



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Home Affairs**



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**Department of Home Affairs submission to  
the Inquiry on the future conduct of elections  
operating during times of emergency  
situations.**

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

13 November 2020

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# Emergency Management Australia

## Assistance to the Australian Electoral Commission

Emergency Management Australia has no role in election matters or election planning.

Emergency Management Australia through the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre provided the situational awareness tool, Emergency Management Link to the Australian Electoral Commission for the 2019 federal election.

- For the election on May 2019, the Australian Electoral Commission approached the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre to seek assistance in providing situational awareness of evolving natural hazards.
- The Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre and the Australian Electoral Commission, collaborated by sharing data through the Emergency Management Link. This included data on the locations of all polling stations nationally.
- Emergency Management Link is a catalogue of emergency management related web services that may be accessed by Australian, state and territory government agencies. In special cases it can also be accessed by non-government agencies that directly support the Australian emergency management sector.
- Emergency Management Australia stands ready to assist the Australian Electoral Commission in the instance of an election being impacted by a crisis. This could include the following:
  - Provide 24/7 situational awareness monitoring to inform decision making during an emergency situation;
  - Undertake specific reporting, as required, or at the request of the Australian Electoral Commission about pending or unfolding emergency situations;
  - Distribute notifications to relevant stakeholders regarding impending or unfolding emergency situations;
  - Ability to situate an Australian Electoral Commission liaison officer into the Crisis Coordination Centre to assist with situational awareness during an election;
  - Ability to provide an Emergency Management Australia liaison officer into the Australian Electoral Commission to assist with national coordination, if required, during an emergency situation.