

2026

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

**ACT ELECTORAL COMMISSION: REPORT ON THE ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2024 -
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Presented by
Tara Cheyne MLA
Attorney-General
February 2026**

The report on the conduct of the 2024 Legislative Assembly election is presented under section 10A of the *Electoral Act 1992*.

The report outlines the notable achievements of the ACT Electoral Commission and Elections ACT in delivering the 2024 ACT Legislative Assembly election and recommends areas for reform to continue to improve the function of the electoral system in the ACT.

The Commission reports on the successful preparation for and conduct of the ACT Legislative Assembly election. It reports that 279,370 votes were cast in the 2024 election, an increase from the 273,143 votes cast in 2020. The Commission implemented new functions and reforms including: the expansion of early voting to any voter for two weeks prior to the election, misleading electoral advertising, real time political donation reporting, and telephone voting facilities for blind and sight-impaired voters.

The report identifies challenges to the electoral and democratic environment which the Government and the Assembly will need to be alert to, including the use of artificial intelligence in elections.

The report makes 28 recommendations to improve elements of the ACT electoral system. The Government notes the recommendations and notes that the Standing Committee on Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders is considering these recommendations in their current inquiry into the conduct of the 2024 ACT election and Electoral Act.

This will allow the views of the Electoral Commission to be considered with the views of the rest of the community and other actors within our electoral system.

In advance of the completion of the Standing Committee's inquiry, the Government accepts recommendation 3 in the Electoral Commission's report and will bring forward legislation in 2026 to effect the proposed change. The Commission has recommended that section 37 of the Electoral Act be amended to provide for the commencement of the next redistribution process 25 months prior to when the next ordinary election is due to be held. Moving quickly to respond to this practical recommendation will provide the Commission and the Canberra community with certainty about the redistribution process ahead of the 2028 election.

The Government notes that following finalisation of its report into the 2024 election, the Electoral Commission was delayed in providing it to the Standing Committee on Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders because it had not yet been tabled in the Assembly by the Speaker. Section 10A of the Electoral Act provides that the Speaker must present a copy of the Electoral Commissioner's report to the Legislative Assembly on the next sitting day after the day the Speaker receives it. The report was completed at the beginning of the winter Legislative Assembly break, which delayed tabling.

Government will consider options to enable the Electoral Commissioner's report to be taken to have been presented to the Legislative Assembly if it is given to the Speaker when the Legislative Assembly is not sitting. This will ensure that the Assembly and relevant Standing Committee can consider the report as soon as it is completed by the Commission.

The Government commends the Electoral Commission and Elections ACT on these achievements. The Commission remains a trusted institution, supporting the Canberra community to freely participate in a robust and transparent electoral system. The report provides important evidence and advice for consideration by Government, the Legislative Assembly, and the ACT community.