



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Damian Cantwell – ACT Electoral Commissioner

Redirected to:

Reference: Elections ACT activities

Hearing: 10/11/2025

In relation to: Collaboration with Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Question received: 18/11/2025

Answer Due: 25/11/2025

(1) Has Elections ACT ever had discussions with the Tasmanian Electoral

Commission regarding the sharing of capabilities as would support Hare-Clark
elections?

(2) Has Tasmania ever expressed an interest in collaborating with or learning
from Elections Act with regards to the adoption of electronic voting systems?

(3) If not, why not (to the best of your understanding)?

Mr Cantwell: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1) The ACT Electoral Commission has, since its inception, maintained a strong and collaborative relationship with all federal, state, and territory electoral authorities. This cooperation is formalised through the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ), which provides a structured forum for the exchange of knowledge and best practice in electoral administration.

Our engagement with the Tasmanian Electoral Commission is particularly close, reflecting the shared use of the Hare-Clark electoral system and associated features such as Robson Rotation. These commonalities have fostered a longstanding partnership between the two jurisdictions.

Over the years, this collaboration has included:

- **Regular dialogue** between Executive teams on matters of electoral administration and system integrity.

- **Exchange of operational knowledge and learnings**, particularly in relation to Hare-Clark implementation and ballot design.
- **Occasional officer secondments** between the two Commissions, enabling staff to develop practical expertise and broaden experience in Hare-Clark electoral processes.

This relationship continues to be strong and productive, underpinned by a shared commitment to maintaining the integrity and quality of Hare-Clark elections. Both jurisdictions actively seek opportunities to share innovations and address emerging challenges, ensuring that capability and knowledge remain robust.

(2) The ACT Electoral Commission has in the past offered to share its expertise and technology in relation to electronic voting.

To date, the Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner has not taken steps to adopt or implement electronic voting.

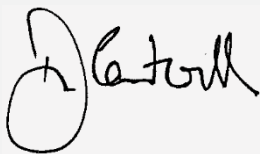
The ACT Electoral Commission remains open to providing advice and support should the Tasmanian Electoral Commission wish to explore electronic voting or related innovations in the future.

(3) It is difficult to comment definitively on behalf of another electoral management body. However, our understanding from historic discussions is that while the ACT and Tasmania share the Hare-Clark electoral system, the broader electoral environments differ significantly.

The ACT is a highly urbanised jurisdiction with a compact geographic footprint, which makes the deployment of electronic voting and ballot scanning systems comparatively straightforward and cost-effective. In contrast, Tasmania's electoral context involves a larger and more geographically dispersed population, including regional and remote areas. These factors introduce substantial logistical and financial complexities that would need to be addressed before implementing electronic voting at scale.

For these reasons, while Tasmania has expressed interest in understanding ACT's approach, it has not progressed to adoption of electronic voting systems.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders



Signature:

Date: 25 November 2025

By the ACT Electoral Commissioner, Mr Damian Cantwell AM CSC