



Queensland
Government

Department of Local Government,
Water and Volunteers



Review of Local Government Electoral Expenditure Caps Scheme

Discussion paper

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country. We recognise the ongoing spiritual and cultural connection Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have with land, water, sea and sky. We pay our deep respects to their Elders past and present, support future leaders and acknowledge First Nations People's right to self-determination.

This publication has been compiled by the Local Government Division, Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Recent local government electoral reforms

On 2 May 2023, the *Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Act 2023* (Amendment Act) received Royal Assent.

The Amendment Act amended the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (LGEA), *Local Government Act 2009* (LGA) and *City of Brisbane Act 2010* (CoBA) to introduce a system of electoral expenditure caps for Queensland local government elections.

This implemented the former Queensland Government's response to recommendations made in the following reports:

- the Crime and Corruption Commission's report – *Operation Belcarra – A blueprint for integrity and addressing corruption risk in local government*,¹ and
- the former Economics and Governance Committee's Report No. 47, 56th Parliament - *Inquiry into the feasibility of introducing expenditure caps for Queensland local government elections*.²

The main objective of the Amendment Act was to ensure and reinforce the equitable conduct of Queensland local government elections, including by minimising the risk of unequal participation in the electoral process (including uneven financial competition between candidates) and ensuring a fair opportunity to participate.³

The local government electoral expenditure caps scheme (the Scheme) is modelled on, and is broadly consistent with, the state electoral expenditure caps scheme under the *Electoral Act 1992*. The key elements of the Scheme are:

- the definition of *electoral expenditure*, *campaign purpose* and *gifted electoral expenditure*
- local government electoral expenditure caps for:
 - councillor and mayoral candidates
 - groups of candidates
 - registered political parties that endorse a candidate in an election
 - third parties (registered and unregistered)
- the capped expenditure period
- amendments in relation to associated entities
- the Electoral Commission of Queensland's (ECQ) role in determining and publishing elector numbers and applicable electoral expenditure caps prior to local government elections
- the third party registration scheme
- record keeping and audit requirements, and
- associated penalties, recovery provisions and disqualifying offences.

The recent quadrennial local government elections, held on 16 March 2024, were the first elections to which the Scheme applied.

¹ Crime and Corruption Commission's report – *Operation Belcarra – A blueprint for integrity and addressing corruption risk in local government*, October 2017.

² Economics and Governance Committee's Report No. 47, 56th Parliament - *Inquiry into the feasibility of introducing expenditure caps for Queensland local government elections*, tabled on 15 September 2020, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=167&id=2908>

³ Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill 2022, Explanatory Notes, p. 1.

1.2 Review of the local government electoral expenditure caps scheme

During the State Development and Regional Industries Committee's (Parliamentary Committee) examination of the Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill 2022, stakeholders indicated broad support for the introduction of the Scheme. However, some issues were raised about the following aspects of the Scheme:

- the definitions of *electoral expenditure* and *campaign purpose*
- the length of the capped expenditure period
- the amount of the expenditure caps
- expenditure caps for divided and undivided local governments
- the cap pooling arrangements for groups of candidates and political parties, and
- the timing of elector number determinations.

The Parliamentary Committee recommended in its report on the Bill that the department consider conducting a review of the Scheme within 12 months of the 2024 local government elections.⁴

1.3 Terms of reference

The purpose of this discussion paper is to seek stakeholders' feedback on the operation of the Scheme during the 2024 local government elections.

The views of election practitioners and stakeholders, including candidates, local governments and political parties, will be essential to the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteer's (department) review of the operation of the Scheme. The terms of reference of the review are:

- the appropriateness of aligning the definitions of electoral expenditure, campaign purpose and associated terms with the relevant definitions in the *Electoral Act 1992*
- the length of the capped expenditure period
- the operation of the third party registration scheme
- the suitability of the electoral expenditure caps for individual candidates (mayors and councillors), groups of candidates, registered political parties, third parties and associated entities
- the role of the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ), including determining and publishing elector numbers and applicable caps prior to each local government election
- the efficacy of the record keeping and audit requirements, and
- the effectiveness of the associated penalties, recovery provisions and disqualifying offences.

