



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Electoral Matters Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

In principle support for limited electronic voting

The Victorian Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee has given in principle support to a system of remote voting at Victorian state elections, but only for a limited category of voters.

In a [report](#) tabled in Parliament today, the Committee has recommended that an electronic voting system should be available to those who are blind or have low vision, those with motor impairment, those with insufficient language or literacy skills, and eligible electors who are interstate and/or overseas.

It is one of six recommendations from the Electoral Matters Committee after a detailed inquiry that considered the practice of other Australian states and overseas countries.

"An electoral result must be secure, accurate and incontestable," said Committee Chair, the Hon Louise Asher MP.

"The Committee examined the different electronic options currently available across a number of Australian states and also examined a number of international case studies. With the exception of Estonia, many countries in the world are now moving away from electronic voting in the light of significant security concerns," she said.

"The Committee therefore has been cautious in its recommendations. The Committee supports electronic voting in principle for a limited classification of voters, comparable with the New South Wales iVote model."

The Committee has recommended that the Victorian Electoral Commission work closely with the Australian Electoral Commission, as well as state and territory electoral commissions to develop agreed principles of integrity and security for any electronic voting system, as part of a coordinated effort to develop a national electronic voting capability in Australia.

"The Committee favours a combined approach from the Commonwealth and various state electoral authorities, particularly given the extremely high cost of establishing remote voting options and the need for rigorous security," Ms Asher said.

To ensure that any remote voting system is underpinned by the most rigorous security standards available to the VEC, the Committee has recommended that the Victorian Parliament establish an Electronic Voting Board to oversee technical and traditional scrutiny arrangements for remote voting. The Board should include members of academia with technical expertise in electronic voting, electronic voting specialists and representatives from registered Victorian political parties.

The report, with all six recommendations, is available from the Committee's [website](#).

Media queries

For media comment contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Louise Asher MP on 9592 1900.

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