condition	0	0	7
Environmental	6	0	1
Other	6	4	1
Emergency	0	1	0
Contact with object	3	2	11
Slips, trips and falls	9	1	5
Psychosocial	0	0	7
Occupational violence and aggression	1	4	2

Table 27: Our performance against OHS management measurements, 2021–22 to 2025–26

Measure	KPI	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Incidents	Staff FTE (VPS only)	223.12	233.37	285	329.88	440.5
	Number of incidents	10	190	10	96	91
	Rate per 100 FTE	4.48	81.42	3.50	29.10	20.66
Claims	Number of standard claims	0	5	4	1	3
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	2.14	1.4	0.3	0.68
	Number of lost time claims	0	3	4	1	3
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	1.29	1.4	0.3	0.68
	Number of claims exceeding 13 weeks	0	4	4	1	3
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	1.71	1.4	0.3	0.68
Fatalities	Fatality claims	–	–	–	–	–
Claim costs	Average cost per standard claim	0	$1,054.40	Not available	$21,710	$12,033.69
Return to work (RTW)	Percentage of claims with RTW plan <30 days	0	50%	50%	0%	33.3%

Measure	KPI	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Management	Evidence of OHS policy statement, OHS commitment objectives, regular reporting to senior management of OHS, and OHS plans (signed by CEO or equivalent)	Completed	Completed – currently being reviewed	Completed – currently being reviewed	Completed – current policy effective from 8 April 2024	Completed – Next review April 2027
	Evidence of OHS criteria in purchasing guidelines (including goods, services and personnel)	Completed	Completed – currently being reviewed	Completed – currently being reviewed	Completed	Completed Procurement and Contract Management Policy
Consultation	Evidence of agreed structure of designated workgroups (DWGs), health and safety participation representatives (HSRs) and issue resolution procedures (IRPs)	Completed	Completed – currently being reviewed	Completed – currently being reviewed	Completed – DWGs and elected HSRs outlined on VEC intranet	Completed – DWGs and elected HSRs outlined on VEC intranet
	Compliance with agreed structure on DWGs, HSRs and IRPs	Completed	Completed – currently being reviewed	Completed	Completed – reviewed electronic communications from HSRs, meetings from OHS Committee covering all DWGs and HSRs	Completed – Terms of reference on VEC intranet, IRPs currently being reviewed

Measure	KPI	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Risk management	Percentage of internal audits/ inspections conducted as planned	80%	0%	50%	50%	0%
	› internal audits	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
	› HSR provisional improvement notices (PINs)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	› WorkSafe notices	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	induction	100%	100%	100%	89%	91%
	management training	75%	100%	100%	80%	79%
	contractors, temps and visitors	100%	100%	100%	71%	62%
	acceptance of role	100%	100%	100%	100%	
	refresher training	100%	16.70%	100%	100%	95%
	reporting of incidents and injuries	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
EAP usage	Total client cases	–	10	3	28	51
	Hours by service	–	21	4	14.5	33
	Appointments by case	–	2.1	4	8.5	2.2

Corporate governance

Governance overview

The Electoral Commissioner exercises their legislative obligations through the VEC, which is an independent administrative agency.

As the VEC, we are administratively supported by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) but we are not under any minister's direction or control while we exercise our responsibilities, functions and powers.

The Premier of Victoria is responsible for the Electoral Act and Electoral Boundaries Commission Act. The Minister for Local Government is responsible for the Local Government Act.

We are committed to reflecting good governance and complying with relevant legislation in our policies and practices. We demonstrate our accountability to stakeholders through a robust governance framework. This ensures our electoral system and legislated obligations remain vital and impartial.

In June 2025 we concluded a review of our corporate governance arrangements. As a result, the changes outlined below came into effect on 1 January 2026.

Executive Leadership Committee

The peak governance body of the VEC is the Executive Leadership Committee (ELC). It was established on 1 January 2026 after the disestablishment of the Executive Management Group (EMG) on 31 December 2025. We thank our EMG for their exemplary commitment, delivery and advice during the first half of the reporting period in 2025.

The ELC is comprised of members of the ELT, being the Electoral Commissioner and their direct reports. See 'Electoral Commissioner and the Executive Leadership Team' on page 68 for more information.

The ELC is responsible for organisation-wide corporate governance decisions and accountabilities. As a collective, the ELC:

- sets and monitors our strategic direction, operating model, risk appetite, and resource management
- establishes and monitors internal control processes and systems to manage risks and compliance requirements
- oversees operational and financial performance to ensure we deliver our legislative obligations and corporate objectives
- monitors environmental threats and opportunities
- shapes and embeds a positive, ethical and empowering workplace culture.

Management committees

The ELC is supported by 5 management committees, with input from advisory groups and sub-committees as needed.

Management committees support the Electoral Commissioner and ELC with oversight of specific areas.

Electoral Services Management Committee

This committee oversees the delivery of electoral services, ensuring efficient and effective processes and voter engagement.

Integrity and Regulation Management Committee

This committee oversees the integrity of electoral processes and our compliance with regulatory requirements. It promotes transparency and accountability.

Security and Technology Management Committee

This committee oversees VEC applications, and our security and information technology (IT) landscape.

People and Culture Management Committee

This committee oversees our 'people' or human resources policies, processes and workplace culture. It ensures staff wellbeing and engagement.

Strategy and Innovation Management Committee

This committee oversees our long-term strategic planning. It drives innovation aligned with organisational objectives.

Sub-committees and groups

Several sub-committees and groups help the Electoral Commissioner and the ELC develop and implement our strategies, plans and policies. They provide expertise and promote staff consultation.

Development Group

This group governs our technology development roadmap, ensuring system enhancements align with our objectives and are fit for purpose.

Election delivery groups

We establish an election delivery group to monitor the planning, preparation and delivery of our election service plans. Delivery groups respond to issues as they arise. During the election delivery period, these responsibilities transfer to the Operational Command Centre.

Enterprise Architecture Board

This board governs our strategic IT architectural decisions. It ensures these align with long-term business goals, modern information and digital practice, and cyber and data security.

Occupational Health and Safety Committee

This committee meets every 2 months to:

- review safety policies and procedures
- identify hazards, incident trends and risk mitigation strategies
- consult with health and safety representatives.

External committees

The Electoral Commissioner and ELC are supported by 2 committees with independent external members.

Audit and Risk Committee

Our Audit and Risk Committee helps the Electoral Commissioner and ELT manage risk and comply with financial and reporting obligations.
The committee members are:

- Taryn Rulton (independent chairperson)
- Leigh Berrell (independent member)
- Sean Hughes (independent member)
- Stephen Helberg (independent member).

The committee monitors and oversees our:

- financial performance and reporting, including annual financial statements
- internal and external audits and how we engage with auditors
- risk management framework's operation and implementation
- accountability and internal control matters affecting our operations
- management information and other internal control systems
- compliance with laws, regulations and other obligations
- codes of conduct and financial practice
- compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework Standing Directions.

The Electoral Commissioner thanks the committee for its support and guidance in 2025–26.

Coercive Notice Control Board

This board oversees the use of coercive powers by our staff appointed as compliance officers (see page 37 for more information).

For the reporting year, the board comprised:

- 2 senior executive service employees: the director, people and the chief information officer
- an independent member, as the Chair.

The board finished operation on 30 June 2026 and the Electoral Commissioner thanks the board for its support and guidance in 2025–26.

A new Regulatory Advisory Committee will commence operation in 2026. The committee will provide independent expert advice, assurance, oversight and regular monitoring to support our work as a regulator.

Figure 2: Our governance and consultation structure at 31 December 2025

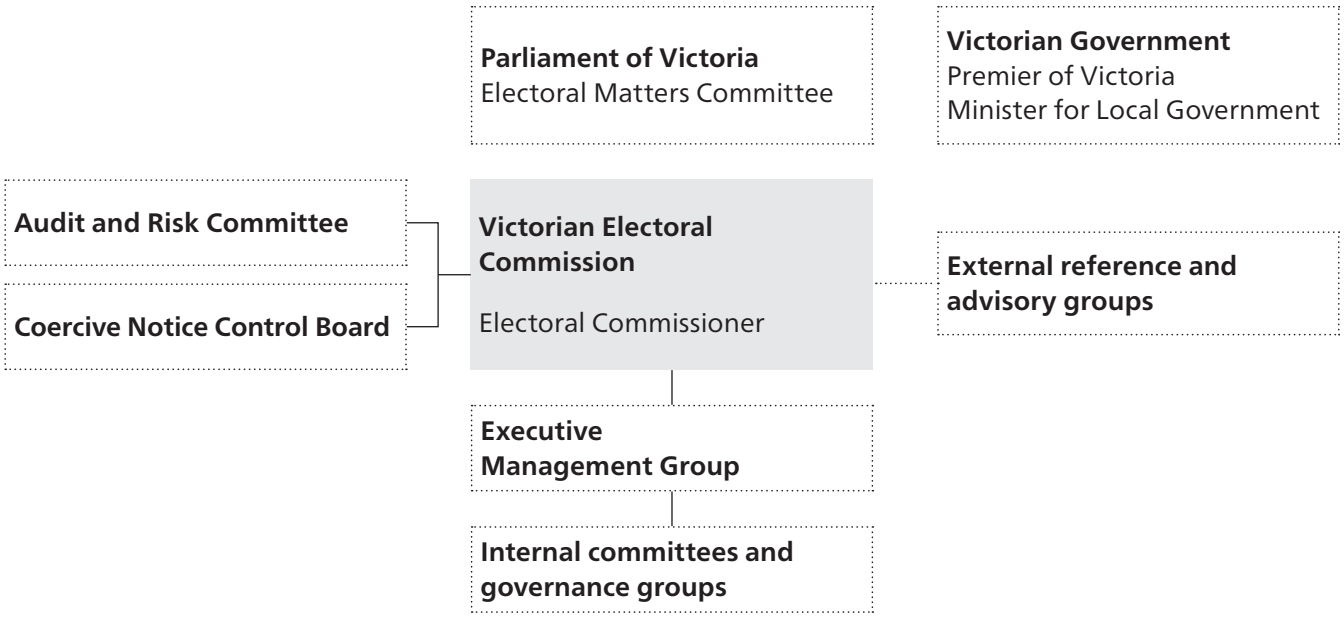
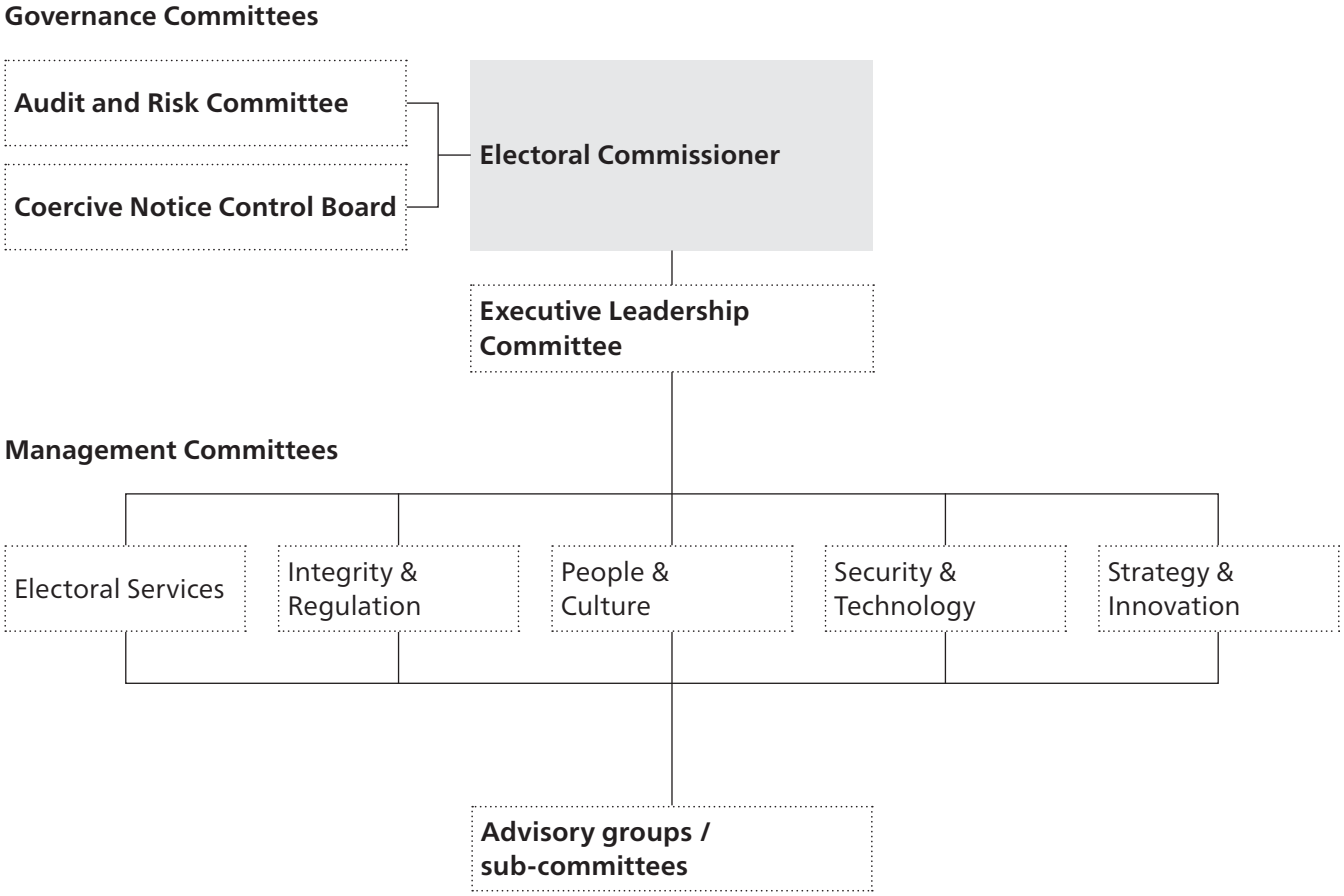


Figure 3: Our corporate governance model from 1 January 2026



Accountability and transparency

We have legislative and organisational processes to ensure transparency and accountability to the Victorian public. These include:

- internal and external auditing
- regular reporting to stakeholders including parliament, government and the public
- tabling of audited financial statements as part of this report.

