



## **Australian Government**

Australian Government response to the  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters report:

*Third interim report on the inquiry into the conduct of the 2016 federal  
election: AEC modernisation*

MAY 2024

## **Introduction**

On 21 June 2017, the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) tabled a report titled *Third interim report on the inquiry into the conduct of the 2016 federal election: AEC modernisation*.

The Government's response to the recommendations of the Report follows below.

**Government Response to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters reports:  
Third interim report on the inquiry into the conduct of the 2016 federal election: AEC  
modernisation**

| # | Recommendation  | Government Response  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | The Committee recommends that the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> and the <i>Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984</i> be amended, based upon the Australian Electoral Commission's proposals contained in Appendix A of this report. | <b><u>Noted</u></b><br><br>The Government notes the recommendation. Given the passage of time, a substantive government response is no longer appropriate. |

| # | Recommendation  | Government Response        |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| 2 | <p>The Committee recommends that the Australian Government consider additional funding for the Australian Electoral Commission to invest in modernisation for future federal elections, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and expert advice on upgrading the AEC's information technology and business systems.</li> <li>• Additional training for temporary staff who are likely to remain engaged over multiple elections.</li> <li>• The deployment of additional electronic certified lists at polling stations.</li> <li>• A trial to test the scanning and electronic counting of House of Representatives ballot papers.</li> </ul> | Refer to recommendation 1. |
| 3 | <p>The Committee recommends that the AEC consider specific operational systems and training to accommodate the particular challenges associated with the conduct of elections in rural and regional areas, hospitals and aged care facilities.</p>  | Refer to recommendation 1. |
| 4 | <p>The Committee recommends the Australian Electoral Commission extend the deployment of electronic certified lists at the next federal election to ensure all</p>  | Refer to recommendation 1. |

| # | Recommendation   | Government Response        |
|---|--|----------------------------|
|   | polling places (including all absentee voting points) and mobile teams are equipped with at least one electronic certified list, or as a minimum an electronic roll lookup facility.   |                            |
| 5 | The Committee recommends that the Australian Electoral Commission provide updates to the Committee every six months on priorities and progress towards modernisation for future elections, in order for the Committee to review this activity on an ongoing basis. | Refer to recommendation 1. |

**The Government notes that there are no dissenting reports or recommendations.**