

PART 17

Electoral Commission of Queensland

Summary of departmental portfolio budgets

Page	Agency	2010-11 Budget \$'000	2010-11 Est. act. \$'000	2011-12 Estimate \$'000
3-226	Electoral Commission of Queensland - controlled	13,686	15,066	85,362

Note:

1. Explanations of variances are provided in the financial statements.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (the Commission) is an independent statutory authority. The Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State has responsibility for the Commission.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

The Commission is an independent statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 1992* with the principal goals of:

- administering Queensland's electoral laws, impartially and independently
- conducting free and democratic parliamentary, local government and industrial elections
- managing a comprehensive process for the independent review of local government boundaries
- promoting the informed participation and confidence of Queenslanders in the electoral system.

Key environmental factors impacting on the strategic direction of the Commission and the delivery of electoral services to Queenslanders include:

- the timing and duration of State, local, federal and interstate electoral events including general elections, by-elections, referendums, redistributions and industrial elections
- the Government's continuing electoral and administrative reform agenda, in particular the requirement for the commission to conduct quadrennial local government elections and by-elections, and amendments to electoral funding and disclosure requirements in the future
- demographic changes, particularly interstate migration and patterns of population distribution, on the spatial bases of commission clients and consequently on the local demand for electoral services throughout Queensland.

During the 2010-11 financial year the Commission deferred funding of \$1.3 million to the 2011-12 financial year in relation to:

- further investigation into potential vision impaired voting systems and processes
- providing a pre-election enrolment campaign designed to try and maximise enrolment at the next State electoral event.

2011-12 HIGHLIGHTS

Major initiatives for 2011-12 include:

- preparation for and the conduct of the election for Queensland's 54th Parliament
- planning and preparation for and the conduct of the elections for the quadrennial local government elections
- the delivery of a Community Awareness Program based around the scheduled electoral events
- implementation of the Government's *Electoral Reform and Accountability Act 2011*
- continued administration of the party registration and financial disclosure schemes
- further investigation into potential vision impaired voting systems and processes
- conduct of references of local government matters received from the Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State under the *Local Government Act 1993*

- conduct of industrial elections for employer and employee organisations
- continued pursuit of the Commission's role in joint management of the electoral roll for Queensland and participation on the Electoral Council of Australia.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Major achievements for 2010-11 include:

- delivery of a Community Awareness Program
- continued planning and preparation for future parliamentary and local government elections
- successful conduct of a by-election for the City of Brisbane Ward of Walter Taylor
- continued administration of the party registration and financial disclosure schemes
- continued administration of the funding and disclosure provisions of the *Electoral Act 1992*
- conduct of references of local government matters received from the Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State under the *Local Government Act 1993*
- conduct of industrial elections for employer and employee organisations
- continued joint management of the electoral roll for Queensland and participation on the Electoral Council of Australia.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES

Electoral Services

The Commission's effective delivery of electoral services and the provision of a free, honest and fair electoral system ensure that all Queenslanders have the opportunity to participate equitably in the democratic life of the State, which contributes to *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* ambition of *Fair - Supporting safe and caring communities*.

STAFFING¹

Service areas	Notes	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Est. actual	2011-12 Estimate
Services				
Electoral Services (Electoral Commission of Queensland)	2	..	..	..
Statutory Officers		1	1	1
Administrative Officers	3	35	33	67
Casual Officers		5	6	6
Total		41	40	74

Notes:

1. Full-time equivalents (FTEs) as at 30 June.
2. The Governor in Council appoints 90 returning officers (one per State Electoral District and an assistant for the District of Cook) to assist with the conduct of a State general election. In addition, the commission engages up to 9,000 polling officials to conduct electoral events, most for one day only (polling day). People from each of these employee categories are not included in the total.
3. Five short term vacancies will be filled during 2011-12. Funding has been provided for the establishment of specific on-going local government and funding and disclosure work units in 2011-12 comprising an additional 29 staff.

ADMINISTERED ITEMS

DESCRIPTION

Administered activities are those undertaken by the commission on behalf of the Government. The commission's administered items relate to revenues collected on behalf of the Government for:

- fines levied against enrolled electors for failure to vote at parliamentary elections
- forfeiture of nomination deposits paid by or on behalf of candidates for parliamentary elections where the candidate did not attain the required number of first preference votes in the election for the electoral district
- recovery of costs from local governments for the conduct of local government quadrennial elections and by-elections.

REVIEW OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE

During 2010-11 a minor number of fines for failure to vote at State electoral events were collected. The collection of fines for failure to vote at electoral events is episodic in nature and of limited duration in that the process relates to a specific electoral event and the collection process is essentially completed in the 12 month period following the election.