Customer feedback and complaints

We handle feedback and complaints about processes, policies, products or services related to an interaction with us. This includes complaints that allege a breach of the Electoral Act or Local Government Act.

We received a total of 540 written complaints and feedback submissions in 2025–26.

Some submissions related to more than one topic. The main themes were:

- election administration and services to voters (62%)
- advertising and electoral material (9%)
- candidates and parties (9%)
- staffing (8%)
- electoral integrity (5%).

We also received 44 submissions outside our remit, including at least 6 meant for the AEC.

As we are not the regulator of the Local Government Act, we forward complaints alleging breaches of this legislation to the Local Government Inspectorate (LGI). In 2025–26, we forwarded 13 submissions to the LGI.

We handled all submissions in line with our procedures, resolving complaints by providing information and taking action if required. We are committed to responding to complaints and feedback in 5 working days and achieved this in 100% of cases in 2025–26.

Most submissions (343) were made online, while 166 were via email. Only 31 submissions were received by post and other means.

Public Enquiry Service

We continue to play a critical role in ensuring voters have access to reliable information and support throughout the entire electoral cycle.

Our Public Enquiry Service is the primary point of contact for voters, providing information and assistance via telephone, email, and in-person services.

In 2025–26, the Public Enquiry Service supported voters across 5 council by-elections, 5 council countbacks, and one state by-election.

During 2025–26, we received:

- 16,564 phone calls
- 5,336 emails
- 2,553 walk-ins.

This represents a total of 24,453 voter interactions across all service channels. The main themes were:

- enforcement, including compulsory voting obligations.
- checking and updating enrolment.
- postal voting options for by-elections.

Customer Service Charter

Strong and reliable service is integral to meeting customers' needs. The customer service charter shows our commitment to helping Victorians understand their role, and ours, in election processes.

The charter outlines how we:

- ensure our services are responsive, professional, inclusive, and accessible
- evaluate customer satisfaction
- improve our processes, policies and systems to maintain privacy.

We regularly review the charter, which is available on our website.

Corporate reporting

A comprehensive program of stakeholder reporting supports our goals of accountability and transparency. Our reporting complies with the Victorian Government's model report requirements.

During 2025–26, 3 reports were tabled in parliament on behalf of the VEC:

- *2024–25 VEC annual report*
- *Report to Parliament on the 2024 local government elections*
- *Report to Parliament on the 2025 Prahran and Werribee District by-elections.*

Other obligations include:

- reporting to DPC on budgetary objectives
- monthly financial reporting to the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF)
- annual attestation on compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework (FMCF) requirements to stakeholders including:
  - DPC
  - DTF
  - the responsible minister
  - the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.
- twice-yearly reporting to the Attorney-General on infringements activity
- advertising campaign reporting
- reporting for the EBC, which we provide administrative and technical support (see **Appendix I**)
- annual attestation to the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC), on the activities in our protective data security plan
- annual report to OVIC on the number and outcomes of freedom of information requests.

All reports were delivered on schedule and within budget, if applicable. All reports and publications are available on our website at vec.vic.gov.au/publications and from our head office.

Gender Equality Act reporting

Under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* (Vic), we are required to conduct an audit based on 7 'equality indicators'. We must report on our progress every 2 years.

In 2026, we were required to submit a progress report on our existing 4-year Gender Equity Action Plan (GEAP) while designing and submitting a new GEAP for 2026–2030.

We consulted on, or held focus groups for:

- employees
- people leaders
- ELT
- our union representatives
- subject matter experts
- our Culture Advisory Network.

Our progress report to the Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector is pending a compliance outcome. In the meantime, we continue to advance key items from our GEAP to improve fairness and equity in the workplace for people of all genders.

Financial Management Compliance Framework

The FMCF assures the Minister for Finance that we have appropriate systems and controls to ensure good financial management practices. The FMCF provides for effective, efficient, and responsible financial management of public resources.

The FMCF Standing Directions cover:

- code of conduct
- governance including an Audit and Risk Committee
- risk management, delegations, and audit requirements
- management structure, systems, policies and procedures including:
  - roles and responsibilities of the financial management team and key personnel
  - outsourced services

- information technology management, operations, development and change
- education and training
- management reporting including:
  - internal and external reporting
  - financial statements and reports of operations
  - performance management and evaluation
  - financial management compliance obligations, including tax compliance, purchasing cards, and thefts and losses compliance.

We appoint an internal auditor to review our compliance with the Standing Directions annually. The audit is then reviewed and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee.

Identifying and managing risk

We align our risk management to the Victorian Government framework. Risk management is embedded in all our operations, with the ELC and the Audit and Risk Committee overseeing our strategic and operational risks.

We also maintain comprehensive risk registers for all electoral events and major projects. Our branches and planning groups develop, discuss, and analyse these risks as part of election planning and delivery. Areas covered include:

- election management
- infrastructure
- communication
- recruitment
- information technology.

In 2025–26 we adopted a revised risk management framework and expanded our risk appetite statement to reflect our current and future operating environment. This work included updates to our risk register templates and governance reporting. We strive to continuously evolve and improve our risk management approach.

Internal audit

The internal audit program provides independent, objective assurance to the Electoral Commissioner of our management of key risks and operational functions. It is reviewed annually and designed in consultation with the Audit and Risk Committee and the ELC.

The rolling 4-year program enables effective reviews of all operational, financial, and related activities. The program includes annual attestations and certifications, such as risk and fraud certification and memorandums of understanding with other agencies.

During 2025–26, internal audits covered:

- temporary workforce data review
- administration of political funding
- election management training review
- a review of compliance with the FMCF Standing Directions
- annual attestation assessments.

The audits each revealed matters and recommendations of medium-to-low risk. We delivered appropriate management actions in response.

In 2026–27 the internal audit program will turn its focus to reviewing:

- the new voter experience (electronic roll mark-off at voting centres)
- physical security at election venues
- progress against EMC recommendations
- follow-up reviews of past internal audits.

The internal audit focus areas align with the agreed 4-year internal audit program.

Table 28: Customer feedback submissions by type

Type of submission	Number of submissions	Percentage (%)
Complaint	427	79.1%
Enquiry	54	10.0%
Feedback	59	10.9%
Total	540	100%

Table 29: Customer feedback submissions by event

Event	Number of submissions	Percentage (%)
2024 local council elections	211	39.1%
2026 state election	114	21.1%
2026 Nepean District by-election	49	9.1%
2025 local council by-elections and countbacks	9	1.7%
2026 local council by-elections	16	3.0%
Other	141	26.1%
Total	540	100%

Disclosures

Advertising disclosure

Financial Reporting Direction (FRD) 22 requires Victorian Government agencies to disclose advertising expenditure on campaigns with a media spend of $100,000 or greater. We had 2 campaigns in this category during the 2025–26 financial year.

Attestation to Victorian Public Sector Commissioner

The Electoral Commissioner completed an annual attestation of hospitality and gifts as required.

Building Act

We do not own or control any government buildings, so are exempt from reporting our compliance with the *Building Act 1993* (Vic) (Building Act).

Child Safe Standards

The *Child Safety and Wellbeing Act 2005* (Vic) includes Child Safe Standards for all organisations working with children in Victoria. Throughout 2025–26 we continued to apply these across our work in civics education.

Consultancies and contracts

Major contracts

Under FRD 12, we must disclose all contracts we enter valued at more than $10 million. We did not enter any contracts more than $10 million during the 2025–26 financial year.

Consultancy expenditure

Details of consultancies under $10,000

In 2025–26, we engaged 5 consultancies where the total fees to individual consultants were less than $10,000. Our total expenditure for these consultancies was $15,929 (excluding GST).

Details of consultancies over $10,000

In 2025–26, we engaged 17 consultancies where the total fees to individual consultants were more than $10,000. Our total expenditure for these consultancies was $1,260,390 (excluding GST). See Table 31: Consultancies over $10,000, 2025–26 for more information.

Disability Act

We are required to prepare and report on a disability action plan under the *Disability Act 2006* (Vic) (Disability Act). Our current plan was launched in May 2025.

This plan was developed in conjunction with members of our Electoral Access Advisory Group, who will also monitor implementation of the plan.

Work also began on the IDEA strategic framework aimed at unifying work across the VEC to:

- support principles of:
  - inclusion
  - diversity
  - equity
  - access

and

- drive improvements to:
  - change
  - culture
  - policy
  - practice.

Our Disability Education and Engagement Plan also informed our submission to Parliament's EMC inquiry into voting centre accessibility conducted during 2025–26.

Disclosure index

We prepared this annual report in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation and pronouncements. Our disclosure index at Appendix A shows our compliance with statutory requirements.

Employment and conduct principles

We have policies and guidelines to ensure we:

- uphold public sector conduct
- value diversity
- manage employment and underperformance
- manage personal grievances
- select on merit.

Environmental performance

Our commitment to reducing any negative impact on the environment is reflected in our environmental sustainability report under 'About this report'.

Executive officer disclosures

The Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner are appointed by the Governor in Council as statutory office holders. They are not executive officers under the Public Administration Act.

Freedom of information

Under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Vic) (FOI Act), the community has the right to access information we hold. We received 15 requests under the FOI Act during 2025–26. Of these, 5 requests were satisfied outside the formal FOI process. 5 requests were assessed as invalid and not proceeded with.

5 requests were assessed as valid. Of these:

- 2 were processed with access to documents granted in full
- 1 had access granted in part
- documents did not exist for one request.
- one was not yet finalised at 30 June 2026.

One request was received during 2024–25 and not finalised at 30 June 2025. The request was processed during 2025–26 with access to documents granted in part.

In processing these requests, we complied fully with the FOI Act and Professional Standards.

Information about how to lodge an FOI request is available on our website or in Appendix E.

Gifts, benefits and hospitality register

Victorian Public Sector Commission standards require us to publish a quarterly gifts, benefits and hospitality register. This is available on our website.

Grants and transfer payments (other than contributions by owners)

Our 'Total expenses from transactions' includes grants and assistance we pay to certain companies and organisations.

During 2025–26, we provided grants totalling $101,945 to 7 organisations (see Table 32: Grants to external bodies, 2025–26).

Information and records management

We are responsible for managing information in line with standards issued by the Public Records Office Victoria (PROV) and OVIC.

Our information asset register shows the type of information we manage.

During 2025–26 we:

- implemented a new SharePoint-based records management solution to maintain and track our physical records
- trialled a new electronic disposal process for SharePoint, in line with PROV retention requirements
- developed new information protection procedures, including privacy incident management
- launched mandatory protective markings and an uplift in education and awareness to support the initiative
- established an information and knowledge management working group to improve our information governance.

Disclosure of information and communication technology expenditure

Information and communication technology (ICT) expenditure refers to our costs in providing business-enabling ICT services. ICT expenditure comprises:

- business-as-usual (BAU) expenditure. BAU ICT expenditure is all remaining expenditure primarily for ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability
- Non-BAU ICT expenditure relates to extending or enhancing our current ICT capabilities.

For the reporting period, our total ICT expenditure was $29,464,475. This comprised:

- total BAU ICT expenditure of $18,863,003
- total non-BAU ICT expenditure of $10,601,472 including $5,744,010 of operational expenditure and $4,857,462 of capital expenditure.

National competition policy

If our services compete with another government or private business, we must remove any advantage we have from our government ownership alone if it is not in the public interest. This means we must cost and price our services as if they were privately owned and must be fully cost-reflective.

We use a competitive neutrality policy to help us decide on resource allocation. This focuses on efficiency and does not override other policy objectives.

In 2025–26, we continued to comply with the national competition policy.

Health, safety and wellbeing

The goal of our HSW policy, supporting procedures and systems is that staff stay safe and healthy at work.

Our HSW management system and action plans enhance safety performance and ensure safe systems of work.

In 2025–26, there were 56 incidents reported:

- 35 injuries
- 21 near misses

In addition, 35 hazards were reported and managed separately.

For more on our human resource management, including performance against HSW management measures, see ‘Our people’.

Pecuniary interest declarations

The Electoral Commissioner, Deputy Electoral Commissioner and executive leadership team completed declarations of pecuniary interests as required.

Public Interest Disclosures Act

We are committed to the aims and objectives of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (Vic).

Although we cannot receive public interest disclosures, we do not tolerate improper conduct by our employees and officers. We also do not tolerate reprisal against people who disclose.

We recognise the value of transparency and accountability in our administrative and management practices and support disclosures of conduct that:

- is corrupt
- involves substantial mismanagement of public resources
- involves a substantial risk to public health and safety, or the environment.

We have reporting obligations under the Electoral Act in relation to corrupt conduct and must notify the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission about suspected corrupt conduct.

Victorian Industry Participation Policy

We must report on implementing the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPP) under the *Local Jobs First Act 2003* (Vic).

We apply VIPP in all tenders over:

- $3 million in metropolitan Melbourne
- $1 million in regional Victoria.

VIPP applied to 1 of our contracts in 2025–26.

Additional information available on request

Information related to the 2025–26 reporting period is available to ministers, members of parliament and the public on request (subject to the FOI Act).

The type of information we can provide is listed in Appendix C.

Table 30: Advertising campaigns over $100,000, 2025–26

Name of campaign	Campaign dates	Campaign summary	Proposed campaign expenditure (excluding GST)	Actual campaign expenditure (excluding GST)
SEO26 Senior election official recruitment	25 August 2025 until 23 November 2025	Statewide advertising and statutory advertising press, radio, social media	$129,569	$129,569
Nepean District by-election	9 March 2026 until 20 May 2026	By-election combined advertising press, radio and social media	$197,606	$197,606

Note:

These ‘campaigns’ combined statutory (functional) print advertising with other forms of campaign advertising.

