

## **Electoral Amendment Bill – summary of changes**

- Enabling the Electoral Commission, where appropriate, to use new methods of providing information to electors, in addition to post;
- Enabling the Electoral Commission, where an elector has informed them of a change of residence to a different electorate, to allow enrolment which will take effect after one calendar month from the moving date;
- Allowing electoral officials to use an online electronic roll look up and roll mark off function in voting places to enable real-time checking of voters' enrolment status in polling places;
- Allowing the Electoral Commission to investigate a new approach to advance vote counting, including bringing forward the start time for the counting of advance votes from 2.00pm to 9.00am on election day, the location of the count, and the use of technology, given the increasing number of advance votes;
- Extending the current exemption from electioneering on election day for party headquarters signage to any members' fixed parliamentary signage on an electorate office;
- Making the deadlines for both the party list and bulk nominations noon on the day before nomination day;
- Providing that when a party secretary ceases to hold office, the party must appoint a default or acting secretary within five days, until a new party secretary is elected;
- Enabling all submissions regarding objections to proposed electoral boundaries, to be made available online, instead of the current requirement to produce a summary of all submissions;
- Prohibiting campaigning and the display of campaign material within, and within 10m of, Advance Voting Places (AVPs) and with discretion for the Electoral Commission to reduce this for any voting place if it is impractical;
- Removing references to the historical separation of services between the Chief Electoral Office, the Electoral Enrolment Centre and the Electoral Commission;
- Only prescribe the data and purpose of the electoral forms (with the exception of ballot papers which should remain prescribed), to provide the Electoral Commission with discretion and flexibility to better meet the needs and circumstances of electors;
- Providing that the date from which hoardings can be erected be "Saturday-ised" by making the start date for this 9 weeks prior to the polling day for a General election;
- Providing that all fixed office signage on MPs' out of parliament offices (including signage placed around the corner from an office entrance); and also all signage on MPs' vehicles; should be to be treated as one election advertisement for the purposes of Parts 6AA and 6A of the Electoral Act;
- Clarifying section 199A to cover material first published or actively republished, promoted or distributed on election day or the two preceding days.