1.4 How to provide feedback

The department is seeking feedback on the Scheme and the specific questions posed in this discussion paper from interested stakeholders.

To provide feedback, please email your comments/submission to the Local Government Policy and Legislation Team at localgovernmentpolicy@dcdilgp.qld.gov.au. The closing date for providing feedback is **11 April 2025**.

Please note: Your name and submission may be published on the department's webpage, which will mean it can be viewed on the internet. You can request for your name to be withheld from your published submission, or for both your name and your submission to be kept confidential (i.e. not published). decisions about whether and how submissions are published are at the discretion of the department.

⁴ State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report No. 37, 57th Parliament, Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill, February 2023, p. 23, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=172&id=4224>

2. Definition of electoral expenditure, campaign purpose and associated terms

The Amendment Act amended the LGEA to align the definitions of *electoral expenditure*, *campaign purpose* and *gifted electoral expenditure* with the relevant definitions in the *Electoral Act 1992*.

The policy rationale for this approach is to provide uniformity and certainty to candidates, political parties and third parties who may participate in both local and state government election campaigns, and to provide clarity for the enforcement of both schemes by the ECQ.

The department notes that submitters to the Parliamentary Committee's examination of the Bill raised concerns about the interpretation of the new definitions and some stakeholders suggested additional inclusions and exclusions to the definitions of *electoral expenditure* and *gifted electoral expenditure*.⁵

2.1 Electoral expenditure and campaign purpose

Section 109A of the LGEA provides that *electoral expenditure* is expenditure of a kind mentioned in the below table for a *campaign purpose*.

Expenditure is incurred for a *campaign purpose* if the expenditure is incurred to promote or oppose a political party or group of candidates in relation to an election; promote or oppose the election of a candidate; or otherwise influence voting at an election.⁶

Electoral expenditure includes:

- a) expenditure for designing, producing, printing, broadcasting or publishing material for an election, including, for example—
 - an advertisement for broadcast on radio or television, at a cinema, or using the internet, email or SMS; and
 - material for publication in newspapers or magazines, on billboards, or as brochures, flyers, signs, how-to-vote cards or information sheets; and
 - material for distribution in letters; or
- b) expenditure for the cost of distributing material for an election, including, for example, the cost of postage, sending SMS messages or couriers; or
- c) expenditure for carrying out an opinion poll or research; or
- d) expenditure for contracted services related to an activity mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c), including, for example, fees for consultants or the provision of data; or
- e) expenditure of another kind prescribed by regulation to be a kind of electoral expenditure.

Electoral expenditure does not include:

- a) expenditure incurred substantially for, or related to, the election of Members of the Parliament of the state, another state or Commonwealth, or councillors of a local government of another state;
- b) expenditure on factual advertising about a matter that relates mainly to the administration of a registered political party that endorses a candidate in an election, including, for example, a meeting of a branch, division or committee of the party for an organisational purpose or to select a candidate to nominate for election;
- c) expenditure on employing staff for a campaign purpose;
- d) expenditure of a kind prescribed by regulation not to be a kind of electoral expenditure; or
- e) expenditure of a kind for which the councillor is entitled to receive an allowance or entitlement, for example, under a local government's expenses reimbursement policy.⁷

⁵ State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report No. 37, 57th Parliament, Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill, February 2023, pp 15-16.

⁶ *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (LGEA), section 109B.

⁷ LGEA, section 109A.

The LGEA provides that the amount of electoral expenditure is inclusive of GST, consistent with the decision of the Supreme Court of Queensland in *Smeltz v Electoral Commission of Queensland*.⁸

2.2 Gifted electoral expenditure and definition of gift

The Amendment Act also introduced the concept of *gifted electoral expenditure* which also applies to state elections under the *Electoral Act 1992*.