Table 31: Consultancies over $10,000, 2025–26

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Total approved project fee (excluding GST)	Expenditure 2025–26 (excluding GST)	Future expenditure (excluding GST)
Capire Consulting Group Pty Ltd	Development of Engagement Framework	$49,523	$49,523	–
Catherine Dermody	Nominated Entities Eligibility advice	$12,970	$12,970	–
Clayton Utz	Legal advisory services	$20,000	$20,000	–
Cube Group Management Consulting	Corporate Governance Review	$24,000	$24,000	–
Deloitte Consulting Pty Ltd	VEC Website support	$16,200	$16,200	–
Grant Thornton Australia Ltd	Internal Audit services	$87,416	$71,414	$16,002
Great Migrations Overseas	Roll Management System(RMS) Custom Upgrade Project	$315,737	$315,737	–
The Hero Corporation	Advertising – media services	$2,061,947	$80,525	$1,981,422
KPMG	Governance and regulatory reform	$39,200	$39,200	–
Landell Consulting	Advertising – media services	$52,762	$52,762	–
Nicole Cassar	Sponsorship/ partnership evaluation report	$18,100	$18,100	–
Official Jargon	Service Sustainability Review Phase 1 & 2	$81,840	$81,840	–
Peter Berry Consultancy Pty Ltd	SEO Pool Psychometric and integrity assessment programs	$31,500	$31,500	–

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Total approved project fee (excluding GST)	Expenditure 2025–26 (excluding GST)	Future expenditure (excluding GST)
Simply HR Pty Ltd	Workplace investigation and report	$11,760	$11,760	–
The Strategic Step TSSA	Workforce Planning Strategy and Strategic Workforce Plan	$100,966	$100,966	–
VOTAR Partners	Review of Business Continuity Arrangements	$19,425	$19,425	–
Optimum Media Direction OMD	Advertising – direction on various campaigns	$314,468	$314,468	–

Table 32: Grants to external bodies, 2025–26

Organisation	Purpose of grant	Amount (excl GST)
Centre for Multicultural Youth	Sponsorship of active citizenship workshop	$10,000
Ethnic Council of Shepparton & District	Sponsorship of Active Citizenship Workshops	$5,000
Mallee Sexual Assault Unit Inc.	Sponsorship Kiilalaana Foundation Partnership	$10,000
Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc	Sponsorship of active Citizenship Workshop	$3,500
University of Melbourne	Electoral Regulation Research Network (ERRN) Sponsorship	$42,325
Victorian Student Representative Council Ltd	Sponsorship of Teacher Presenting Partner	$5,000
Victorian YMCA Community Programming PL	Sponsorship of 4.5 teams in the 2026 Youth Parliament program	$26,120
Total		**$101,945**

Finance at a glance

Total funding received during 2025–26 was $140.0 million, which is made up of base level funding and election delivery funding. This is inclusive of resources received free of charge $5.6 million and $11.2 million to transfer to accrual accounting for appropriations in line with VEC's existing expense reporting.

Expenditure

We incurred $129.5 million in operational expenses for the reporting financial period, inclusive resources received of free of charge. This is slightly less than the special appropriation received from the Government of Victoria, due to non-cash expenditure such as depreciation, accruals and staff entitlement provisions. Government reimbursement for appropriation does not include non-cash expenses. In relation to pre-election spend for state election 2026 preparation and readiness, major categories included:

- Upscaled workforce to improve governance and support election readiness
- Infrastructure and venue costs that have been brought forward because of improved delivery model
- Investment and expenditure in IT security and cyber monitoring
- Internalised capability for print and production of material.

Financial Position

Our financial position remains strong with total assets of $82.1 million, liabilities at $40.4 million and overall net equity of $41.7 million. VEC's assets are largely comprised:

- The Election Management System (EMS)
- Investment in roll management
- The Funding and Disclosure platform
- Ongoing enhancements to systems including intranet and website

We continue to invest in other capital assets, such as election infrastructure equipment, inventory and personal protective equipment material.

Our liabilities largely comprise employee entitlements and year-end expenditure accruals.

The equity of the VEC is split into:

- contributed capital
- accumulated deficit.

The contributed capital represents the amount of funding contributed by the Government of Victoria for the purchase and development of non-current assets such as system developments. The accumulated loss represents the accumulated result from continuing our operations.

Table 33: 5-year financial summary, 2021–22 to 2025–26

Year	2021–22 $'000	2022–23 $'000	2023–24 $'000	2024–25 $'000	2025–26 $'000
Electoral activity		**State election**		**Local council elections**	
Total funding including appropriations	$50,122	$140,600	$62,560	$124,097	$139,977
Total expenses from transactions	$50,736	$150,273	$65,309	$136,657	$129,547
Net result from transactions	-$614	-$9,673	-$2,749	-$12,560	$10,430
Operating result	-$242	-$9,605	-$2,695	-$12,576	$10,695
Net cash flow from/(used in) operating activities	-$206	-$165	$1,432	$930	$7,147
Total assets	$30,935	$30,066	$36,604	$36,308	$82,149
Total liabilities	$7,919	$9,948	$10,602	$16,371	$40,399
Net assets	$23,016	$20,118	$26,002	$19,937	$41,750

Financial statements

Our audited financial statements, reflecting our commitment to robust financial management and transparent reporting.

Declaration in the financial statements

The attached financial statements for the Victorian Electoral Commission (the VEC) have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards, including interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2026 and financial position of the Commission at 30 June 2026.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 16 September 2026.



Sven Bluemmel
Electoral Commissioner
Victorian Electoral Commission
Melbourne



Binh Le
Chief Operating & Financial Officer
Victorian Electoral Commission
Melbourne

Comprehensive operating statement

for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026	2025
		$'000	$'000
Continuing operations			
Income from transactions			
Special appropriations	2.2 & 2.3	134,324	124,025
Resources received free of charge	2.4	5,571	–
Other Income	2.5	82	72
Total income from transactions		**139,977**	**124,097**
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	(69,961)	(69,175)
Depreciation and amortisation	5.1.2 & 5.2	(12,805)	(4,806)
Resources received free of charge	2.4	(5,571)	–
Interest expense		(1,275)	(6)
Other operating expenses	3.2	(39,935)	(62,670)
Total expenses from transactions		**(129,547)**	**(136,657)**
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		**10,430**	**(12,560)**
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets		19	20
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows		246	(36)
Total other economic flows included in net result		265	(16)
Comprehensive result		**10,695**	**(12,576)**

The comprehensive operating statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Balance sheet

as at 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026	2025
		$'000	$'000
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	7.2	13	10
Receivables	6.1	14,655	363
Total financial assets		**14,668**	**373**
Non-financial assets			
Inventories	6.3	4,719	3,193
Property, plant and equipment	5.1	32,333	5,585
Intangible assets	5.2	26,831	25,294
Prepayments		3,598	1,863
Total non-financial assets		**67,481**	**35,935**
Total assets		**82,149**	**36,308**
Liabilities			
Payables	6.2	6,092	6,195
Borrowings	7.1	22,133	265
Employee-related provisions	3.1.2	10,042	8,739
Other provisions	6.4	2,132	1,172
Total liabilities		**40,399**	**16,371**
Net assets		**41,750**	**19,937**
Equity			
Accumulated (deficit)/surplus		(51,037)	(61,732)
Contributed capital		92,787	81,669
Net worth		**41,750**	**19,937**

The balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Cash flow statement

for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026	2025
		$'000	$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from Government		121,116	127,748
Net goods and services tax recovered from the ATO	(i)	5,521	2,159
Total receipts		**126,637**	**129,907**
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(111,692)	(122,901)
Net goods and services tax paid to the ATO	(ii)	(6,523)	(6,070)
Interest and other costs of finance paid		(1,275)	(6)
Total payments		**(119,490)**	**(128,977)**
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities		**7,147**	**930**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of non-financial assets		(11,154)	(7,484)
Net cash flows (used in)/from investing activities		**(11,154)**	**(7,484)**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Owner contributions by State Government		11,118	6,511
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities	(ii)	(7,318)	(39)
Proceeds from borrowings		210	84
Net cash flows from/(used in) financing activities		**4,010**	**6,556**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		**3**	**2**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		10	8
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	7.2	**13**	**10**

The above cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Notes:

i. Goods and services tax recovered from the ATO is presented on a net basis

ii. The VEC has recognised cash payments for the principal portion of lease payments as financing activities; cash payments for the interest portion as operating activities consistent with the presentation of interest payments and short-term lease payments for leases and low-value assets as operating activities.

Statement of changes in equity

for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	Accumulated Deficit $'000	Contributed Capital $'000	Total $'000
Balance at 1 July 2024		**(49,156)**	**75,158**	**26,002**
Net result for the year		(12,576)	–	(12,576)
Capital appropriations	9.9	–	6,511	6,511
Balance at 30 June 2025		**(61,732)**	**81,669**	**19,937**
Net result for the year		10,695	–	10,695
Capital appropriations	9.9	–	11,118	11,118
Balance at 30 June 2026		**(51,037)**	**92,787**	**41,750**

The statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

Note 1. About this report

The Victorian Electoral Commission (the VEC) is an independent body of the State of Victoria, established pursuant to an order made by the Premier under the *Electoral Act 2002*.

Its principal address is:

Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

The VEC is an administrative agency acting on behalf of the Crown.

A description of the nature of the VEC's operations and its principal activities is included in the report of operations which does not form part of these financial statements.

The VEC is funded by accrual-based parliamentary appropriations for the provision of outputs such as State elections. It provides on a fee-for-service basis election services for Local Government elections. The fees and charges for these services are determined by prevailing market forces.

Basis of preparation
These financial statements are Tier 2 general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* (AASB 1060) and Financial Reporting Direction 101 *Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards* (FRD 101).

These financial statements are in Australian dollars and prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the VEC.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by these judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in applying AAS that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading: 'Significant judgement or estimates'.

- the recognition and measurement of internally generated intangible assets (refer to 5.2)
- the fair value measurement of property, plant and equipment (refer to 8.3)
- employee provisions (refer to 3.1.2)
- useful lives of property, plant and equipment (refer to 5.1)

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest $1,000 unless otherwise stated.

Compliance information
These general-purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

Where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied.

Accounting policies are selected in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

Note 2. Funding delivery of our services

Introduction
The VEC's purpose is to deliver high quality, accessible electoral services with innovation, integrity and independence to enable all Victorians to actively participate in the democratic process.

Objectives
The VEC's primary responsibilities under the *Electoral Act 2002* are to provide election services to State and Local Government, conducting various fee for service elections and maintain the register of Victorian electors. The VEC is the regulator of Victoria's electoral environment.

To enable the VEC to fulfil its objectives and outputs, it receives parliamentary appropriations.

2.1 Summary of Income that funds the delivery of services

	Notes	2026	2025
		$'000	$'000
Special appropriations	2.2 & 2.3	134,324	124,025
Resources received free of charge	2.4	5,571	–
Other Income	2.5	82	72
Total income from transactions		**139,977**	**124,097**

2.2 Appropriations
Special appropriations income becomes controlled and is recognised by the VEC when it is appropriated from the Consolidated Fund by the Victorian Parliament, via the Department of Premier and Cabinet and applied for the administration of the *Electoral Act 2002* under section 181(2) Appropriation of money.

In 2026 VEC received $11.2 million to meet its liabilities e.g, long service leave rather than being funded when the payment was actually due. A corresponding receivable was recognised from the State government. The VEC's appropriated but not yet spent balance of funds are to cover liabilities for expenditure not yet paid, for example, long service that will not be paid until it is taken by an employee. Refer to note 9.3 for additional information.

2.3 Summary of compliance with annual special appropriations

2.3.1 Summary of annual appropriations
The following table discloses the details of the annual parliamentary appropriations received by the VEC via the Department of Premier and Cabinet. In accordance with accrual output-based management procedures 'provisions of outputs' and 'additions to net assets' are disclosed as 'controlled' activities of the VEC. Administered transactions are those that are undertaken on behalf of the State over which the VEC has no control or discretion.

Appropriations applied

	Notes	2026	2025
		$'000	$'000
Controlled			
Provision for outputs		134,324	124,025
Additions to net assets		11,118	6,511
Administered			
Payments made on behalf of the State (Note 4)		13,169	13,360
Total		**158,611**	**143,896**

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
2.4 Resources received free of charge		
Centralised Accommodation Management (CAM)	5,571	–
Total resources received free of charge	**5,571**	–

The VEC's resources received free of charge comprise centralised accommodation management services. Comparative information for resources received free of charge has not been presented, as the funding mechanism for Accommodation Management Services provided by Department of Government Services was centralised at a Whole of Government level only from 1 July 2025. The amounts are recognised in the operating statement as an expense and offset to income as resources received free of charge.

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
2.5 Other income		
Reimbursement of labour charges	82	67
Other miscellaneous income	–	5
Total other income	**82**	**72**

Note 3. The cost of delivering services

Introduction
This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the VEC in delivering services and outputs.

In note 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the cost associated with provision of services are recorded.

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

	Notes	2026	2025
		$'000	$'000
Employee expenses	3.1.1	69,961	69,175
Other operating expenses	3.2	39,935	62,670
Total expenses incurred in delivery of services		**109,896**	**131,845**

3.1.1 Employee expenses in the comprehensive operating statement

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Defined benefit and contribution superannuation expense	6,524	6,068
Salaries and wages, annual leave and long service leave	63,437	63,107
Total employee expenses	**69,961**	**69,175**

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, superannuation, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, redundancy payments and Workcover premiums.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members for both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

The VEC does not recognise any defined benefit liability in respect of the plan(s) because the entity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees; its only obligation is to pay superannuation contributions as they fall due. The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) discloses the State's defined benefit liabilities in its disclosure for administered items.

