Australian Electoral Commission

Entity resources and planned performance

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# Australian Electoral Commission

## Section 1: Entity overview and resources

### 1.1 Strategic direction statement

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) administers the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act), making it responsible for:

* conducting electoral events, including federal elections, by-elections and referendums, and industrial elections and ballots
* ensuring confidence in the Commonwealth Electoral Roll
* regulating political party registrations and financial disclosure
* supporting electoral redistributions
* undertaking public awareness activities.

The AEC also provides a range of electoral information and education programs both in Australia and in support of Australia’s international interests.

The AEC’s actions impact on the Australian community as stated in its outcome:

*Maintain an impartial and independent electoral system for eligible voters through active electoral roll management, efficient delivery of polling services, and targeted education and public awareness programs.*

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### 1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total funding from all sources available to the AEC for its operations and to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Government.

The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome (government strategic policy objectives) and by administered (on behalf of the Government or the public) and departmental (for the AEC’s operations) classification.

For more detailed information on special accounts and special appropriations, please refer to *Budget Paper No. 4 – Agency Resourcing*.

Information in this table is presented on a resourcing (that is, appropriations/cash available) basis, whilst the ‘Budgeted expenses by Outcome 1’ tables in Section 2 and the financial statements in Section 3 are presented on an accrual basis.

Table 1.1: Australian Electoral Commission resource statement — Budget estimates for 2022-23 as at Budget March 2022



All figures shown above are GST exclusive - these may not match figures in the cash flow statement.

Prepared on a resourcing (that is, appropriations available) basis.

1. Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2022-23.
2. 2021-22 Departmental appropriation excludes $29.9m subject to administrative quarantine by Finance.
3. Estimated External Revenue receipts under section 74 of the PGPA Act.
4. Departmental capital budgets are not separately identified in Appropriation Bill (No.1) and form part of ordinary annual services items. Please refer to Table 3.5 for further details. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as a 'contribution by owner'.
5. Excludes trust moneys held in Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys (SOETM).

### 1.3 Budget measures

No Budget measures have been announced since the 2021-22 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) that impact AEC.

## Section 2: Outcomes and planned performance

Government outcomes are the intended results, impacts or consequences of actions by the Government on the Australian community. Commonwealth programs are the primary vehicle by which government entities achieve the intended results of their outcome statements. Entities are required to identify the programs which contribute to government outcomes over the Budget and forward years.

Each outcome is described below together with its related programs. The following provides detailed information on expenses for each outcome and program, further broken down by funding source.

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| **Note:**  Performance reporting requirements in the Portfolio Budget Statements are part of the Commonwealth performance framework established by the PGPA Act*.* It is anticipated that the performance measure described in Portfolio Budget Statements will be read with broader information provided in an entity’s corporate plans and annual performance statements – included in Annual Reports - to provide a complete picture of an entity’s planned and actual performance.  The most recent corporate plan for the Australian Electoral Commission can be found at: [AEC Corporate Plan 2021-22](https://www.transparency.gov.au/sites/default/files/reports/2021-22_corporate_plan_australian_electoral_commission.pdf).  The most recent annual performance statement can be found at: [2020-21 Annual Performance Statements](https://www.transparency.gov.au/annual-reports/australian-electoral-commission/reporting-year/2020-21-27). |

### 2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1

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| Outcome 1: Maintain an impartial and independent electoral system for eligible voters through active electoral roll management, efficient delivery of polling services, and targeted education and public awareness programs. |

##### Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

This table shows how much the entity intends to spend (on an accrual basis) on achieving the outcome, broken down by program, as well as by Administered and Departmental funding sources.

**Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1**



1. Estimated expenses incurred in relation to receipts retained under section 74 of the PGPA Act 2013.
2. Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year are made up of depreciation expenses, amortisation expenses, make good expenses and audit fees.

Note: Departmental appropriation splits and totals are indicative estimates and may change in the course of the budget year as government priorities change.

