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Election readiness framework

PHASE 1 LESSONS

This phase focuses on reviewing the conduct of the previous electoral event to gather observations on performance, identify lessons to be learned, and define how these learnings can best be implemented.

PHASE 2 IMPLEMENT CHANGE

This phase sees the implementation of the learnings identified in Phase 1 and also includes the start of any long-lead preparations for the next electoral event.

PHASE 3 MOBILISATION

The AEC conducts a phased mobilisation in anticipation of the next electoral event. This includes the induction of some temporary election workforce staff as well as exercises and rehearsals to confirm that changes have been implemented and to evaluate the readiness of the AEC as a whole.

ELECTION READY ROAD MAP (ERRM) presents the sequence of activities required across the AEC to meet the **DIRECTED LEVEL OF ELECTION READINESS (DLER)**. The DLER is a series of progressive dates set by the Electoral Commissioner by which all election preparations need to be completed and culminates in the AEC being ready to deliver an electoral event ('writ ready').



ELECTION READINESS ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK assesses and evaluates the AEC's progress and readiness to deliver an electoral event across all phases.

ELECTION DELIVERY

GOVERNANCE

ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER (EC) is responsible for setting the DLER, on advice from Elections Branch.

NATIONAL ELECTION MANAGER (NEM) is responsible for managing the planning and preparations for the conduct of an electoral event.

NATIONAL ELECTION DELIVERY COMMITTEE (NEDC) is responsible for supporting the NEM (as the decision maker) and providing national oversight of the AEC's election planning, preparation, delivery and coordination of activities in line with the ERRM.



The federal election story

- 1 FEDERAL ELECTION ANNOUNCED**
Federal election announced and the writs are issued.
- 2 ELECTION COMMUNICATION**
Election information provided to all Australians through a range of mediums and languages.
- 3 VOTER ENROLMENT**
Eligible voters can enrol or update details before Close of Rolls. The certified list of voters is then prepared and distributed.
- 4 NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES**
Nominations are declared and the draws for positions on the ballot papers are held 24 hours after the close of nominations.
- 5 BALLOT PAPER PRODUCTION**
Ballot papers are designed, printed and delivered across Australia following the declaration of nominations in preparation for early voting.
- 6 VOTING COMMENCES**
A range of voting services commences 12 days before election day.
- 7 OVERSEAS VOTING**
Up to 40,000 postal votes will be shipped overseas. Based on the complex pandemic environment, in-person overseas voting may only be offered at a small number of posts.
- 8 PREPARING FOR ELECTION DAY**
About 7,000 polling places will be open on election day staffed by over 100,000 temporary workers.
- 9 ELECTION DAY**
Polling places are open from 8.00am to 6.00pm local time.
- 10 ELECTION NIGHT**
After 6.00pm on election day, ballot papers are counted, scrutinised, packaged and securely transported to central counting centres.
- 11 COUNTING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTES**
Votes are counted and verified within each division with candidate appointed scrutineers observing.
- 12 COUNTING SENATE VOTES**
Votes are scanned, counted and verified in a Central Senate Scrutiny (CSS) centre in each capital city with candidate appointed scrutineers observing.
- 13 SEATS ARE DECLARED**
After polling day, polls will be progressively declared as candidates achieve a clear majority of votes.
- 14 DAY THIRTEEN**
To be included in the count, ballot papers must be received by the 13th day after election day.
- 15 THE WRITS ARE RETURNED**
Once all seats are declared and the Senate results finalised, all writs are returned and the new Parliament can be formed.
- 16 ELECTION PACK UP**
All ballot papers (used and unused) are stored securely and all other material is either stored or recycled.



The delivery of this election will comply with the relevant jurisdictional health guidelines in place at the time.