3.1.2 Employee-related provisions

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2026	2025
Current provisions	**$'000**	**$'000**
Annual leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	3,480	2,655
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	35	547
	3,515	**3,202**
Long service leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	289	324
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	3,316	2,838
	3,605	**3,162**
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	692	531
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	615	608
	1,307	**1,139**
Total current employee related provisions	**8,427**	**7,503**
Non-current provisions		
Employee benefits	1,365	1,049
On-costs	250	187
Total non-current employee related provisions	**1,615**	**1,236**
Total employee related provisions	**10,042**	**8,739**

Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as current liabilities, because the VEC does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of these liabilities.

The liability for salaries and wages is recognised in the balance sheet at remuneration rates which are current at the reporting date. As the VEC expects the liabilities to be wholly settled within 12 months of reporting date, they are measured at undiscounted amounts.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability and measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, as the VEC does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement as it is taken.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

Long service leave
Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability, even where the VEC does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months:

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at either:

- undiscounted value – if the VEC expects to wholly settle within 12 months
- present value – if the VEC does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months

Conditional LSL is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non-current LSL liability is measured at present value.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an 'other economic flows' in the net result.

3.2 Other operating expenses

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Purchase of supplies and consumables	2,173	6,743
Purchase of services	23,371	41,707
Maintenance	4,541	4,221
Accommodation expenses	9,850	9,999
Total other operating expenses	**39,935**	**62,670**

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations and are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. A significant increase in 2025 primarily due to the service delivery of the Local Government elections in October 2024. Accommodation expenses include a number of hubs and election sites that are on short term leases arrangement used during State or local government councils' elections.

Note 4. Administered financial information output

Note 4.1 Administered (non-controlled) items
In addition to the specific VEC operations which are included in the financial statements (comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement), the VEC administers, but does not control, other activities and resources on behalf of the State.

Administered income:

- Income from elections – payments received from municipal activities, political parties, non-parliamentary funds and other electoral related activities
- Fines – infringement revenue received following issue of compulsory voting fines
- Candidate deposits – forfeited payments made by candidates
- Electoral entitlements – represent three forms of revenue paid to entitled recipients:
    - Public funding: public money that is administered by the VEC and paid to eligible independent candidates or eligible registered political parties. Independent candidates or registered political parties with at least 4% of first preference votes or are elected are eligible to receive public funding.
    - Administration expenditure funding: public money that is administered by the VEC and paid to registered political parties and independent elected members for administrative expenses, including expenses incurred in complying with the funding and disclosure requirements. Independent elected members or registered political parties with endorsed elected members are eligible to receive administrative expenditure funding.
    - Policy development funding: public money that is administered by the VEC to support parties that are not eligible for public funding or administrative expenditure funding. Registered political parties that have been registered as a political party for the full calendar year, have not received public funding in that year and were not eligible to receive administrative expenditure funding in that year are eligible to receive policy development funding.
- Receipts for funding and disclosure – recovery of administrative expenditure funding and political funding when the debt is realised and due to the VEC from entitled recipients

Administered expenses:

- Payments to consolidated fund – payment of revenue collected to consolidated funds held by Treasury
- Fines to remit to councils – payment of compulsory fines collected to local government councils
- Payments for funding and disclosure – payments made for the purpose of administrative expenditure funding and political funding to entitled recipients.

Administered assets:

- Represent administered cash holdings, amounts owing to either the State or local government councils or advance payments relating to public funding.

Administered liabilities:

- Administered amounts payable to the State or local government councils for electoral event activities e.g. fines collected and payable.

	State		Local Government		Total	
	2026 $'000	**2025 $'000**	**2026 $'000**	**2025 $'000**	**2026 $'000**	**2025 $'000**
Administered income from transactions						
Income from elections	–	–	8,207	36,681	8,207	36,681
Fines	1,775	1,707	11,442	10,072	13,217	11,779
Candidate deposits	1	4	–	–	1	4
Electoral entitlements	13,169	13,360	–	–	13,169	13,360
Receipts for funding and disclosure	149	43	–	–	149	43
Total administered income from transactions	**15,094**	**15,114**	**19,649**	**46,753**	**34,743**	**61,867**
Administered expenses from transactions						
Payments into the consolidated fund	–	–	14,834	38,435	14,834	38,435
Fines to remit to councils	–	–	11,442	10,072	11,442	10,072
Payments for funding and disclosure	6,970	7,293	–	–	6,970	7,293
Total administered expenses from transactions	**6,970**	**7,293**	**26,276**	**48,507**	**33,246**	**55,800**
Total administered net result from transactions (net operating balance)	8,124	7,821	(6,627)	(1,754)	1,497	6,067
Administered assets						
Cash	–	–	807	3,897	807	3,897
Receivables	–	–	3	11,225	3	11,225
Advanced funding	31,856	25,657	–	–	31,856	25,657
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total administered assets	**31,856**	**25,657**	**810**	**15,122**	**32,666**	**40,779**
Administered liabilities						
Payables	–	–	2,315	8,836	2,315	8,836
Compulsory voting fines	–	–	807	3,897	807	3,897
Total administered liabilities	–	–	**3,122**	**12,733**	**3,122**	**12,733**
Total administered net assets	**31,856**	**25,657**	**(2,312)**	**2,389**	**29,544**	**28,046**

Note 5. Key assets available to support output delivery

Introduction
The VEC controls assets that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the resources that have been entrusted to the VEC to be utilised for delivery of those outputs.

Note 5.1 Total property, plant and equipment

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Plant, equipment, fixtures and fittings	14,896	10,828	(8,099)	(7,281)	6,797	3,547
Right-of-use assets: buildings, plant, equipment and vehicles	29,439	333	(8,173)	(68)	21,266	265
Leasehold improvements	10,265	7,084	(5,995)	(5,311)	4,270	1,773
Net carrying amount	**54,600**	**18,245**	**(22,267)**	**(12,660)**	**32,333**	**5,585**

Initial recognition
Items of property, plant and equipment are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

The cost of leasehold improvements is capitalised as an asset and amortised over the shorter of the remaining term of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvements.

The initial cost of leased motor vehicles is measured at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased asset or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments determined at the inception of the lease.

The following tables are right-of-use assets included in the PPE balance, presented by subsets of buildings, and plant and equipment.

Note 5.1.1 Total right-of-use assets: buildings, plant, equipment and vehicles

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Buildings	23,438	–	(6,716)	–	16,722	–
Plant, equipment and vehicles	6,001	333	(1,457)	(68)	4,544	265
Net carrying amount	**29,439**	**333**	**(8,173)**	**(68)**	**21,266**	**265**

	Buildings	Plant, equipment and vehicles	Total
	2026	2026	2026
	$'000	$'000	$'000
Opening balance – 1 July 2025	–	265	265
Additions	23,438	5,800	29,238
Disposals	–	(96)	(96)
Depreciation	(6,716)	(1,425)	(8,141)
Closing balance – 30 June 2026	**16,722**	**4,544**	**21,266**

Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees – initial measurement
The VEC recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentive received
- any initial direct costs incurred
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

Right-of-use assets – Subsequent measurement
Right-of-use assets are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation, impairment and any adjustments for remeasurement of the lease liability. The VEC depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. Impairment of right-of-use assets is determined and accounted for in accordance with AASB 136 Impairment of Assets.

Impairment of right-of-use assets
The VEC has assessed all right-of-use assets for impairment, and no indicators of impairment are identified as at 30 June 2026.

Impairment of property, plant and equipment
The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that AASB 136 does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

All property, plant and equipment and other non-financial physical assets that have finite useful lives are depreciated. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life.

Intangible produced assets with finite lives are amortised as an 'expense from transactions' on a straight-line basis over their useful lives.

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term. Where the VEC obtains ownership of the underlying leased asset or if the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the entity will exercise a purchase option, the entity depreciates the right-of-use asset over its useful life.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives.

The following are typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years.

Asset class	Useful life (years)
	2026
Leasehold improvements	5–10
Leased equipment and vehicles (including leased assets)	3
Plant and equipment	5–18
Furniture and fittings	6–10
Computer equipment and software	6–9
Intangible produced assets – software development	7–14

5.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amounts of property, plant, equipment and vehicles [a]

	Property, plant and equipment at fair value 2026 $'000	Leasehold improvements at fair value 2026 $'000	Leasehold improvements work in progress 2026 $'000	Right-of-use assets [b] 2026 $'000	Total 2026 $'000
Opening balance	**3,547**	**1,238**	**535**	**265**	**5,585**
Additions	4,068	960	2,035	29,238	**36,301**
Disposals	–	–	–	(96)	**(96)**
Transfers	–	891	(706)	–	**185**
Depreciation	(818)	(683)	–	(8,141)	**(9,642)**
Closing balance	**6,797**	**2,406**	**1,864**	**21,266**	**32,333**

Note:

(a) Fair value assessments have been performed for all classes of assets in this purpose group and the decision was made that movements were not material (less than or equal to 10 per cent) for a full revaluation as per the requirements of FRD 103. The next scheduled full revaluation for this purpose group will be conducted in 2028. Refer to note 8.3 for additional information.
(b) As a result of a change in FRD 104 Leases effective for reporting periods from 30 June 2026, right-of-use assets are measured at cost for reporting period 2026. The comparative information for reporting period 2025 is not restated and is reported at the previously determined fair value. For further information, refer to note 9.3.

Note 5.2 Intangible assets

	Computer software work in progress 2026 $'000	Computer software 2026 $'000	Total 2026 $'000
Gross carrying amount			
Opening balance	9,062	46,050	55,112
Addition from internal development	4,857	–	4,857
Transfer	(12,021)	11,864	(157)
Closing balance	**1,898**	**57,914**	**59,812**
Accumulated amortisation			
Opening balance	–	(29,818)	(29,818)
Amortisation of intangible produced assets (i)	–	(3,163)	(3,163)
Closing balance	**–**	**(32,981)**	**(32,981)**
Net book value	**1,898**	**24,933**	**26,831**

Note (i) The consumption of intangible produced assets is included in 'depreciation and amortisation' line item, on the comprehensive operating statement.

Initial recognition
Purchased intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. When the recognition criteria in AASB 138 *Intangible Assets* are met, internally generated intangible assets are recognised at cost. Subsequently, intangible assets with finite useful lives are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation and amortisation begin when the asset is available for use, that is, when it is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

An internally generated intangible asset arising from development (or from the development phase of an internal project) is recognised if, and only if, all of the following are demonstrated, including:

- the technical feasibility of completing the intangible asset so that it will be available for use or sale
- an intention to complete the intangible asset and use or sell it
- the ability to use or sell the intangible asset
- the intangible asset will generate probable future economic benefits
- the availability of adequate technical, financial and other resources to complete the development and to use or sell the intangible asset
- the ability to measure reliably the expenditure attributable to the intangible asset during its development.

Subsequent measurement
Intangible produced assets with finite useful lives are amortised as an 'expense from transactions' on a straight-line basis over their useful lives. Produced intangible assets have useful lives of 7–14 years.

Impairment of intangible assets
Intangible assets not yet available for use are not depreciated or amortised, but are tested for impairment:

(a) annually
(b) whenever there is an indication that the intangible asset may be impaired.

Intangible assets with finite useful lives are tested for impairment whenever an indication of impairment is identified.

Significant judgement: Recognition and measurement of internally generated intangible assets
Significant judgement required to assess if costs can be capitalised, useful lives are appropriate and if there are indicators of impairment.

Significant intangible assets
The carrying amount of the capitalised software development expenditure is $26.8 million (2025: $25.3 million) includes existing developed software and software under development. The VEC has capitalised software development expenditure for the development of its election management and electoral rolls systems.

Note 6. Other assets and liabilities

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the VEC's controlled operations.

6.1 Receivables

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Current receivables		
Statutory		
Amount owing from Victorian Government	11,186	–
GST input tax credit recoverable	2,744	–
Total statutory receivables	**13,930**	**–**
Contractual		
Other receivables	725	363
Total contractual receivables	**725**	**363**
Total current receivables	**14,655**	**363**
Total receivables	**14,655**	**363**

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets measured at amortised costs'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. The VEC holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows, and therefore subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment. They include mainly debtors in relation to goods and services.

Statutory receivables do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment) but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes. The VEC applies AASB 9 for initial measurement of the statutory receivables and as a result statutory receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction cost. Amounts recognised from the Victorian Government represent funding for all commitments incurred and are drawn from the Consolidated Fund as the commitments fall due.

All Receivables are neither past due nor impaired.

6.2 Payables

Current payables	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Contractual		
Supplies and services (i)	6,092	4,713
Other payables	–	1,482
Total current payables	**6,092**	**6,195**
Total payables	**6,092**	**6,195**

Note: (i) The average credit period is 30 days. No interest is charged on payables.

Contractual payables: Classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the VEC prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid.

6.3 Inventories

Current inventories	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Supplies and consumables	4,719	3,193
Total inventories	**4,719**	**3,193**

Inventories include goods and other property for distribution at zero or nominal cost, or for consumption in the ordinary course of business operations.

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted for any loss of service potential.

Costs for all other inventory is measured on the basis of weighted average cost.

Bases used in assessing loss of service potential for inventories held for distribution include current replacement cost and technical or functional obsolescence. Technical obsolescence occurs when an item still functions for some or all of the tasks it was originally acquired to do, but no longer matches existing technologies. Functional obsolescence occurs when an item no longer functions the way it did when it was first acquired.

6.4 Other provisions

Non-current provisions	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Make-good provision	2,132	1,172
Total other provisions	**2,132**	**1,172**

In accordance with the Centralised Accommodation Management agreement with the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF), the VEC is required to provide for the removal of leasehold improvements from the occupied warehouse facilities and restore the premises to its original condition at the end of the agreement term. Make good provision is also provided for 451-465 Plummer Street, Port Melbourne - Centralised Election Site.

