



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1 – PREMIER AND FINANCE

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

### **Supplementary questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

**NSW Electoral Commission**

Hearing: Wednesday 26 February 2025

**Answers due by: 5.00 pm Tuesday 25 March 2025**

**Budget Estimates secretariat**

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## BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

### SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<b>Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of opposition)</b>
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#### **NSW Electoral Commission – Funding Arrangements**

- (1) Are there any new items that the Commission might be looking at, beyond the three previously submitted items yet to be funded (digital modernisation of your systems, a proposal to re-baseline your budget and technology-assisted voting), which might improve the delivery of elections in the future?
- (2) At the last estimates the Commission indicated it would be forced to exit staff under the 2024-25 budget. Has that process taken place?
  - (a) What impact has this had on the NSW Electoral Commission?
- (3) Does the Commission remain unable to offer logos on ballot papers in future elections as a result of a lack of funding for the proposed digital modernisation program?

#### **Change of 2027 Election Date**

- (4) What did the Government's consultation with the Electoral Commission over bringing the date of the 2027 election forward to 13 March look like?
  - (a) What course of action did the electoral commission suggest in particular given the clash of dates, if any?
    - i. Did the Electoral Commission suggest any other dates or alternative solutions?
  - (b) Will the proposed change of date affect any of the electoral commission's processes leading into the election?
  - (c) Will the hiring and training of short-term election workers be affected in any way by the change of date?

<b>Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC</b>
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- (5) Can you provide any update on the Commission's work in coordinating a pilot for trialling sensory friendly spaces at voting centres for the 2027 election?
- (6) Ahead of the 2025-26 NSW Budget, how much additional funding is the Commission requesting from the NSW Government?

- (a) The Commission has previously been resourced to employ one officer on an ongoing basis who provides outreach to stakeholders. Given that you are not putting in a specific digital modernisation bid for this Budget, are you requesting additional funding to resource the Commission's outreach work, to inform voters who previously relied on technology assisted voting about their voting options in the 2027 State Election?