

REFORM AREA 3

EFFICIENT AND TRANSPARENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION SUMMARY OF REFORM PROPOSALS

3.1 Change the timing of periodic council elections to the year following a state election.

3.2 Enable ECSA to provide ballot papers electronically.

3.3 Clarify that councils are responsible for information sessions about the role of a council member, and that ECSA is responsible for election promotion.

3.4 Require councils to undertake specific activities to inform property franchise holders of their need to self-enrol, OR re-introduce the automatic enrolment of property franchise holders.

3.5 Require ECSA to receive all nominations and publish candidate profiles.

3.6 Remove the term limit on holding the office of Lord Mayor.

3.7 Require candidates to 'tick a box' stating whether they live in the area they are contesting.

3.8 Require candidates to state whether they are a member of a political party or any association or body formed for political purposes, or have been within the past 12 months.

3.9 Require ECSA to host all information on donations received by candidates.

3.10 Require candidates to report to ECSA any single donations above a prescribed amount (for example, \$2,000) within five business days of receipt.

3.11 Enable all candidates to request an electronic copy of the voters roll from the relevant council.

3.12 Remove the requirement for councils to make a 'designated decision' within their caretaker policies on the use of council resources, in favour of a statement within general caretaker responsibilities that council resources must not be used to advantage particular candidates.

3.13 Extend the voting period by one week to better allow for postal delays.

3.14 Change the counting method to the 'exclusion method'.

3.15 If a vacancy on a council is created within 12 months of a periodic election, allow this to be filled through a 'countback' of candidates.

3.16 Extend the period of time in which a vacancy does not need to be filled to 12 months before a periodic election.

3.17 Enable councils without wards, and with at least nine members, to 'carry' two vacancies.

3.18 Simplify representation reviews, and make public consultation requirements more flexible.

3.19 Transfer the responsibility for representation reviews to the Local Government Boundaries Commission.

3.20 Suspend council members running for State Parliament for the duration of the election campaign.