Note 7. How we financed our operations

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the VEC during its operations, and other information related to financing activities of the VEC.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments (such as cash balances).

Note 7.1 Leases

7.1.1 Right-of-use assets
VEC leases various properties, equipment and motor vehicles. The lease contracts are typically made for fixed periods of 1-10 years with an option to renew the lease after that date.

VEC has elected to account for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets using the practical expedients. Instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability, the payments in relation to these are recognised as an expense in profit or loss included in "other operating expenses" on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Right-of-use assets are presented in note 5.1.

Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet as at 30 June	**2026**	**2025**
	$'000	**$'000**
Current	8,793	87
Non-current	13,340	178
Total lease liabilities	**22,133**	**265**

7.1.2 Recognition and measurement of leases as a lessee
For any new contracts entered into, VEC considers whether a contract is or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. To apply this definition VEC assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations:

- whether the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to VEC and for which the supplier does not have substantive substitution rights
- whether VEC has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract and VEC has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use
- whether VEC has the right to make decisions in respect of 'how and for what purpose' the asset is used throughout the period of use.

Lease liability – initial measurement

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if that rate is readily determinable or VEC's incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- Fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentive receivable
- Variable payments based on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date
- Amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee
- Payments arising from purchase and termination options reasonably certain to be exercised.

Lease liability – subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification, or if there are changes in-substance fixed payments.

When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset, or profit and loss if the right-of-use asset is already reduced to zero.

Presentation of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities

VEC presents right-of-use assets as 'property plant equipment' (refer to note 5.1). Lease liabilities are presented in the balance sheet.

Future lease payments

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Not longer than 1 year	9,703	95
Longer than 1 year but not longer than 5 years	13,900	188
Minimum future lease payments	**23,603**	**283**
Less future finance charges	(1,470)	(18)
Present value of minimum lease payments	**22,133**	**265**

Minimum future lease payments include the aggregate of all base payments and any guaranteed residual.

Note 7.2 Cash balances and cash flow information

Cash and deposits comprise cash on hand and cash at bank which are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes, and which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Total cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet	13	10
Balance as per cash flow statement	**13**	**10**

The VEC does not hold a cash reserve in its bank accounts. Cash received from generation of income is generally paid into the State of Victoria bank account ('public account'). Similarly, VEC expenditure, including in the form of cheques drawn for the payments to its suppliers and creditors, are made via the public account. The public account remits to the VEC the cash required upon presentation of cheques by the VEC's suppliers or creditors.

These funding arrangements can result in the VEC having a notional shortfall in the cash at bank required for payment of unpresented cheques at reporting date. At 30 June 2026, cash at bank included the notional shortfall for the payment of unpresented cheques of $23,831 (2025: $24,434).

Note 7.3 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded at their nominal value and inclusive of the goods and services tax (GST). In addition, where it is considered appropriate and provides additional relevant information to users, the net present values of significant individual projects are stated. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

	Less than 1 year	1-5 years	Total
7.3.1 Total commitments payable			
Nominal amount	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**
2026			
Joint electoral roll arrangement payable (i)	5,590	–	5,590
Total other commitments	**5,590**	–	**5,590**
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	**5,590**	–	**5,590**
Less GST recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office	(508)	–	(508)
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)	**5,082**	**–**	**5,082**
2025			
Accommodation services payable (ii)	6,600	6,600	13,200
Joint electoral roll arrangement payable	3,922	–	3,922
Printer and finishing equipment (iii)	536	536	1,072
Print facility (iv)	602	1,018	1,620
Centralised election site (v)	6,266	18,817	25,083
Total other commitments	**17,926**	**26,971**	**44,897**
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	**17,926**	**26,971**	**44,897**
Less GST recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office	(1,630)	(2,452)	(4,082)
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)	**16,296**	**24,519**	**40,815**

Note:

(i) Joint electoral roll arrangement with Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

(ii) The lease agreements for the premises are held by the Shared Services Provider (SSP) through the Department of Treasury and Finance. Under the Centralised Accommodation Management (CAM) initiative of the Victorian Government, responsibility for office accommodation and facilities management is centralised with SSP. VEC received these services free of charge (refer to note 2.4) as the funding mechanism for Accommodation Management Services provided by Department of Government Services was centralised at a Whole of Government level from 1 July 2025.

(iii) The lease of equipment for an internal print production capability at the VEC print facility at 153 Bertie Street, Port Melbourne. This capability will provide the VEC with an internal solution for significant ongoing printing requirements and complement third-party suppliers during major events, i.e. elections.

(iv) The lease of premises at Unit 6B, 153 Bertie Street, Port Melbourne – Print facility site.

(v) The lease of premises at Buildings B and C, 451 and 465 Plummer Street, Port Melbourne – Centralised Election Site. The total commitment of $24.06 million includes Building H, where the VEC has entered into a contract for a new election site including a warehouse facility.

Note 8. Financial instruments, contingencies and valuation judgements

The VEC is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information (including exposures to financial risks), as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher level of judgement to be applied, which for the VEC relates mainly to fair value determination.

Note 8.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the VEC's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract. Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*.

Categories of financial assets

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised costs if both the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through profit or loss:

- the assets are held by the VEC to collect the contractual cash flows
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interests.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The VEC recognises the following assets in this category:

- cash and deposits
- receivables (excluding statutory receivables).

Derecognition of financial assets

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired
- the VEC retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass through' arrangement
- the VEC has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset either:
    - has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset
    - has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

Where the VEC has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the VEC's continuing involvement in the asset.

Categories of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest-bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method.

The VEC recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- payables (excluding statutory payables)
- borrowings (including lease liabilities).

Derecognition of financial liabilities

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender or substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the comprehensive operating statement.

8.1.1 Financial instruments – Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments by category

2026	Carrying amount $'000	Net gain/(loss) $'000	Total interest income/(expense) $'000	Impairment loss $'000
Financial assets at amortised cost				
Cash and deposits	13	–	–	–
Receivables (i)	725	–	–	–
Total financial assets at amortised cost	**738**	**–**	**–**	**–**
Financial liabilities at amortised cost				
Payables (i)	6,092	–	–	–
Lease liabilities	22,133	–	(1,275)	–
Total contractual financial liabilities	**28,225**	–	**(1,275)**	–

Note: (i) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (e.g. GST input tax credit recoverable, and GST payables).

2025	Carrying amount $'000	Net gain/(loss) $'000	Total interest income/(expense) $'000	Impairment loss $'000
Financial assets at amortised cost				
Cash and deposits	10	–	–	–
Receivables(i)	363	–	–	–
Total financial assets at amortised cost	**373**	–	–	–
Financial liabilities at amortised cost				
Payables (i)	6,195	–	–	–
Lease liabilities	265	–	(6)	–
Total contractual financial liabilities	**6,460**	–	**(6)**	–

Note: (i) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (e.g. GST input tax credit recoverable, and GST payables).

8.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet, but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity.

These are classified as either quantifiable, where the potential economic benefit is known, or non-quantifiable.

Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligations the amount of the obligations cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contingent liabilities are also classified as either quantifiable or non-quantifiable.

There are no contingent assets or contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2026 (2025 – Nil).

8.3 Fair value determination

Significant judgement: Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities

Fair value determination requires judgement and the use of assumptions. This section discloses the most significant assumptions used in determining fair values. Changes to assumptions could have a material impact on the results and financial position of the VEC.

This section sets out information on how the VEC determined fair value for financial reporting purposes. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Land, buildings, plant and equipment are carried at fair value, with the exception of right-of-use assets arising under AASB 16, which are measured using the cost model.

Fair value hierarchy

In determining fair values, a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- Level 1 – Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable.
- Level 3 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The VEC determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

PP&E is the VEC's independent valuation agency. In conjunction with PP&E, the VEC monitors changes in the fair value of each asset and liability through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

How this section is structured

For those assets and liabilities for which fair values are determined, the following disclosures are provided:

- valuation techniques
- details of significant assumptions used in the fair value determination.

8.3.1 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

Valuation techniques and significant assumptions of non-financial assets measured at fair value.

AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* amended AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* by adding Appendix F *Australian implementation guidance for not-for-profit public sector entities*. Appendix F explains and illustrates the application of the principles in AASB 13 on developing unobservable inputs and the application of the cost approach. These clarifications are mandatorily applicable annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024. FRD 103 permits Victorian public sector entities to apply Appendix F of AASB 13 in their next scheduled formal asset revaluation or interim revaluation process (whichever is earlier).

The last scheduled full independent valuation of all the VEC's non-financial physical assets was performed by PP&E in 2023.

In accordance with FRD 103, the VEC will apply Appendix F of AASB 13 prospectively in its next scheduled formal revaluation in 2028 or interim revaluation process (whichever is earlier).

Plant, equipment and fixtures and fittings

Plant, equipment and fixtures and fittings are held at fair value. When plant and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold, fair value is determined using the current replacement cost method.

Vehicles

Vehicles are valued using the current replacement cost method. VEC acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by VicFleet who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2026.

For all assets measured at fair value, the VEC considers the current use is the highest and best use.

Description of significant assumptions applied to fair value measurement

2025 and 2026	Valuation technique	Significant assumption	Range (weighted average)
Plant and equipment	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit	$10,000–$11,000 per unit ($10,500 per unit)
		Useful life	5–18 years (11.5 years)
Fixtures and fittings	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit	$7,000–$8,000 per unit ($7,500 per unit)
		Useful life	6–10 years (8 years)
Vehicles	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit	$44,000–$45,000 per unit ($44,500 per unit)
		Useful life	3–5 years (3 years)

Note 9. Other disclosures

Introduction
This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

9.1 Ex-gratia expenses
The VEC made no ex-gratia payments during the reporting period. (2025 – Nil).

9.2 Economic dependency
The Victorian Electoral Commission is dependent upon the State of Victoria, via the Department of Premier and Cabinet, for the funding of its operations. At the date of this report management has no reason to believe that this financial support will not continue.

9.3 Changes in accounting policy
Right-of-use assets
The VEC has made a change in accounting policy to change the measurement basis from the revaluation model to the cost model for the subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets arising from market leases, in accordance with the updated requirements under FRD 104.

Previously, the VEC had measured all right-of-use assets arising from market leases using the revaluation model under AASB 13. Following the change in accounting policy, the VEC will measure all right-of-use assets using the cost model. Right-of-use assets measured using the cost model are held at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment and any adjustments for remeasurement of lease liability. Periodic revaluations are not required; however, the cost model requires annual impairment assessments in accordance with AASB 136.

Impacts on financial statements
On transition to the cost model, there was no impact on VEC's financial statements. No impairment was identified by the VEC for the right-of-use asset held as at 30 June 2026.

Special appropriations revenue
In 2026 VEC received $11.2 million to meet its liabilities e.g., long service leave rather than being funded when the payment was actually due. A corresponding receivable was recognised from the State government. The VEC's appropriated but not yet spent balance of funds which are essentially to cover liabilities for expenditure not yet paid, which includes accrued expenses and long service leave will be recognised as a financial asset (receivables) in the VEC's balance sheet. Accordingly, the impact of transition to the new funding arrangement as per below has been adjusted against receivables.

Description	Amount $'000
Cash and deposits	(13)
Payables and Accruals:	
Employee entitlements	10,042
Payables	8,224
Less:	
Prepayments	(3,598)
Receivables	(3,469)
Amount owing from Victorian Government balance as at 30 June 2026	**11,186**

9.4 Responsible persons
In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA), the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.

Section 7 of the *Electoral Act 2002* states that the 'Commission (the VEC) consists of one member being the person who is appointed as the Electoral Commissioner'. Section 10 of the *Electoral Act 2002* also states that the VEC 'is not subject to the direction or control of the Minister in respect of the performance of its responsibilities and functions and the exercise of its powers', therefore the Accountable Officer including a person delegated to act in this capacity by the VEC is listed below.

Section 16(2) – Functions, powers and duties of the *Electoral Act 2002* states that 'if the Electoral Commissioner is absent or unavailable to discharge the duties of his or her office or the office of Electoral Commissioner is temporarily vacant, has the duty to act in the office of Electoral Commissioner in which case the Deputy Commissioner has all the functions, powers and duties specified in subsection (1) being the functions, powers and duties of the Electoral Commissioner as delegated by the Commission' (the VEC).

Names
The persons who held the positions of Ministers and Accountable Officers in VEC are as follows:

Responsible Minister
The Hon. Jacinta Allan Premier
1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Accountable Officer
Mr Sven Bluemmel
Electoral Commissioner – Accountable Officer
1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Ms Dana Fleming
Deputy Electoral Commissioner
1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Remuneration
Remuneration received or receivable by the Accountable Officers (excluding minister) in connection with the management of the VEC during the reporting period was in the range: $360 000–499 000 (2025: $360 000–459 000).

9.5 Remuneration of executives

The number of senior executive service members, other than Ministers and accountable officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the table below. Total annualised employee equivalents provide a measure of full time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Remuneration comprises employee benefits (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the VEC or on behalf of the VEC, in exchange for services rendered. Accordingly, remuneration is determined on an accrual basis.

Remuneration of executive officers (including key management personnel disclosed in note 9.6)

	Total remuneration 2026 $'000	Total remuneration 2025 $'000
Total remuneration	**2,885**	**2,919**
Total number of executives (i)	**10**	**10**
Total annualised employee equivalents (i)	**8.6**	**9.7**

(i) The number of annualised executives had decreased because of the departure of Director Regulatory Services and Executive Director Governance and Enabling Services during FY 2025-26. The total number of senior executive service members includes persons who meet the definition of Key Management Personnel (KMP) of the VEC under AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures and are also reported within the related parties note disclosure (note 9.6). Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

9.6 Related parties

The VEC is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria.

