

PART 8

Electoral Commission of Queensland

Summary of departmental Budgets

Page	Agency	2009–10 Estimate \$'000
1-229	Electoral Commission of Queensland – controlled	9,559
	Electoral Commission of Queensland – administered	..

Departmental Overview

Ministerial responsibility

The Electoral Commission of Queensland is an independent statutory authority. The Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations has responsibility for the Commission.

Strategic Issues

The Electoral Commission of Queensland 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 Electoral Commission of Queensland 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 consideration of whether the Commission will be required to conduct quadrennial local government elections in the future
- the impact of demographic changes, particularly of 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 2008-09 financial year the Electoral Commission of Queensland conducted the general election for Queensland's 53rd Parliament held on 21 March 2009.

2009–10 Highlights

Major challenges for 2009-10 include:

- finalising the post election processes for the 2009 State general election
- continued delivery of a Community Awareness Program
- continued planning and preparation for future parliamentary and local government elections
- further investigation into potential vision impaired voting systems and processes
- conduct of references of local government matters received from the Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships 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.

2008–09 Achievements

Major achievements for 2008-09 include:

- conducting the election for Queensland's 53rd Parliament
- finalising and evaluating the 2008 City of Brisbane and local government elections
- finalising the redistribution of the State electoral boundaries
- implementing the recommendations of the State Redistribution Commission
- continued planning and preparation for electoral events
- conducting 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 Outputs

The Commission's effective delivery of electoral services and the provision of a free, honest and fair electoral system ensures that all Queenslanders have the opportunity to participate equitably in the democratic life of the State, which contributes to the whole-of-Government outcome of delivering responsible government.

Staffing¹

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2008–09 Budget	2008–09 Est. Actual	2009–10 Estimate
OUTPUTS				
Electoral Services (Electoral Commission of Queensland)				
Statutory Officers		1	1	1
Administrative Officers		32	32	36
Casual Officers		8	10	4
Total outputs		41	43	41
Total ²		41	43	41

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.

Administered Items

Administered activities are those undertaken by the Commission on behalf of the whole-of-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.

The collection of fines for failure to vote at electoral events is episodic 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. This is not an annual or continuing process.

Review of Output Performance

Recent achievements and emerging issues

The following administered transactions were performed during 2008-09:

- fines for failure to vote at the Brisbane Central by-election
- forfeiture of candidate nomination deposits from the 2009 State general election.

Future developments

During 2009-10, the collection of fines for failure to vote at the 2009 State general election will commence.

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

Departmental Statements

Performance Statement

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2008–09 Target/Est.	2008–09 Est. Actual	2009–10 Target/Est.
Output: Electoral Services				
No. of Parliamentary State general elections conducted	1	..	1	..
No. of Parliamentary by-elections conducted		..	..	..
No. of local government elections conducted		..	..	..
No. of local government electoral and boundary reviews conducted	2	6	3	6
No. of industrial elections referred by Industrial Registrar		35	35	35
No. of industrial election positions to be elected	3	1,500	1,262	1,500
No. of industrial election ballots conducted	3	65	43	65
No. of roll services provided	4	140	40	60
No. of electoral information services provided	5	75,000	95,000	25,000
No. of inquiries/audits of pre-selection ballots conducted	6	6	..	4
No. of enrolment transactions during the period	7	550,000	450,000	550,000
Increase in total enrolment during the period	8	60,000	48,000	70,000
Elector client base		2,700,000	2,690,000	2,760,000
Level of voter turnout State general election	9	..	90.93%	..
Level of voter turnout State by-election		..	..	..
Level of informal voting State general election	9	..	1.94%	..
Level of informal voting State by-election		..	..	..
Access to electoral services throughout State – electoral district printed roll available at Magistrates Courts and Queensland Government Agent Program Offices – locations		81	81	81
Access to electoral services for Queenslanders – ECQ website pages visited	10	57,500,000	50,000,000	18,000,000
Per elector cost of State general election	11	..	\$5.04	..
Per elector cost of State by-election		..	..	..
Per elector cost of public information and awareness campaigns	11	..	\$1.30	..
State contribution (\$000)	12	11,374	29,666	9,497
Other revenue (\$000)	12	55	80	62
Total cost (\$000)		11,429	29,746	9,559

Notes:

1. On 21 March 2009 the Commission conducted the State general election for the 53rd Queensland Parliament.
2. The Commission had anticipated conducting six (6) local government boundary reviews in 2008-09, however only three (3) matters were referred by the Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. The Commission has estimated a number of matters will be referred by the Minister during 2009-10 but is uncertain of the actual numbers at this stage.
3. The actual number of positions elected and ballots conducted for the elections referred to the Commission by the Industrial Registrar was less than anticipated. The higher costs for some of these ballots were covered by the slightly lower numbers. These activity levels are not expected to flow through to 2009-10 where normal activity levels are anticipated.
4. The number of roll services provided was lower than anticipated in 2008-09. The early State election negated the historical demand for roll products following the re-print of the State Roll in 2008-09.
5. The State general election resulted in a significant increase in telephone enquiries. The 2009-10 target reflects the normal non-election level of inquiries.
6. The Commission anticipated the conduct of six (6) inquiries in 2008-09 in relation to pre-selection ballots for State general election. These will now be conducted in 2009-10.
7. The decrease in enrolment activity in 2008-09 reflects Roll Cleansing activities conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission during 2008-09. The 2009-10 forecast reflects anticipated activity in the lead up to the next Federal election.
8. The decrease in total enrolments in 2008-09 reflects Roll Cleansing activities conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission during 2008-09. The 2009-10 forecast reflects anticipated activity in the lead up to the next Federal election.
9. The level of voter turnout and informality rate relate to the State general election conducted on 21 March 2009.
10. 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 2009-10 forecast reflects activity during a non-election period.
11. The cost per elector figure relates to the State general election conducted on 21 March 2009.
12. The increase in 2008-09 reflects funding provided to the Commission to conduct the State general election on 21 March 2009.

Income Statement

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2008-09 Budget \$'000	2008-09 Est. Act. \$'000	2009-10 Estimate \$'000
Income				
Output revenue	1, 4, 7	11,374	29,666	9,497
User charges		55	80	62
Grants and other contributions		..	..	..
Other revenue		..	..	..
Gains on sale/revaluation of property, plant and equipment and investments		..	..	..
Total income		11,429	29,746	9,559
Expenses				
Employee expenses	2, 8	2,584	9,400	2,719
Supplies and services	2, 5, 8	8,703	20,188	6,670
Grants and subsidies		..	..	..
Depreciation and amortisation		127	127	145
Finance/borrowing costs		..	..	..
Other expenses	3,6,9	15	31	25
Losses on sale/revaluation of property, plant and equipment and investments		..	..	..
Total expenses		11,429	29,746	9,559
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		..	..	..

Statement of Changes in Equity

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2008-09 Budget \$'000	2008-09 Est. Act. \$'000	2009-10 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)	(76)	(76)
Equity adjustments (MoG transfers)	
Total movement in equity for period		(76)	(76)	(76)

Balance Sheet

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2008-09 Budget \$'000	2008-09 Est. Act. \$'000	2009-10 Estimate \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash assets	10,13	785	990	1,019
Receivables		193	190	190
Other financial assets		..	..	..
Inventories		11	10	10
Other		15	13	13
Non-financial assets held for sale		..	..	..
Total current assets		1,004	1,203	1,232
NON-CURRENT ASSETS				
Receivables		..	..	..
Other financial assets		..	..	..
Property, plant and equipment	14,17	230	184	126
Intangibles	11,15	601	1,443	1,396
Other		..	..	..
Total non-current assets		831	1,627	1,522
TOTAL ASSETS		1,835	2,830	2,754
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Payables		203	244	244
Employee benefit obligations	12,16	314	80	80
Interest-bearing liabilities and derivatives		..	..	..
Provisions		..	..	..
Other		..	..	..
Total current liabilities		517	324	324
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Payables		..	..	..
Employee benefits obligations		..	..	..
Interest-bearing liabilities and derivatives		..	..	..
Provisions		..	..	..
Other		..	..	..
Total non-current liabilities		..	..	..
TOTAL LIABILITIES		517	324	324
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		1,318	2,506	2,430
EQUITY				
Capital/contributed equity		1,122	1,316	1,240
Retained surplus/(accumulated deficit)		196	1,190	1,190
Reserves:				
- Asset revaluation reserve		..	..	..
- Other (specify)		..	..	..
TOTAL EQUITY		1,318	2,506	2,430