Table 2.1.2: Performance measure for Outcome 1

Table 2.1.2 details the performance measures for each program associated with Outcome 1. It also provides the related key activities as expressed in the current corporate plan where further detail is provided about the delivery of the activities related to the program, the context in which these activities are delivered and how the performance of these activities will be measured. Where relevant, details of 2022-23 Budget measures that have created new programs or materially changed existing programs is provided.

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| **Outcome 1** – Maintain an impartial and independent electoral system for eligible voters through active electoral roll management, efficient delivery of polling services, and targeted education and public awareness programs. | | |
| **Program 1.1 – Deliver Electoral Events** | | |
| **Key Activities** | * Maintain the integrity of electoral and regulatory processes. * Prepare for and deliver electoral events. * Engage with our stakeholders through education and public awareness activities. * Maintain a capable and agile organisation and continue to professionalise our workforce. | |
| **Year** | **Performance measures** | **Expected Performance Results** |
| Current year  2021-22 | **Electoral Roll Management**   * Percentage of eligible voters enrolled (enrolment rate). | **Target:** ≥ 95% reported annually and at close of rolls for a federal election or referendum.  **Performance:** On track to be met. The enrolment rate at 31 December 2021 was 96.3% and is expected to remain above 95%. |
|  | * Redistributions determined when planned in accordance with timeframes identified in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. | **Target:** All redistributions in the period determined and affected electors informed.  **Performance:** On track to be met. The Victorian redistribution was determined on 26 July 2021 and the Western Australian redistribution was determined on 2 August 2021. Electors who were transferred between electoral rolls as a result of the two redistributions were informed by notices published in state-wide newspapers and newspapers targeted to Indigenous and rural audiences. Letters were also sent to households affected by these transfers. |

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Table 2.1.2: Performance measure for Outcome 1 (continued)

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| **Performance information: Program 1.1 – Deliver Electoral Events** | | |
| **Year** | **Performance measures** | **Expected Performance Results** |
| Current year  2021-22  (continued) | **Elections, By-elections and Referendums**   * The writs for a federal election event are issued and returned in accordance with legislation and timeframes. | **Target:** Date on the returned election writs falls within the timeframe specified.  **Performance:** On track to be met. The AEC anticipates returning the writs for the federal election within specified timeframes. |
|  | * For industrial elections and ballots, results are delivered with integrity and withstand scrutiny. | **Target**: No targets. The AEC will report on the number of events where the AEC’s conduct is challenged before a court and whether the court dismissed the challenge or upheld in favour of the AEC.  **Performance:** On track to be met. There were no findings of fault of the AEC’s conduct of the industrial elections and ballots to date. |
|  | **Public Awareness**   * Deliver public awareness and education products that target all Australian citizens aged 18 years and over. | **Target:** Campaign is delivered in accordance with objectives outlined in the campaign strategy.  **Performance:** On track to be met. The AEC has developed an integrated multi-channel communication campaign to be run during the 2022 federal election. This campaign is to provide to voters (all Australian citizens ager 18 and over) the information they need to effectively participate in the election, including to specialist audiences of culturally and linguistically diverse voters, Indigenous voters and voters who are blind or have low vision. |
|  | **Party Registration and Financial Disclosure**   * The AEC maintains an up-to-date public register of political parties. | **Target:** Compliance with Part XI of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.  **Performance:** On track to be met. The AEC has continued to maintain an up-to-date public register of political parties. |

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Table 2.1.2: Performance measure for Outcome 1 (continued)