Related parties of the VEC include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over)
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

Significant transactions with government-related entities

Controlled

The VEC received funding from the Consolidated Fund of $134.3 million (2025: $124.0 million). VEC also received resources free of charge of $5.6m comprise of centralised accommodation management services. Comparative information for resources received free of charge has not been presented, as the funding mechanism for Accommodation Management Services provided by Department of Government Services was centralised at a Whole of Government level only from 1 July 2025.

Administered

The VEC received funding and made payments to the Consolidated Fund of $13.2 million (2025: $13.4 million) and $14.8 million (2025: $38.4 million) respectively.

Remuneration of key management personnel (KMP) of the VEC include:

Mr Sven Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner

Ms Dana Fleming, Deputy Electoral Commissioner

Mr Ben Sutherland, Assistant Commissioner, Event Strategy and Delivery

Mr Keegan Bartlett, Assistant Commissioner, Electoral Integrity and Regulation

Mr Binh Le, Chief Operating & Financial Officer

Mr Chris Pivec Chief Information Officer

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Minister receives. The Minister's remuneration and allowances is set by the Parliamentary *Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and is reported within the State's Annual Financial Report.

Compensation of KMPs	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Total	**2,061**	**823**

Note: new executive structure was introduced from January 2026 to expand KMP to include the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

Transactions and balances with key management personnel and other related parties

Given the breadth and depth of State government activities, related parties transact with the Victorian public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public, e.g. stamp duty and other government fees and charges. Further employment processes within the Victorian public sector occur on terms and consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004* and Codes of Conduct and Standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. Procurement processes occur on terms and conditions consistent with the Victorian Government Purchasing Board requirements.

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the VEC, there were no related party transactions that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interests. No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivables from related parties.

The VEC has prepared the related party disclosures for the year based on reasonable enquiries made by management in relation to the portfolio ministers and their related parties and the information available to the organisation.

There were no related party transactions that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interests. No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivables from related parties.

9.7 Remuneration of auditors

Victorian Auditor General's Office	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Audit of the financial statements	47	30
Total remuneration of auditors	**47**	**30**

9.8 Subsequent events

The VEC has entered into lease agreement that was signed and executed subsequent to 30 June 2026. The lease of equipment for an internal print production capability at the VEC print facility at 153 Bertie Street, Port Melbourne. This capability will provide the VEC with an internal solution for significant ongoing printing requirements and complement third-party suppliers during major events, i.e. elections

9.9 Other accounting policies

Contributions by owners

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the VEC.

Additions to net assets that have been designated as contributions are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners.

Resources received free of charge

Resources received free of charge or for nominal consideration are recognised under AASB 1058 at fair value when control is obtained over them, irrespective of whether these contributions are subject to restrictions or conditions over their use. The exception is when the resource is received from another government department (or agency) because of a restructuring of administrative arrangements. In this case the transfer will be recognised as a capital contribution transfer, in the transferring department or agency, and recorded at its carrying value.

The VEC's resources received free of charge comprise centralised accommodation management services. Comparative information for resources received free of charge has not been presented, as the funding mechanism for Accommodation Management Services provided by Department of Government Services was centralised at a Whole of Government level only from 1 July 2025.

9.10. Glossary of technical terms and style conventions

Term	Definition
Amortisation	Amortisation is the expense which results from the Consumption, extraction or use over time of a non-produced physical or intangible asset. This expense is classified as a flow from transactions.
Borrowings	Borrowings refers to leases.
Comprehensive result	The net result of all items of income and expense recognised for the period. It is the aggregate of operating result and other comprehensive income.
Commitments	Commitments include agreements to make payments in future that arise from non-cancellable contracts or statutory requirements. They may result from operating, capital and other outsourcing activities.
Depreciation	Depreciation is an expense that arises from the consumption through wear or time of a produced physical or intangible asset. This expense is classified as a 'transaction' and so reduces the 'net result from transaction'.
Employee benefits expenses	Employee benefits expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, redundancy payments, defined benefit superannuation plans and defined contribution superannuation plans.
Ex gratia payments	Ex gratia expenses mean the voluntary payment of money or other non-monetary benefit (e.g. a write off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity or to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability or claim against the entity.
Financial asset	A financial asset is any asset that is: a. cash b. an equity instrument of another entity c. a contractual or statutory right: - to receive cash or another financial asset from another entity; or - to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the entity; or d. a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is: - a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to receive a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or - a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments.
Financial instrument	A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial assets or liabilities that are non-contractual (such as statutory receivables or payables that arise as a result of statutory requirements imposed by governments) are not financial instruments.
Financial liability	A financial liability is any liability that is: a. a contractual obligation: i. to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity; or ii. to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the entity; or b. a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is: i. a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to deliver a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or ii. a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments. For this purpose the entity's own equity instruments do not include instruments that are themselves contracts for the future receipt or delivery of the entity's own equity instruments.

Financial statements	A complete set of financial statements comprises: a. a balance sheet as at the end of the period b. a comprehensive operating statement for the period c. a statement of changes in equity for the period d. a cash flow statement for the period e. notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information f. comparative information in respect of the preceding period as specified in paragraphs 38 of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements; and g. a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period when an entity applies an accounting policy retrospectively or makes a retrospective restatement of items in its financial statements, or when it reclassifies items in its financial statements in accordance with paragraphs 41 of AASB 101.
General government sector	The general government sector comprises all government departments, offices and other bodies engaged in providing services free of charge or at prices significantly below their cost of production. General government services include those which are mainly non-market in nature, those which are largely for collective consumption by the community and those which involve the transfer or redistribution of income. These services are financed mainly through taxes, or other compulsory levies and user charges.
Intangible produced assets	Refer to produced asset in this glossary.
Interest expense	Costs incurred in connection with the borrowing of funds includes the interest component, of finance lease repayments.
Inventories	Inventories are assets in the form of materials, consumables or supplies to be consumed in the rendering of services in the ordinary course of business operations. Inventories encompass goods purchased and held for use or resale. Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted for any loss of service potential. Costs for all other inventory is measured on the basis of weighted average cost. Bases used in assessing loss of service potential for inventories held for distribution include current replacement cost and technical or functional obsolescence. Technical obsolescence occurs when an item still functions for some or all of the tasks it was originally acquired to do, but no longer matches existing technologies. Functional obsolescence occurs when an item no longer functions the way it did when it was first acquired.
Net result	Net result is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of income, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those that are classified as ‘other economic flows – other comprehensive income’.
Net worth	Assets less liabilities, which is an economic measure of wealth.
Other economic flows – other comprehensive income	Other economic flows – other comprehensive income comprises items (including reclassification adjustments) that are not recognised in net result as required or permitted by other Australian Accounting Standards.
Payables	Includes short- and long-term trade debt and accounts payable, grants, taxes and interest payable.
Prepayments	Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services, or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that point.
Produced assets	Produced assets include plant and equipment, inventories and certain intangible assets. Intangible produced assets include computer software.
Receivables	Includes amounts owing from government through appropriation receivable, short-and long-term trade credit, and accounts receivable.

Sales of goods and services	Refers to income from the direct provision of goods and services and includes fees and charges for services rendered, sales of goods and services, fees from regulatory services and work done as an agent for private enterprises. It also includes rental income under operating leases and on produced assets such as buildings and entertainment but excludes rent income from the use of non-produced assets such as land. User charges include sale of goods and services income.
Supplies and services	Supplies and services generally represent cost of goods sold and the day-to-day running costs, including maintenance costs, incurred in the normal operations of the Commission.
Transactions	Transactions are those economic flows that are considered to arise as a result of policy decisions, usually an interaction between two entities by mutual agreement. They also include flows within an entity such as depreciation where the owner is simultaneously acting as the owner of the depreciating asset and as the consumer of the service provided by the asset. Taxation is regarded as mutually agreed interactions between the government and taxpayers. Transactions can be in kind (e.g. assets provided/given free of charge or for nominal consideration) or where the final consideration is cash. In simple terms, transactions arise from the policy decisions of the government.
Style conventions	Figures in the tables and in the text have been rounded. Discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components reflect rounding. Percentage variations in all tables are based on the underlying unrounded amounts. The notation used in the tables is as follows: .. zero, or rounded to zero (xxx.x) negative numbers 20xx year period 200xx–xx year period

VAGO
Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Commissioner of the Victorian Electoral Commission

Opinion	I have audited the financial report of the Victorian Electoral Commission (the Commission) which comprises the: • balance sheet as at 30 June 2026 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cash flow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information • declaration in the financial statements. In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* and applicable Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. My staff and I are independent of the commission in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
The Commissioner's responsibilities for the financial report	The Commissioner is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Financial Management Act 1994*, and for such internal control as the Commissioner determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Commissioner is responsible for assessing the commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.

Level 31 / 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000
T 03 8601 7000 enquiries@audit.vic.gov.au www.audit.vic.gov.au

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the Audit Act 1994, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the commission's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Commissioner
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Commissioner's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the commission's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the commission to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Commissioner regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



MELBOURNE
21 September 2026

Sanchu Chummar
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Appendices

Appendix A: Disclosure index

The annual report of the VEC is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislations and pronouncements. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of our compliance with statutory disclosure requirements [FRD 10].

Legislation	Requirement	Page reference
Standing directions and financial reporting directions		
Report of operations		
Charter and purpose		
FRD 22	Manner of establishment and the relevant ministers	8, 121
FRD 22	Purpose, functions, powers and duties	8, 9
FRD 22	Key initiatives and projects	12–65
FRD 22	Nature and range of services provided	8–9
Management and structure		
FRD 22	Organisational structure	68
Financial and other information		
FRD 8	Consistency of budget and departmental reporting	95–96
FRD 10	Disclosure index	130–133
FRD 12	Disclosure of major contracts	89
FRD 15	Executive Officer disclosures	90
FRD 22	Employment and conduct principles	72–76, 90
FRD 22	Occupational health and safety policy	77–81
FRD 22	Summary of the financial results for the year	95–96
FRD 22	Significant changes in financial position during the year	95
FRD 22	Major changes or factors affecting performance	95
FRD 22	Subsequent events	123
FRD 22	Application and operation of *Freedom of Information Act 1982*	137

Legislation	Requirement	Page reference
FRD 22	Compliance with building and maintenance provisions of *Building Act 1993*	89
FRD 22	Statement on National Competition Policy	91
FRD 22	Application and operation of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*	136
FRD 22	Details of consultancies over $10 000	90, 93–94
FRD 22	Details of consultancies under $10 000	89
FRD 22	Disclosure of government advertising expenditure	89, 92
FRD 22	Disclosure of ICT expenditure	91
FRD 22	Disclosure of grants and transfer payments (other than contributions by owners)	90, 94
FRD 22	Statement of availability of other information	135
FRD 22	Asset Management Accountability Framework (AMAF) maturity assessment	139
FRD 22	Disclosure of social procurement activities under the Social Procurement Framework	140–141
FRD 24	Environmental reporting	143
FRD 29	Workforce Data disclosures	74–76
Compliance attestation and declaration		
SD 5.1.4	Attestation for compliance with Ministerial Standing Direction	138
SD 5.2.3	Declaration in report of operations	2 (inner cover)
Financial statements		
Declaration		
SD 5.2.2	Declaration in financial statements	98
Standing Directions and Financial Reporting Directions		
Other requirements under Standing Directions 5.2		
SD 5.2.1(a)	Compliance with Australian accounting and other authoritative pronouncements	103–104
SD 5.2.1(a)	Compliance with Standing Directions	96–87

Legislation	Requirement	Page reference
SD 5.2.1(b)	Compliance with Model Financial Report	103
SD 5.2.2(a)	Accountable officer's declaration	98
Other disclosures as required by FRDs in notes to the financial statements [(a)]		
FRD 9	Departmental Disclosure of Administered Assets and Liabilities	95–96
FRD 11	Disclosure of Ex gratia Expenses	120
FRD 13	Disclosure of Parliamentary Appropriations	95–96, 98–102, 104–105
FRD 21	Disclosures of Responsible Persons, Executive Officers and other Personnel (Contractors with Significant Management Responsibilities) in the Financial Report	121
FRD 102	Inventories	113
FRD 103	Non-Financial Physical Assets	119–120
FRD 106	Impairment of assets	110
FRD 109	Intangible assets	111–112
FRD 110	Cash Flow Statements	115
FRD 112	Defined Benefit Superannuation Obligations	105–106
FRD 114	Financial Instruments – general government entities and public non-financial corporations	116–118

Note:

References to FRDs have been removed from the Disclosure Index if the specific FRDs do not contain requirements that are in the nature of disclosure.

Carers Recognition Act 2012	–
Disability Act 2006	89
Local Jobs First Act 2003	92
Financial Management Act 1994	98, 103

Appendix B: Governing legislation and regulations

Our functions and operations are governed by 6 main pieces of Victorian legislation, the:

- *Electoral Act 2002*
- *Constitution Act 1975*
- *Financial Management Act 1994*
- *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act 1982*
- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Infringements Act 2006.*

Our work is also governed by the Victorian:

- *Agricultural Industry Development Act 1990*
- *Building Act 1993*
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *City of Greater Geelong Act 1993*
- *City of Melbourne Act 2001*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*
- *Essential Services Act 1958*
- *Fines Reform Act 2014*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- *Juries Act 2000*
- *Legal Profession Act 2004*
- *Local Jobs First Act 2003*
- *Monetary Units Act 2004*
- *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*
- *Public Records Act 1973*
- *Vital State Projects Act 1976*
- *Agricultural Industry Development (Polls) Regulations 2021*
- *City of Melbourne (Electoral) Regulations 2022*
- *Electoral Regulations 2022*
- *Fines Reform Regulations 2026*
- *Financial Management Regulations 2024*
- *Infringements Regulations 2026*
- *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020.*

Appendix C: Additional information available on request

On request, we can provide details of:

- publications we produce about ourselves and where to get these
- changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies we charge
- any major external reviews carried out on our operations
- major research and development activities we have undertaken that are not otherwise covered in this report
- overseas visits we have undertaken, including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit
- assessments and measures we have undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees, not otherwise detailed in this report
- time lost through industrial accidents and disputes and a general statement on industrial relations in our organisation.

