

## **Western Australian response to the Special Inquiry Report into the Planning and delivery of the 2025 WA State Election**

The Commission welcomes the findings of the Special Inquiry and acknowledges the valuable guidance it provides for a comprehensive reform program. Following a detailed review, the Commission supports, or supports in principle, all recommendations within its remit and is committed to implementing them ahead of the 2029 State General Election.

The Inquiry's recommendations highlight several key areas for improvement, including:

- Enhanced planning and preparation for State Government elections
- Strengthened workforce and recruitment models, with careful consideration of outsourcing options for Temporary Election Workers
- Flexible funding models to support effective election delivery
- Improved training for electoral officials and expanded public education initiatives

In response, the Commission has commenced a structured program with three horizons of work in the lead up to the 2029 State General Election. The first tranche of work focuses on foundations including strengthening culture and accountability through collective leadership, redesigning the organisation to build a future-ready Commission, reviewing outsourcing practices, and working with the Department of Treasury and Finance to establish a sustainable funding model for effective election delivery. Following horizons will focus on preparation and planning and future delivery.

The Commission is committed to transparency throughout the reform process. An Expert Advisory Committee will provide independent input and guidance, and a dedicated section on the WAEC website will track progress on all recommendations, including current focus areas and expected completion timelines.

Above all, the Commission is committed to learning from this Inquiry and taking meaningful action to implement the recommendations in full, restore public trust and confidence in Western Australia's democratic processes, and deliver elections to the high standards expected by the community.

This marks a pivotal opportunity to strengthen the Western Australian Electoral Commission and ensure it is well-positioned to meet the evolving needs of electoral delivery in Western Australia.