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| **Performance information: Program 1.1 – Deliver Electoral Events** | | |
| **Year** | **Performance measures** | **Expected Performance Results** |
| Current year  2021-22  (continued) | * Disclosure returns are published and regulated in accordance with timeframes in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. | **Target:** Annual returns published on the first working day in February.  **Performance:** On track to be met. 2020–21 annual disclosure returns received by the AEC were published, as planned, on the first working day in February 2022. The annual disclosure returns related to *the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Annual Disclosure Equality) Act 2021* were published on 1 March 2022 in line with the recent legislative amendment to the aforementioned Bill.  **Target**: Election returns published 24 weeks after polling day for each electoral event.  **Performance:** On track to be met. Note that there have been no electoral events within the reportable timeframe. |
| **Year** | **Performance measures** | **Planned Performance Results** |
| Budget Year 2022-23 | **Electoral Roll Management**   * Percentage of eligible voters enrolled (enrolment rate). * Redistributions determined in accordance with *the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.   **Elections, By-elections and** **Referendums**   * The election result – for each event – is delivered in accordance with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. * Industrial election and ballot results are delivered with integrity and withstand scrutiny. | * ≥ 95% reported annually and at close of rolls for a federal election or referendum. * All redistributions are determined in accordance with the planned determination date and impacted electors are notified prior to the relevant federal election. * The writs for a federal election event are issued and returned in accordance with legislative requirements and timeframes. * The AEC will report on the outcomes and number of events in which the AEC's conduct is challenged before a court. |

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Table 2.1.2: Performance measure for Outcome 1 (continued)

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| **Performance information: Program 1.1 – Deliver Electoral Events** | | |
| **Year** | **Performance measures** | **Planned Performance Results** |
| Budget year  2022-23  (continued) | **Public Awareness**   * Deliver public awareness and education products that target all Australian citizens aged 18 years and over.   **Party Registration and Financial Disclosure**   * The AEC maintains an up-to-date public register of political parties. * Disclosure returns are published and regulated in accordance with timeframes in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. | * The AEC's public awareness campaign is delivered in accordance with key objectives outlined in the campaign strategy. * Compliance with s125(1) of Part XI of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. * Annual returns published on the first working day in February. * Election returns published 24 weeks after polling day for each electoral event. |
| Forward Estimates  2023-26 | As per 2022-23. | As per 2022-23. |
| Material changes to Program 1.1 resulting from 2022-23 Budget Measures: Nil | | |

## Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of entity finances for the 2022-23 budget year, including the impact of budget measures and resourcing on financial statements.

### 3.1 Budgeted financial statements

#### 3.1.1 Differences between entity resourcing and financial statements

No material differences exist between entity resourcing and the financial statements.

#### 3.1.2 Explanatory notes and analysis of budgeted financial statements

The budgeted financial statements have not changed materially from the amounts published in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2021-22 (PAES). The changes reflect the effect of economic parameter adjustments.

3.2. Budgeted financial statements tables

Table 3.1: Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June



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| Table 3.1: Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June (continued)  Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arrangements |

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

1. From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where Bill 1 revenue appropriations for the depreciation/amortisation expenses of non-corporate Commonwealth entities (and select corporate Commonwealth entities) were replaced with a separate capital budget (the Departmental Capital Budget, or DCB) provided through Bill 1 equity appropriations. For information regarding DCBs, please refer to Table 3.5 Departmental Capital Budget Statement.
2. Applies to leases under AASB 16 Leases.

Table 3.2: Budgeted departmental balance sheet (as at 30 June)



Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

\*‘Equity’ is the residual interest in assets after deduction of liabilities.

Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity — summary of movement (Budget year 2022-23)



Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis

Table 3.4: Budgeted departmental statement of cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)



Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.5: Departmental capital budget statement (for the period ended 30 June)



Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.6: Statement of departmental asset movements (Budget year 2022-23)



Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

* 1. ‘Appropriation ordinary annual services’ refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) Departmental Capital Budget 2022-23.

Table 3.7: Schedule of budgeted income and expenses administered on behalf of Government (for the period ended 30 June)



Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.8: Schedule of budgeted assets and liabilities administered on behalf of Government (as at 30 June)

The AEC has no budgeted assets and liabilities administered on behalf of the Government.

Table 3.9: Schedule of budgeted administered cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)



Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.10: Schedule of administered capital budget statement (for the period ended 30 June)

The AEC has no budgeted capital administered on behalf of the Government.

Table 3.11: Statement of administered asset movements (Budget year 2022-23)

The AEC has no budgeted non-financial assets administered on behalf of the Government.