

Electoral Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015

Explanatory notes for SL 2015 No. 1

made under the

Electoral Act 1992

General Outline

Short title

Electoral Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015.

Authorising law

Section 121B of the *Electoral Act 1992* (the Act).

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

Section 121A of the Act makes provision for the use of electronically assisted voting by electors with an impairment.

Section 121B provides that the Electoral Commission of Queensland may make procedures for electors making an electronically assisted vote for an election. However, the procedures: do not take effect until approved by a regulation; must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly with the regulation approving the procedures; and must be published on the Commission's website.

Achievement of policy objectives

The Electoral Commission of Queensland has developed procedures for electronically assisted voting for blind or low vision electors, *Electronically Assisted Voting Procedures*, made on 7 January 2015. The amendment regulation approves these procedures as required under section 121B of the Act.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The amendment rule is consistent with the objectives of the Act.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The amendment regulation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The amendment regulation will benefit blind and low-vision electors by allowing these voters the option to utilise electronically assisted voting. Costs of implementation will be met from within existing resources.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The amendment regulation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The Electoral Commission of Queensland is supportive of the proposed amendments.

The Office of Best Practice Regulation was consulted and confirmed that the amendment regulation is excluded from the Regulatory Impact Statement system.