Appendix D: Reporting procedures under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012

Disclosures of improper conduct or detrimental action by the Electoral Commissioner or another officer of the VEC must be made to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission
GPO Box 24234
Melbourne VIC 3001
Phone 1300 735 135

Further information

Written guidelines outlining the system for reporting disclosures of improper conduct or detrimental action by the VEC or its employees, and the disclosure handling procedures, are available from the VEC.

Note: the PID Act was formerly known as the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* (Vic).

Appendix E: Making a request under the Freedom of Information Act

You may write to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Officer to request access to documents we possess.

Under section 17 of the FOI Act, your request must:

› be in writing

› clearly describe the documents you want to access

and

› include an application fee of 2 fee units, or evidence that you qualify to have the fee waived.

Fee units increase each year with CPI. For 2025–26, the application fee was $33.60.

Submit your FOI request by:

› email to foi@vec.vic.gov.au

or

› mail to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins St
Melbourne VIC 3000

Costs may also apply to searching for and providing access to documents. These 'access charges' are prescribed by the Freedom of Information (Access Charges) Regulations 2014.

Releasing information outside the FOI Act

We may arrange to provide information or documents outside of the FOI Act. This is at our discretion and does not require proceeding with a formal FOI request.

We may be able to release information outside of the FOI Act, if it:

› relates only to you, the applicant, and you provide sufficient proof of identity

› may have already been released to another applicant

› is publicly available.

More information about FOI is available on the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner website at ovic.vic.gov.au

Appendix F: Attestation for compliance

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Victorian Electoral Commission

Victorian Electoral Commission

Financial Management Compliance Attestation Statement

The Victorian Electoral Commission has not identified any Material Compliance Deficiency in relation to 2025-26.

I, Sven Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, certify that the Victorian Electoral Commission has complied with the applicable Standing Directions of the Minister of Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.

Sven Bluemmel
Electoral Commissioner

Date: 20/8/2026

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Appendix G: Asset Management Accountability maturity assessment for year ended 30 June 2026

The following summarise the VEC's assessment of maturity against the requirements of the Asset Management Accountability Framework (AMAF). Our target maturity rating is 'competence', meaning systems and processes are fully in place, consistently applied and systematically meeting the AMAF requirement, including a continuous improvement process to expand system performance above AMAF minimum requirements.

Leadership and Accountability (requirements 1–19)

We met our target maturity level within this category.

Planning (requirements 20–23)

We met our target maturity level within this category.

Acquisition (requirements 24 and 25)

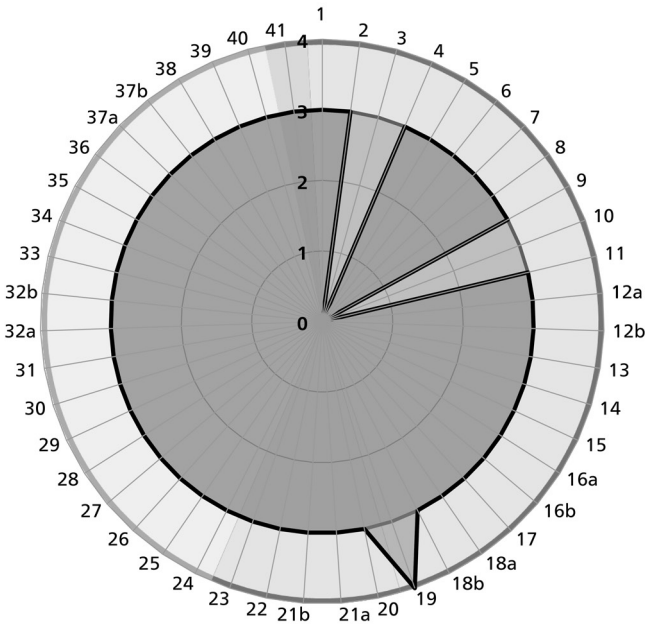
We met our target maturity level within this category.

Operation (requirements 26–40)

We met our target maturity level within this category.

Disposal (requirement 41)

We met our target maturity level within this category.



Status	Scale	Compliance
Not Applicable	N/A	Not Applicable
Innocence	0	Non-Comply
Awareness	1	Non-Comply
Developing	2	Non-Comply
Competence	3	Comply
Optimising	4	Comply
Unassessed	U/A	Unassessed

Target

Overall

Appendix H: Social procurement reporting

We continue to commit to our social procurement strategy 2025–26 in line with the Victorian Social Procurement Framework and our core legislative purposes. The following table provides an overview of the objectives and achievements reportable in the year.

Social Procurement Framework (SPF) objectives	Procurement activities and achievements in 2025–26	Number of businesses and suppliers engaged	Total spend
› Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people. › Sustainable Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal business sectors.	Procuring services from Aboriginal businesses and suppliers, including artwork and cultural expertise to support engagement of Aboriginal communities, dance performances, and catering services.	3 suppliers (2024–25: 5 suppliers)	$43,260 (2024–25: $35,330)
› Opportunities for Victorians with disability. › Opportunities for disadvantaged Victorians. › Supporting safe and fair workplaces.	**Procuring a range of services and engagement opportunities, including:** › acquiring products from businesses supporting disadvantaged Victorians › community engagements and events › catering services › Easy English training › focus groups › Language Loop › in-language videos › catering supplies. Engagement initiatives with a range of key stakeholders to help promote electoral education and participation across the Victorian community, such as: › Centre for Multiculture Victoria › Stem Incubators › Youth Affairs Council of Victoria › Victorian YMCA Community Programming.	7 suppliers (2024–25: 14 suppliers)	$102,350 (2024–25: $260,900)

Social Procurement Framework (SPF) objectives	Procurement activities and achievements in 2025–26	Number of businesses and suppliers engaged	Total spend
› Environmentally sustainable outputs. › Environmentally sustainable business practices.	› Where possible, continuing to leverage from whole-of-government contracts and services that target sustainable and environmental benefits. › Purchasing ballot material and paper from locally sourced providers in delivering local by-election events. › Procuring: - environmentally friendly waste removal services - cardboard recycling services - general recycling services.	4 suppliers (2024–25: 8 suppliers)	$59,080 (2024–25: $225,180)

Appendix I: Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission 2025–26

Electoral Boundaries Commission

The Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC) is constituted under the Victorian *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act 1982* (EBC Act).

The EBC's function is to establish and maintain electorates with approximately equal enrolment. The number of voters in each electorate must be within 10% of the average enrolment for all electorates in the upper house (regions) and lower house (districts).

The members of the EBC during 2025–26 were:

- The Honourable Justice Amanda Chambers, Chief Judge of the County Court of Victoria (Chair)
- Mr Sven Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner
- Mr Craig Sandy LS, Surveyor-General of Victoria.

The VEC provides administrative and technical support to the EBC. Annette Aboltins of the VEC is the EBC secretary.

The EBC met on 24 November 2025. As an outcome of that meeting:

- the EBC Chair wrote to the Premier of Victoria, who is the responsible minister for the EBC Act, proposing amendments to the EBC Act to:
  - permit an optional and limited third round of public consultation during a redivision
  - remove gendered language from the EBC Act
- a policy for naming electorates will be developed before the next state redivision
- the VEC informed the EBC of the outcome of the Electoral Matters Committee's inquiry into Victoria's upper house electoral system, following the release of the inquiry report.

The EBC Act requires the EBC to conduct a redivision if certain conditions apply in the period 24-to-18 months before the next scheduled state election.

These conditions are that:

- enrolments for a certain number of electorates have been more than 10% outside the state average for at least 2 months
- there have been 2 general elections since the previous redivision

or

- the number of electorates has changed.

The next state redivision will take place after the 2026 state election, under the condition of 2 general elections having occurred since the previous redivision.

Appendix J: Environmental and sustainability reporting

The VEC utilises a range of State Purchase Contracts (SPCs) and central government arrangements for the provision of its services. Examples include arrangements with Accommodation and Library Services (ALS) for the provision of office accommodation and VicFleet for vehicle fleet services.

Our commitment to environmental sustainability is demonstrated in:

- electricity consumption from a variety of sources including renewables
- the use of hybrid and electric vehicles in our fleet
- monitoring of energy and water consumption
- sustainable procurement practices under our Social Procurement arrangements
- NABERS rated sustainable office building use
- reporting of recycling levels in accordance with building plans.

Data on environmental impacts is included in the Department of Premier and Cabinet's annual report.

Glossary and list of abbreviations

Glossary and list of abbreviations

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
Aboriginal Advisory Group	A group of Elders and community leaders from across Victoria who guide us on internal projects and engagement with First Nations communities.	AAG
Administrative expenditure funding	Funding we provide to candidates, elected members and RPPs for general office costs.	AEF
Artificial intelligence	Technology that allows computers to complete tasks that usually need human thinking, such as recognising patterns, solving problems or making decisions.	AI
Asset Management Accountability Framework	Sets requirements and best-practice recommendations for government agency asset portfolios.	AMAF
Assistant election manager	The role that supports the election manager with election office operations.	AEM
Attendance election	An election where voting is conducted at voting centres on election day.	–
Attorney-General	The minister responsible for the legal system in Victoria.	–
Auditor-General	An independent officer of the Victorian Parliament who looks at resource management in the public sector.	–
Australasian Reporting Awards	A benchmarking process for annual reports produced by Australasian organisations.	ARAs
Australian Business Number	A unique 11-digit number that identifies a business to the government, other businesses and the public.	ABN
Australian Business Register	Stores and verifies business and organisation details for the community and government.	ABR
Australian Company Number	A unique 9-digit identifier assigned to every company registered by ASIC.	ACN
Australian Electoral Commission	The independent statutory agency responsible for federal elections, plebiscites, referendums and some trade union elections.	AEC
Australian Securities and Investments Commission	The corporate, markets, financial services, and consumer credit regulator in Australia.	ASIC

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
Ballot	A method of secret voting.	–
Ballot box	The sealed container where voters put their completed ballot papers.	–
Ballot paper	The paper voters mark their vote on, which shows candidates' names and voting instructions.	–
Board of survey	A panel that reviews government assets that are no longer needed and recommends how to dispose of them properly and transparently.	–
Building Act 1993 (Vic)	The framework for regulating building construction, standards, and safety features in Victoria.	Building Act
Business-as-usual	The ordinary operations of a business.	BAU
By-election	Happens in a single-member electorate when an MP or councillor leaves before their term ends, or a multi-member local council electorate when there are no other candidates for a countback.	–
Candidate	A person who meets the criteria and nominates for an election, or satisfies the definition of a 'candidate' under Part 12 of the Electoral Act.	–
Capital expenditure	What an organisation spends on buying, upgrading or extending assets that will last more than a year, such as buildings, technology and equipment.	CAPEX
Chief Electoral Inspector	The role that headed the former Victorian State Electoral Office, which oversaw the administration of elections, the electoral roll, and compliance with electoral law.	–
Chief financial officer	The executive responsible for all organisational finance activities.	CFO
Close of roll	The date people must be on the state or local council voters' roll to be able to vote in an election.	–
Coercive Notice Control Board	Oversees the use of coercive powers by our compliance officers.	CNCB
Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector	Supports public sector organisations to promote and advance gender equality across their workforce and the broader Victorian community.	CGEPS
Communication and Engagement Branch	The VEC branch that plans and delivers our internal and external communication programs.	CEB/Communication and Engagement

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
Community of interest	A group of people who share common concerns or goals.	–
Community of practice	A group of practitioners who interact around a topic of interest regularly.	CoP
Compulsory voting	The law that says everyone who is enrolled must vote at state and local council elections.	CV
Constitution	The set of basic rules that govern a country or state.	–
Constitution Act 1975 (Vic)	Sets out who can enrol or be elected to the Victorian Parliament, as well as its size and term.	Constitution Act
Contested election	An election where there are more candidates than vacancies.	–
Corporate Services portfolio	The VEC portfolio that provides our operational functions, a range of corporate services, and ensures an effective corporate management environment.	Corporate Services
Council/s	Area-based representative governments that manage local issues and plan for community needs.	–
Councillor	An elected representative on a local council.	–
Countback	When all formal votes from the most recent election are redistributed to fill an extraordinary vacancy in a multi-member electorate.	–
Court of Disputed Returns	The authority established in the Supreme Court of Victoria to hear and determine challenges to the validity of state elections.	–
Culturally and linguistically diverse	A term used in government to refer to people who were born overseas, have at least one parent born overseas, or speak a language other than English at home.	CALD
Cybersecurity	The practice of protecting computer systems, networks, and data from digital attacks and unauthorised access.	–
Democracy ambassador/s	A VEC staff member who provides peer-to-peer electoral education to our priority communities.	DA
Department of Premier and Cabinet	The central agency that leads whole-of-government policy and performance monitoring in Victoria.	DPC

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
Department of Treasury and Finance	The department that provides economic, financial, and resource management policy advice to the Victorian Government.	DTF
Deputy Electoral Commissioners Group	A forum of deputy electoral commissioners that meets to share information and collaborate across jurisdictions.	DEC Group
Disability Act 2006 (Vic)	Sets out the protections of the rights of people with disability in Victoria and promotes access through a whole-of-government and community approach.	Disability Act
Disability education and engagement plan 2025–27	Guides our education and engagement work with voters with disabilities until 2027.	–
District	One of the 88 Legislative Assembly electorates in Victoria.	–
Early voting	Voters can vote before election day at an early voting centre.	–
Electoral Access Advisory Group	A group of representatives from across Victoria who guide us on internal projects and engagement with people with disability and carers.	EAAG
Electoral Boundaries Commission	An independent body that makes sure each Victorian electorate has a similar number of enrolled voters.	EBC
Electoral Boundaries Commission Act 1982 (Vic)	Sets out how state electoral boundaries are determined and legislates the Electoral Commissioner as a member of the EBC.	EBC Act
Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand	A consultative group of electoral commissioners from Australia and New Zealand.	ECANZ
Electoral Integrity and Regulation portfolio	The VEC portfolio that administers electoral integrity, compliance, enforcement and regulatory activities. EIR also oversees Victoria's political funding and disclosure laws.	EIR/Electoral Integrity and Regulation
Election	An event where voters choose their representatives.	–
Election day	The legislated date of an election.	–
Election Management System	The system we use to support the conduct of elections, polls and referendums and to hold essential data about these events.	EMS