Depending on the date of the next State election, it is anticipated that the collection of failure to vote fines will not occur until after the 2011-12 financial year, however the forfeiture of candidate nomination deposits will occur during 2011-12.

During 2011-12 the Commission will recover the costs of the 2012 local government quadrennial elections from local governments.

Financial statements and variance explanations in relation to Administered Items appear in the Departmental Financial Statements.

DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

	Notes	2010-11 Target/est.	2010-11 Est. actual	2011-12 Target/est.
Service Area: Electoral Services - Service standards				
Level of voter turnout State general election	1	..	..	91%
Level of informal voting State general election	1	..	..	2%
Level of elector satisfaction with the overall election process	1	New measure	New measure	95%
Cost of State general election per elector	1	..	..	\$5.77
Per elector cost of public information and awareness campaigns	1	..	..	\$1.42
Other measures				
Number of Parliamentary State general elections conducted	1	..	..	1
Number of local government elections conducted	2	..	..	98
Number of local government electoral and boundary reviews conducted	3	4	26	25
Number of industrial elections referred by Industrial Registrar	4	50	43	40
Number of industrial election positions elected	4	2,600	979	1,725
Number of industrial election ballots conducted	4	80	59	65
Number of roll services provided	5	115	117	136
Number of inquiries/audits of pre-selection ballots conducted	6	..	..	8
Number of enrolment transactions during the period	7	500,000	362,848	550,000
Increase in total enrolment during the period	8	55,000	54,258	50,000
Elector client base		2,750,000	2,739,116	2,840,000
Access to electoral services for Queenslanders – ECQ website pages visited	9	17,200,000	16,510,000	35,000,000
State contribution (\$000)	10	13,631	14,843	85,170
Other revenue (\$000)		55	223	192
Total cost (\$000)		13,686	15,066	85,362

Notes:

1. The conduct of the election for Queensland's 54th Parliament is due to be held prior to the end of March 2012.
2. The elections for the City of Brisbane and the quadrennial local government elections are scheduled for March 2012.
3. The commission had anticipated conducting four local government boundary reviews in 2010-11, however 26 matters were referred by the Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State. The commission has estimated a number of matters will be referred by the Deputy Premier during the early part of 2011-12 in preparation for the quadrennial elections, but is uncertain of the actual numbers at this stage.
4. The actual number of industrial elections referred by the industrial registrar was fewer than anticipated. Although the actual number of positions to be elected and ballots conducted were fewer than anticipated, the positions involved and the ballots conducted were major elections and of a complex nature.
5. A higher number of roll services provided are anticipated for 2011-12 due to the provision of electoral roll data for the quadrennial elections in March 2011.
6. The conduct of the election for Queensland's 54th Parliament is due to be held prior to the end of March 2012 and audits of pre-selection ballots will be conducted following that event.
7. The anticipated level of enrolment transactions during the year was lower than anticipated due to limited Australian Electoral Commission activities during the period.
8. The lower level of increase in total enrolment in 2011-12 is due to the net effect of roll cleansing activities conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission during the period.
9. The level of the commission's website pages visited reflects the significant upgrade of the commission's web-based information systems to provide real-time detailed electoral information in a user-friendly format. The 2010-11 actual reflects increased usage due to the conduct of the Brisbane City Council's Walter Taylor by-election and the 2011-12 Target/estimated reflects anticipated activity during State and local government election periods.
10. The increased funding in 2011-12 reflects the funding associated with the conduct of the next State general election, the 2012 quadrennial local government elections and electoral reforms.

INCOME STATEMENT

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2010-11 Budget \$'000	2010-11 Est. act. \$'000	2011-12 Estimate \$'000
Income				
Service revenue	3,7	13,631	14,843	85,170
User charges	1,4,8	55	223	192
Grants and other contributions		..	..	..
Other revenue		..	..	..
Gains on sale/revaluation of property, plant and equipment and investments		..	..	..
Total income		13,686	15,066	85,362
Expenses				
Employee expenses	5,9	3,743	3,808	23,205
Supplies and services	2,6,10	9,775	11,090	61,977
Grants and subsidies		..	..	..
Depreciation and amortisation		125	125	125
Finance/borrowing costs		..	..	..
Other expenses		43	43	55
Losses on sale/revaluation of property, plant and equipment and investments		..	..	..
Total expenses		13,686	15,066	85,362
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		..	..	..