Cash Flow Statement

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2008-09 Budget \$'000	2008-09 Est. Act. \$'000	2009-10 Estimate \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Inflows:				
Output receipts	18,21,24	11,374	29,666	9,497
User charges		57	82	64
Grants and other contributions		..	..	..
Other		890	890	890
Outflows:				
Employee costs	19,22,25	(2,584)	(9,400)	(2,719)
Supplies and services	19,22,25	(9,593)	(21,078)	(7,560)
Grants and subsidies		..	..	..
Borrowing costs		..	..	..
Other	20,23,26	(17)	(33)	(27)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		127	127	145
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		(40)	(40)	(40)
Payments for investments		..	..	..
Loans and advances made		..	..	..
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(40)	(40)	(40)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Inflows:				
Borrowings		..	..	..
Equity injections		..	..	..
Outflows:				
Borrowing redemptions		..	..	..
Finance lease payments		..	..	..
Equity withdrawals		(76)	(76)	(76)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(76)	(76)	(76)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		11	11	29
Cash at the beginning of financial year		774	979	990
Cash transfers from restructure		..	..	..
Cash at the end of financial year		785	990	1,019

Administered Income Statement

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2008-09 Budget \$'000	2008-09 Est. Act. \$'000	2009-10 Estimate \$'000
Revenues				
Commonwealth grants	27,28,29	..	..	..
Taxes, fees and fines		..	76	520
Royalties, property income and other territorial Revenue		..	..	..
Interest		..	..	..
Administered revenue		..	..	..
Other		..	..	..
Total revenues		..	76	520
Expenses				
Supplies and services	27,28,29	..	..	..
Depreciation and amortisation		..	..	..
Grants and subsidies		..	..	..
Benefit payments		..	..	..
Borrowing costs		..	..	..
Other		..	..	..
Total expenses		..	..	..
Net surplus or deficit before transfers to Government		..	76	520
Transfers of administered revenue to Government	27,28,29	..	76	520
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		..	..	..

Administered Cash Flow Statement

Electoral Commission of Queensland	Notes	2008-09 Budget \$'000	2008-09 Est. Act. \$'000	2009-10 Estimate \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Inflows:				
Administered item receipts		..	..	..
Grants and other contributions		..	..	..
Taxes, fees and fines	30,31,32	..	76	520
Royalties, property income and other territorial revenues		..	..	..
Other		..	..	..
Outflows:				
Transfers to Government	30,31,32	..	(76)	(520)
Grants and subsidies		..	..	..
Supplies and services		..	..	..
Borrowing costs		..	..	..
Other		..	(1)	..
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		..	(1)	..
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		..	(1)	..
Administered cash at beginning of financial year		..	1	..
Cash transfers from restructure		..	..	..
Administered cash at end of financial year		..	..	..

Explanation of Variances in the Financial Statements

Electoral Commission of Queensland

Income Statement

Major variations between 2008-09 Budget and 2008-09 Estimated Actual include:

1. Funding provided for the conduct of the State general election held on 21 March 2009.
2. Expenses incurred for the State general election
3. Additional insurance and audit fees relating to the State general election in 2008-09.

Major variations between 2008-09 Budget and 2009-10 Estimate include:

4. The variation relates to once off funding provided in 2008-09 for activities such as vision impaired voting project and systems election readiness project that are not occurring in 2009-10.
5. The variation relates to once off expenditure in 2008-09 for activities such as the vision impaired voting project and systems election readiness project that are not occurring in 2009-10.
6. The 2009-10 increase relates to additional insurance and audit fees relating to the State election as post election processes and finalisation will occur in 2009-10.

Major variations between 2008-09 Estimated Actual and the 2009-10 Estimate include:

7. Funding provided in 2008-09 for the conduct of the State general election held on 21 March 2009.
8. Expenses incurred for the State general election in 2008-09
9. Additional insurance and audit fees in 2008-09 for the increased activities relating to the 2009 State general election.