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
Election manager	A person appointed by the VEC to conduct an election for an electorate.	EM
Election office	The administrative centre for an electorate's election.	–
Elector	A term used only in the Electoral Act (not the LG Act) to describe someone whose name is on the register of electors and is entitled to vote in elections. The LG Act uses the term 'voters'.	In this report, the term 'voter' includes electors.
Electoral Act 2002 (Vic)	Sets out the rules for running state elections in Victoria, including how people vote and how votes are counted.	Electoral Act
Electoral Commissioner	The statutory officer appointed by the Governor in Council to be responsible for conducting parliamentary and statutory elections.	–
Electoral Matters Committee	A committee of the Victorian Parliament that undertakes inquiries related to Victorian elections. These may examine how elections are conducted or the laws governing elections.	EMC
Electoral Regulation Research Network	A network of academics, electoral commissions, and other parties that discusses electoral research.	ERRN
Electoral representation advisory panel	An independent body that reviews and advises the Minister for Local Government on the electoral structures of Victorian local councils.	–
Electoral roll	A list of names of people entitled to vote in an election under relevant legislation.	–
Electorate	A geographical area represented by a councillor or member of parliament.	–
Electronic roll mark-off	Allows voters to be marked off the roll electronically rather than on paper at a voting centre.	–
Employee Assistance Program	An employer-funded service providing short-term counselling and support to employees.	EAP
Enrolment	When a person's name and address is added to the register of electors.	–
Enrolment information	The information we hold about voters.	–
Enterprise Architecture Board	Focuses on creating a resilient IT environment that can adapt to new technologies and business changes.	EAB

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
Enterprise Strategy and Partnerships portfolio	The VEC portfolio that delivers communication services and supports engagement, strategic planning, research and evaluation, and coordination.	ESP/Enterprise Strategy and Partnerships
Event Strategy and Delivery portfolio	The VEC portfolio that delivers electoral events.	ESD/Event Strategy and Delivery
Executive Leadership Committee	The VEC's peak decision-making forum comprising the Electoral Commissioner, Deputy Electoral Commissioner, assistant commissioners, chief operations officer and chief information officer. The ELC sets and oversees our strategic direction. Before January 2026, the peak decision-making group was the Executive Management Group.	ELC
Executive Management Group	The group of 7 directors and the Office of the Electoral Commissioner that sets our strategic direction and operational plans.	EMG
Federal election	When Australians vote for people to represent them in the Senate and House of Representatives in the Australian Parliament.	–
Fee-for-service election	An election we run for a committee, board, statutory body or other entity, which they pay us to conduct.	–
Financial Management Act 1994 (Vic)	Sets out how we manage finances and financial reporting.	Financial Management Act
Financial Management Compliance Framework	A toolkit that helps public sector agencies establish and maintain effective financial management.	FMCF
First preference vote	A voter's first choice in preferential voting. In state and local council elections, this is the candidate the voter writes '1' next to.	–
Financial Reporting Direction/s	Prescribe both financial and non-financial reporting requirements for Victorian public sector entities.	FRD/FRDs
Financial year	The annual period between 1 July and 30 June used for tax, budgeting, financial and reporting purposes.	FY
Formal vote	A vote that complies with the rules for its election.	–
Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic)	Gives people the right to access documents held by Victorian government agencies and request information about government decisions.	FOI Act
Full-time equivalent	A way to measure total work hours as if all staff were working full-time.	FTE

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
Gender equality action plan	A plan that Victorian public sector bodies must implement to promote gender equality and fair treatment for all staff.	GEAP
Gender Equality Act 2020 (Vic)	The law that makes Victorian public sector organisations promote gender equality and report on their progress.	Gender Equality Act
General election	An election for all the seats in both houses of parliament or all local councillor positions across the state.	–
General postal voter	A voter who has registered to vote by post for all state and local council elections because it is difficult for them to attend a voting centre on election day.	GPV
Government/Victorian Government	Formed by the political party or coalition of parties that wins majority support in the lower house.	–
Governor in Council	Appoints the Electoral Commissioner and makes regulations under the Electoral Act and LG Act.	–
Health and safety representative	Represents staff and helps identify risks or raise concerns to keep the workplace safe.	HSR
Health, safety and wellbeing	The policies, practices, and support systems used to keep staff safe, healthy and supported in the workplace.	HSW
How-to-vote cards	Show how a party, candidate, group or individual would like voters to complete their ballot papers.	–
Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission	Victoria's anti-corruption agency, which receives disclosures of improper conduct or detrimental action by the Electoral Commissioner or another VEC officer.	IBAC
Informal vote	A ballot paper either left blank or incorrectly marked. These are not counted towards the election.	–
Information and communication technology	Technology used to handle and share information, including computers, software, and networks.	ICT
Inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility framework	Describes our approach to creating a fair, inclusive, and accessible workplace for all staff.	IDEA framework
Information and Digital Services portfolio	The VEC portfolio responsible for our information technology and cybersecurity operations.	IDS/Information and Data Security

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
Infringements Act 2006 (Vic)	Sets out how fines and penalties are issued and managed in Victoria, including for stages 2 and 3 of CV enforcement.	Infringements Act
Issue resolution procedures	Used by an organisation to resolve workplace problems, complaints, or disputes fairly and efficiently.	IRP
Joint Roll Management Committee	A group that makes sure voter details are current and consistent across state and federal jurisdictions.	JRMC
Juries Act 2000 (Vic)	Sets out how juries are selected, managed and operate in Victoria's courts.	–
Koorie Emerging Leaders in Schools	A program we partner with that supports First Nations students' leadership development in schools,	KELiS
Legislative Assembly (lower house)	One of the 2 houses in the Victorian Parliament. The party or coalition that wins majority support in this house forms the government.	Lower house
Legislative Council (upper house)	One of the 2 houses in the Victorian Parliament, often referred to as the 'house of review'.	Upper house
Local council elections	Held to choose representatives for local government councils. Also referred to as 'local government elections'.	–
Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)	Sets out how Victorian local councils are run, including rules for elections.	LG Act
Local Government Inspectorate	The independent body that oversees Victorian councils and makes sure they comply with the LG Act.	LGI
Long-service leave	Paid leave a person can take after working for the same employer, or in the same industry, for 7 years or more.	LSL
Lost-time injury	Occupational injuries or illnesses, including fatalities, that result in days away from work after the shift when the injury occurred.	LTI
Marginal costs	Labour, materials, equipment, rent, utilities, insurance, and other items purchased for an activity.	–
Melbourne City Council elections	Operate under the *City of Melbourne Act 2001* (Vic) and include elections for the leadership team of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, and councillors.	–
Member	Any person elected to parliament.	–

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
Memorandum of understanding	A written agreement between 2 or more parties that sets out how they will work together.	MoU
Minister	A member of parliament chosen to be part of the government and responsible for a portfolio, such as health.	–
Mobile voting centre	A mobile voting service for voters who do not have access to fixed voting centres.	–
Multicultural education and engagement plan 2025–27	Guides our education and engagement with multicultural communities until 2027.	–
Ngabun-Bambunj – Aboriginal education and engagement plan 2025–27	Ngabun-Bambunj means 'courage, brave, bold' in the Woi Wurrung language. The plan guides our education and engagement work with First Nations communities until 2027.	Ngabun-Bambunj
Nomination	How a person becomes a candidate at an election.	–
Occupational health and safety	Policies and practices that keep workers safe and prevent injuries, illness, and hazards.	OHS
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)	Sets out responsibilities for employers and staff to make sure Victorian workplaces are safe.	OHS Act
Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner	An independent office that oversees freedom of information requests and regulates Victoria's privacy laws.	OVIC
Operational command centre	The centre that we use to coordinate operations across the state during peak election delivery periods.	OCC
Online Research Panel	A randomly-selected group of voters who complete surveys to help with our electoral research.	ORP
Operational expenditure	What an organisation spends on running costs, including salaries, rent, utilities, and supplies.	OPEX
Other state and territory average enrolment rate	Used in our enrolment reports to compare to Victorian and national rates.	OSTA
Participation	Measured in elections by enrolment, turnout, and voting formality rates.	–
Passport to Democracy	Our online and in-person program that supports electoral education for schools, teachers and young people.	PTD

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
People Matter Survey	An annual survey of Victorian public sector employees that collects feedback on workplace culture, leadership, and staff experiences.	PMS
Planning Group	A group of VEC staff that governs continuous improvement projects that impact multiple elections. From May 2026, Planning Group was replaced by the Strategy and Innovation Management Committee.	–
Policy development funding	Funding we provide RPPs, elected members and candidates for policy development.	–
Positive duty action plan	A plan that Victorian public sector organisations create to prevent discrimination, harassment, and bullying, and promote a safe and inclusive workplace.	PDAP
Postal election	Where ballot papers are posted to voters who complete and return these in a reply-paid envelope.	–
Postal vote	The means of voting in local council elections and an alternative method for voters in state elections who can't make it to a voting centre on election day.	–
Preferential voting	A vote for all candidates in order of preference. Election officials distribute preferences until one candidate has an absolute majority.	–
Print Workshop	Our in-house print studio for reports, ballot material and other documents.	–
Prisons and Without a Home Advisory Group	A group of people with lived experience, or who work in the prison and homelessness sectors, who guide us on internal projects and engagement with people in prison or without a home.	PAWAH Advisory Group
Prisons and without a home education and engagement plan 2025–27	Guides our education and engagement work with people in prison or without a home until 2027.	–
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)	Sets out how Victorian public sector organisations collect, use, and store personal information.	Privacy and Data Protection Act
Proportional representation	A system of voting designed to elect representatives in proportion to the amount of support each has in the electorate.	–
Provisional enrolment	Australian citizens who are 17 years of age are entitled to pre-enrol to ensure they can vote once they turn 18.	–

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
Public Administration Act 2004 (Vic)	Sets out the structure of the Victorian public service and standards of conduct, accountability, and decision-making.	Public Administration Act
Public funding	Funding we provide to RPPs, elected members and candidates for campaign costs.	–
Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012 (Vic)	Protects people who report wrongdoing in the Victorian public sector and sets out how disclosures should be made and investigated.	PID Act
Public Record Office Victoria	The state archive that collects and provides access to government records and historical documents.	PROV
Recount	A re-examination and count of all formal and informal ballot papers before the declaration of the result. Usually only conducted when an election is close.	–
Redivision	When electoral boundaries are redrawn under the EBC Act so there are close to equal numbers of voters in each.	–
Referendum	A proposal to alter the Constitution, put to the vote.	–
Region	One of the 8 Legislative Council electorates in Victoria. Each region elects 5 members.	–
Register of electors	Our database of all Victorian voters.	–
Registered political party	A political party registered under the Electoral Act. An RPP must have at least 500 members who are Victorian electors and not members of another RPP.	RPP
Return to work	A process that supports staff who have been injured or unwell when they go back to work.	RTW
Roll Management System	Helps us manage enrolment information and complements the AEC's roll management services.	RMS
Scrutineer	Appointed by candidates to observe voting and counting and confirm these are done correctly.	–
Scrutiny	The process of checking that votes are counted and distributed correctly.	–
Social Procurement Framework	A framework guiding how we factor social values into our purchasing decisions.	SPF
Strategy 2027	Our 4-year strategic plan to achieve our organisational goals.	–

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
State Electoral Office	The former Victorian Government office responsible for running state elections and maintaining the roll.	–
Subdivided	When a local council has wards and councillors for each ward.	–
Surveyor-General	A senior government official responsible for overseeing land surveys, mapping, and property boundaries in Victoria. The Surveyor-General is a member of the EBC.	–
Turnout	The percentage of people who were enrolled and voted.	–
Unsubdivided	When a local council has no wards. Councillors are elected to the council as a whole.	–
VEC Disclosures	Our online political donation disclosure reporting system, accessible publicly via our website.	–
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority	The government body that oversees Victorian school curricula, assessments, and certifications and provides us with data for enrolment campaigns.	VCAA
Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal	The Victorian legal body responsible for hearing disputes, including from local council elections.	VCAT
Victorian Electoral Commission	The Victorian statutory body responsible for running state and local council elections, and for administering electoral law in Victoria.	VEC
Victorian Industry Participation Policy	Encourages suppliers and contractors on major public projects in Victoria to use local businesses when possible.	VIPP
Victorian Protective Data Security Standards	Rules and guidelines that Victorian Government agencies follow to secure data and sensitive information.	–
Victorian public sector	The state government departments, agencies, and public sector organisations that deliver services, implement policies, and manage public resources.	VPS
Victorian Public Sector Commission	The independent agency that supports Victoria's public sector and promotes good governance.	VPSC
Voter	An elector (Electoral Act) or voter (LG Act) who votes in an election.	–
VoterAlert	Our SMS and email notification service that reminds voters in Victoria about upcoming elections, how to enrol, and other important electoral information.	–

Full word or term	Definition	Abbreviation or shortened form
Voters' roll	The final list of eligible voters for any given election.	–
Voting centre	A place to vote in an election. Includes early, mobile, and election day voting centres.	–
Ward boundary reviews	An examination of a council's internal boundaries to make sure there are similar numbers of voters per councillor in each ward.	–
Young People Advisory Group	A group of young people and workers in the youth sector who advise us on internal projects and engagement work with young people.	YPAG
Young people education and engagement plan 2025–27	Guides our engagement with young voters until 2027, including employing more DAs.	–

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