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2010-11 Budget \$'000	2010-11 Est. act. \$'000	2011-12 Estimate \$'000
Net effect of the changes in accounting policies and prior year adjustments	
Increase/(decrease) in asset revaluation reserve	
Net amount of all revenue and expense adjustments direct to equity not disclosed above	
Net income recognised directly in equity	
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	
Total recognised income and expense for the period	
Equity injection/(withdrawal)		(76)	229	1,778
Equity adjustments (MoG transfers)	
Total movement in equity for period		(76)	229	1,778

BALANCE SHEET

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2010-11 Budget \$'000	2010-11 Est. act. \$'000	2011-12 Estimate \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash assets	11,16	911	1,048	1,057
Receivables	12,17	94	245	245
Other financial assets		..	..	..
Inventories		267	256	256
Other		47	30	30
Non-financial assets held for sale		..	..	..
Total current assets		1,319	1,579	1,588
NON-CURRENT ASSETS				
Receivables		..	..	..
Other financial assets		..	..	..
Property, plant and equipment	13,18	80	507	2,323
Intangibles		1,226	1,102	1,055
Other		..	..	..
Total non-current assets		1,306	1,609	3,378
TOTAL ASSETS		2,625	3,188	4,966
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Payables	14,19	17	86	86
Accrued employee benefits	15,20	57	131	131
Interest-bearing liabilities and derivatives		..	..	..
Provisions		..	..	..
Other		..	..	..
Total current liabilities		74	217	217
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Payables		..	..	..
Accrued employee benefits		..	..	..
Interest-bearing liabilities and derivatives		..	..	..
Provisions		..	..	..
Other		..	..	..
Total non-current liabilities		..	..	..
TOTAL LIABILITIES		74	217	217
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		2,551	2,971	4,749
EQUITY				
Capital/contributed equity		1,164	1,584	3,362
Accumulated surplus/(accumulated deficit)		1,387	1,387	1,387
Reserves:				
- Asset revaluation surplus		..	..	..
- Other (specify)		..	..	..
TOTAL EQUITY		2,551	2,971	4,749

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2010-11 Budget \$'000	2010-11 Est. act. \$'000	2011-12 Estimate \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Inflows:				
Service receipts	24,29	13,631	14,880	85,170
User charges	21,25,30	57	225	194
Grants and other contributions		..	..	..
Other		890	890	890
Outflows:				
Employee costs	26,31	(3,743)	(3,808)	(23,205)
Supplies and services	27,32	(10,665)	(13,262)	(62,867)
Grants and subsidies		..	..	..
Borrowing costs		..	..	..
Other		(45)	(45)	(57)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		125	(1,120)	125
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Inflows:				
Sales of property, plant and equipment		..	..	..
Investments redeemed		..	..	..
Loans and advances redeemed		..	..	..
Outflows:				
Payments for property, plant and equipment and intangibles	22,33	(40)	(345)	(1,894)
Payments for investments		..	..	..
Loans and advances made		..	..	..
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(40)	(345)	(1,894)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Inflows:				
Borrowings		..	..	..
Equity injections	23,28,34	..	305	1,854
Outflows:				
Borrowing redemptions		..	..	..
Finance lease payments		..	..	..
Equity withdrawals		(76)	(76)	(76)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(76)	229	1,778
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		9	(1,236)	9
Cash at the beginning of financial year		902	2,284	1,048
Cash transfers from restructure		..	..	..
Cash at the end of financial year		911	1,048	1,057

ADMINISTERED INCOME STATEMENT

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2010-11 Budget \$'000	2010-11 Est. act. \$'000	2011-12 Estimate \$'000
Revenues				
Commonwealth grants		..	..	..
Taxes, fees and fines	35,36,38	..	2	8
Royalties, property income and other territorial Revenue		..	..	..
Interest		..	..	..
Administered revenue		..	..	..
Other	37,39	..	..	21,475
Total revenues		..	2	21,483
Expenses				
Supplies and services		..	..	..
Depreciation and amortisation				
Grants and subsidies		..	..	..
Benefit payments				
Borrowing costs		..	..	..
Other		..	..	..
Total expenses		..	..	..
Net surplus or deficit before transfers to Government		..	2	21,483
Transfers of administered revenue to Government		..	2	21,483
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		..	..	..