Balance Sheet

Major variations between 2008-09 Budget and 2008-09 Estimated Actual include:

10. The increase in cash assets relates to payments made for the State general election that will not have cleared through the bank account by end of year.
11. The variation in intangibles relates to computer development costs from 2007-08 that were processed after the 2007-08 budget process.
12. The decrease in Employee Benefit Obligations largely reflects the transfer of annual leave liabilities to the Annual Leave Central Scheme (ALCS). The ALCS was established on 30 June 2008 to centrally fund annual leave obligations of departments, commercialised business units and shared service providers. Annual leave liabilities are held at a consolidated whole-of-Government level. In 2008-09, agencies were required to compensate the Crown for the current portion of annual leave liabilities transferred. Under the ALCS, member agencies must contribute a levy equal to their accrued annual leave cost. Amounts paid to employees for annual leave are claimed back from the scheme.

Major variations between 2008-09 Budget and 2009-10 Estimate include:

13. The increase in cash assets relates to payments that will not have cleared through the bank account by end of year.
14. The variation in property, plant and equipment relates to equipment used at previous electoral events reaching the end of their useful life in 2009-10.
15. The variation in intangibles relates to computer development costs from 2007-08 that were processed after the 2007-08 budget process.
16. The decrease in Employee Benefit Obligations largely reflects the transfer of annual leave liabilities to the Annual Leave Central Scheme (ALCS). The ALCS was established on 30 June 2008 to centrally fund annual leave obligations of departments, commercialised business units and shared service providers. Annual leave liabilities are held at a consolidated whole-of-Government level. In 2008-09, agencies were required to compensate the Crown for the current portion of annual leave liabilities transferred. Under the ALCS, member agencies must contribute a levy equal to their accrued annual leave cost. Amounts paid to employees for annual leave are claimed back from the scheme.

Major variations between 2008-09 Estimated Actual and the 2009-10 Estimate include:

17. The variation in property, plant and equipment relates to equipment used at previous electoral events reaching the end of their useful life in 2009-10

Cash Flow Statement

Major variations between 2008-09 Budget and 2008-09 Estimated Actual include:

18. Funding provided for the conduct of the State general election held on 21 March 2009.
19. Expenses incurred for the State general election
20. Additional insurance and audit fees relating to the State general election in 2008-09.

Major variations between 2008-09 Budget and 2009-10 Estimate include:

21. The variation relates to once off funding provided in 2008-09 for activities such as vision impaired voting project and systems election readiness project that are not occurring in 2009-10.
22. The variation relates to once off expenditure in 2008-09 for activities such as the vision impaired voting project and systems election readiness project that are not occurring in 2009-10.
23. The 2009-10 increase relates to additional insurance and audit fees relating to the State election as post election processes and finalisation will occur in 2009-10.

Major variations between 2008-09 Estimated Actual and the 2009-10 Estimate include:

24. Funding provided in 2008-09 for the conduct of the State general election held on 21 March 2009.
25. Expenses incurred for the State general election in 2008-09
26. Additional insurance and audit fees in 2008-09 for the increased activities relating to the 2009 State general election.

Administered Income Statement

Major variations between 2008-09 Budget and 2008-09 Estimated Actual include:

27. Unanticipated revenues including final non voter payments for Brisbane Central By-election and forfeiture of candidate nomination deposits from 2009 State general election.

Major variations between 2008-09 Budget and 2009-10 Estimate include:

28. 2009-10 revenues relate to anticipated non voter fines collected in association with 2009 State general election.

Major variations between 2008-09 Estimated Actual and the 2009-10 Estimate include:

29. Variations relate to once off activities in 2008-09 (for final non voter payments collected for Brisbane Central By-election and forfeiture of candidate nomination deposits from 2009 State general election) and 2009-10 (for non voter fines collected in association with 2009 State general election)

Administered Cash Flow Statement

Major variations between 2008-09 Budget and 2008-09 Estimated Actual include:

30. Unanticipated revenues including final non voter payments for Brisbane Central By-election and forfeiture of candidate nomination deposits from 2009 State general election.

Major variations between 2008-09 Budget and 2009-10 Estimate include:

31. 2009-10 revenues relate to anticipated non voter fines collected in association with 2009 State general election.

Major variations between 2008-09 Estimated Actual and the 2009-10 Estimate include:

32. Variations relate to once off activities in 2008-09 (for final non voter payments collected for Brisbane Central By-election and forfeiture of candidate nomination deposits from 2009 State general election) and 2009-10 (for non voter fines collected in association with 2009 State general election)