ADMINISTERED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2010-11 Budget \$'000	2010-11 Est. act. \$'000	2011-12 Estimate \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Inflows:				
Administered item receipts		..	..	..
Grants and other contributions		..	..	..
Taxes, fees and fines	40,41,43	..	2	8
Royalties, property income and other territorial revenues		..	..	..
Other	42,44	..	..	21,475
Outflows:				
Transfers to Government	45	..	(2)	(21,483)
Grants and subsidies		..	..	..
Supplies and services		..	..	..
Borrowing costs		..	..	..
Other		..	..	..
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		..	..	..
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Inflows:				
Sales of property, plant and equipment		..	..	..
Investments redeemed		..	..	..
Loans and advances redeemed		..	..	..
Outflows:				
Payments for property, plant and equipment and intangibles		..	..	..
Payments for investments		..	..	..
Loans and advances made		..	..	..
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		..	..	..
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Inflows:				
Borrowings		..	..	..
Equity injections		..	..	..
Outflows:				
Borrowing redemptions		..	..	..
Finance lease payments		..	..	..
Equity withdrawals		..	..	..
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		..	..	..
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		..	..	..
Administered cash at beginning of financial year		..	..	..
Cash transfers from restructure		..	..	..
Administered cash at end of financial year		..	..	..

Explanation of Variances in the Financial Statements

Income statement

Major variations between 2010-11 Budget and 2010-11 Estimated actual include:

1. The increase in user charges is the result of revenue received from the Brisbane City Council for the conduct of the Walter Taylor By-election.
2. The increase in supplies and services relates to funds provided for the payment of administration funding under the new *Electoral Reform and Accountability Act 2011*.

Major variations between 2010-11 Budget and 2011-12 Estimate include:

3. The increase in service revenue in 2011-12 relates to additional funds provided for the conduct of the next State general election; election funding payments in relation to the election; administration funding payments; funds to conduct the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the establishment of specific local government and funding and disclosure work units within the Commission.
4. The increase in user charges in 2011-12 relates to statutory charges levied for the supply of electoral roll data to local authorities for the quadrennial local government election to be held in March 2012.
5. The increase in employee expenses in 2011-12 relates to the labour related expenses for the next State general election, the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the establishment of specific local government and funding and disclosure work units within the Commission.
6. The increase in supplies and services in 2011-12 relates to the costs for the conduct of the next State general election, election funding payments in relation to the election, administration funding payments, the conduct of the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections, and the establishment of specific local government and funding and disclosure work units.

Major variations between 2010-11 Estimated actual and the 2011-12 Estimate include:

7. The increase in service revenue in 2011-12 relates to additional funds provided for the conduct of the next State general election, election funding payments in relation to the election; administration funding payments, funds to conduct the 2012 quadrennial local government elections and any by-elections, and the establishment of specific local government and funding and disclosure work units within the Commission.
8. In 2010-11 revenues were received from the Brisbane City Council for the Walter Taylor By-election and in 2011-12 the estimated revenues are in relation to the statutory charges levied for the supply of electoral roll data to local authorities for the quadrennial local government election to be held in March 2012.
9. The increase in employee expenses in 2011-12 relates to the labour related expenses for the next State general election, the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the establishment of the specific local government and funding and disclosure work units.
10. The increase in supplies and services in 2011-12 relates to the costs of conducting the next State general election, election funding payments in relation to the election, administration funding payments, the conduct of the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the establishment of the specific local government and funding and disclosure work units.

Balance sheet

Major variations between 2010-11 Budget and 2010-11 Estimated actual include:

11. The increase in cash assets in 2010-11 relates to the cash offset of increased payables associated with the increased activity in the lead up to the electoral events to be conducted in 2011-12.
12. The increased level of receivables in 2010-11 relates to increased activity in the production of roll products in the lead up to the next State general election and the 2012 Quadrennial Local Government elections.
13. The increase in property plant and equipment relates to plant and equipment purchased during 2010-11 in preparation for the next State general election and 2012 local government elections.
14. The increase in payables in 2010-11 relates to increased level of payables activity during the lead up period for the electoral events to be conducted in 2011-12.
15. The increase in accrued employee benefits relates to the increased leave balances of staff as election preparations continue.

Major variations between 2010-11 Budget and 2011-12 Estimate include:

16. The increase in cash assets in 2011-12 relates to the cash offset of increased payables associated with the increased activity during an election year.
17. The increased level of receivables in 2011-12 relates to increased activity in the production of roll products in the lead up to the next State general election and the 2012 Quadrennial Local Government elections.
18. The increase in property plant and equipment relates to plant and equipment purchased in preparation for the next State general election and 2012 local government elections and the establishment of the local government and funding and disclosure work units.
19. The increase in payables in 2011-12 relates to increased level of payables activity during an election period.
20. The increase in accrued employee benefits relates to the increased leave balances of staff as election preparations continue.

Cash flow statement

Major variations between 2010-11 Budget and 2010-11 Estimated actual include:

21. The increase in user charges is the result of revenue received from the Brisbane City Council for the conduct of the Walter Taylor By-election.
22. The increase in payments for property plant and equipment and intangibles relates to plant and equipment purchased during 2010-11 in preparation for the next State general election and 2012 local government elections.

23. The equity injection during 2010-11 relates to a transfer of funds from recurrent funding to equity funding for plant and equipment purchased during 2010-11 in preparation for the next State general election and 2012 local government elections.

Major variations between 2010-11 Budget and 2011-12 Estimate include:

24. The increase in service receipts in 2011-12 relates to additional funds provided for the conduct of the next State general election, election funding payments in relation to the election, administration funding payments, the conduct of the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the establishment of specific local government and funding and disclosure work units within the Commission.
25. The increase in user charges in 2011-12 relates to statutory charges levied for the supply of electoral roll data to local authorities for the quadrennial local government election to be held in March 2012.
26. The increase in employee expenses in 2011-12 relates to the labour related expenses for the next State general election, 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the establishment of the specific local government and funding and disclosure work units.
27. The increase in supplies and services in 2011-12 relates to the costs for the conduct of the next State general election, election funding payments in relation to the election, administration funding payments, the conduct of the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the establishment of the specific local government and funding and disclosure work unit.
28. The equity injection in 2011-12 relates to equity funding for equipment and systems to be purchased in relation to the next State general election, local government elections and the establishment of the specific local government and funding and disclosure work units.

Major variations between 2010-11 Estimated actual and the 2011-12 Estimate include:

29. The increase in service receipts in 2011-12 relates to additional funds provided for the conduct of the next State general election, election funding payments in relation to the election, administration funding payments, the conduct of the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the establishment of the specific local government and funding and disclosure work units.
30. In 2010-11 revenues were received from the Brisbane City Council for the Walter Taylor By-election and in 2011-12 the estimated revenues are in relation to the statutory charges levied for the supply of electoral roll data to local authorities for the quadrennial local government election to be held in March 2012.
31. The increase in employee expenses in 2011-12 relates to the labour related expenses for the next State general election, the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the establishment of the specific local government and funding and disclosure work units.
32. The increase in supplies and services in 2011-12 relates to the costs for the conduct of the next State general election, election funding payments in relation to the election, administration funding payments, the 2012 quadrennial local government elections and by-elections and the establishment of the specific local government and funding and disclosure work units.
33. The variation in payments for property plant and equipment and intangibles relates to a once off purchase of plant and equipment in preparation for the next State general election, 2012 local government elections and the establishment of the specific local government and funding and disclosure work units.
34. The equity injection in 2011-12 relates to equity funding for equipment and systems to be purchased during 2011-12 in relation to the next State general election, local government elections and the establishment of the specific local government and funding and disclosure work units.

Administered income statement

Major variations between 2010-11 Budget and 2010-11 Estimated actual include:

35. The variation during 2010-11 is in relation to a minor number of unanticipated fines collected from the non-voter process at the 2009 State general election.

Major variations between 2010-11 Budget and 2011-12 Estimate include:

36. The 2011-12 figures relate to a once only forfeiture of candidate nomination deposits from the next State general election.
37. The 2011-12 figures relate to a recovery from local governments of the costs of conducting the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the costs of a specific local government work unit.

Major variations between 2010-11 Estimated actual and the 2011-12 Estimate include:

38. The 2011-12 figures relate to a once only forfeiture of candidate nomination deposits from the next State general election.
39. The 2011-12 figures relate to a recovery from local governments of the costs of conducting the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the costs of a specific local government work unit.

Administered cash flow statement

Major variations between 2010-11 Budget and 2010-11 Estimated actual include:

40. The variation during 2010-11 is in relation to a minor number of unanticipated fines collected from the non-voter process at the 2009 State general election.

Major variations between 2010-11 Budget and 2011-12 Estimate include:

41. The 2011-12 figures relate to a once only forfeiture of candidate nomination deposits from the next State general election.
42. The 2011-12 figures relate to a recovery from local governments of the costs of conducting the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the costs of a specific local government work unit.

Major variations between 2010-11 Estimated actual and the 2011-12 Estimate include:

43. The 2011-12 figures relate to a once only forfeiture of candidate nomination deposits from the next State general election.
44. The 2011-12 figures relate to a recovery from local governments of the costs of conducting the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the costs of a specific local government work unit.

45. The 2011-12 figures relate to a once only forfeiture of candidate nomination deposits from the next State general election and the recovery from local governments of the costs of conducting the 2012 quadrennial local government elections, by-elections and the costs of a specific local government work unit.