The LGEA provides that if electoral expenditure incurred by a person is *gifted* to a participant in an election, the participant is taken to have incurred the expenditure.⁹

Meaning of gifted for electoral expenditure

An amount of electoral expenditure incurred by a person is gifted to a participant in an election if—

- a) the expenditure benefits the participant; and
- b) any of the following applies—
 - the expenditure is incurred with the authority or consent of the participant;
 - relevant material resulting from the expenditure is accepted by the participant;
 - another circumstance prescribed by regulation happens in relation to the expenditure; and
- c) the person does not, within 7 days after the circumstances mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) happen—
 - receive consideration, or adequate consideration, from the participant incurring the expenditure; or
 - invoice the participant for payment of the amount.¹⁰

The definition of *gift* in the LGEA was also amended to align with the definition in the *Electoral Act 1992*. The amendments inserted the following new categories into the definition of *gift*:

- an amount of electoral expenditure a person gifted to an election participant, and
- an amount paid to, or for the benefit of, or an amount of electoral expenditure gifted to, a registered party by:
 - a federal or interstate branch or division of another entity of which the party is a part, or
 - a related political party.¹¹

2.3 Questions for stakeholders

- 1) Did the definitions of *electoral expenditure* and *campaign purpose* cause any issues at the 2024 local government elections?
- 2) Did the concept of *gifted electoral expenditure* cause any issues during the 2024 local government elections?

⁸ LGEA, section 109A(8).

⁹ LGEA, section 109D.

¹⁰ LGEA, section 109C.

¹¹ LGEA, section 107.

3. Capped expenditure period

A key element of the Scheme is the period during which the cap applies – the capped expenditure period.

The capped expenditure period in the LGEA is aligned to the equivalent provisions in the *Electoral Act 1992*. The capped expenditure period for a local government election:

- for a quadrennial election – commences on the first business day after the last Saturday in August that occurs in the year immediately before the year in which the quadrennial election must be held and generally ends at 6:00pm on polling day (approximately 7 months)
- for a by-election — commences on the day notice of the day of the by-election is published and generally ends at 6:00pm on polling day, or
- for a fresh election— if, when notice of the election is published, the capped expenditure period for a quadrennial election has started, commences on the day the capped expenditure period started; or otherwise, on the day notice of the election is published and generally ends at 6:00pm on polling day.¹²

The department notes that there were mixed views on the appropriate length of the capped expenditure period, with submitters to the Parliamentary Committee inquiry on the Bill proposing different lengths ranging from 4 months to the whole local government term.¹³

3.1 Questions for stakeholders

- 3) Did the capped expenditure period cause any issues at the 2024 local government elections and are there any other suggested alternative periods?

¹² LGEA, section 123A.

¹³ State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report No. 37, 57th Parliament, Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill, February 2023, p. 13.

4. Third party registration scheme

Consistent with the state scheme, the amendments to the LGEA introduced a registration framework for third parties. Third parties are participants in an election that incur electoral expenditure, but are not candidates, groups of candidates, registered political parties or associated entities. Third parties include trade unions, industry associations and community groups.

The LGEA provides that a third party that incurs more than \$6,000 of electoral expenditure must be registered with the ECQ. An unregistered third party may incur electoral expenditure up to a maximum of \$6,000.¹⁴

The cap for a registered third party cannot be pooled across different local government areas and it applies separately to spending in relation to each local government area.

The LGEA also provides that a registered third party must have a dedicated bank account for the election.¹⁵

The department notes that submitters to the Parliamentary Committee's inquiry broadly supported the third party registration provisions.¹⁶

4.1 Questions for stakeholders

- 4) Do you have any feedback on the provisions of the third party registration scheme?
- 5) Are you aware of any examples of the third party registration scheme adversely impacting organisations involved in the 2024 local government elections?

¹⁴ LGEA, sections 127D and 127M.

¹⁵ LGEA, section 127AB.

¹⁶ State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report No. 37, 57th Parliament, Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill, February 2023, p. 17.

5. Electoral expenditure caps

The amendments to the LGEA introduced a sliding scale of electoral expenditure caps for local government elections in Queensland, except for Brisbane City Council, based on the number of electors in the relevant division or local government area.¹⁷ As Brisbane City Council's election environment differs from other local government areas, their relevant expenditure caps are expressed as fixed amounts.

The electoral expenditure caps are adjusted for inflation following each quadrennial election. The LGEA provides that 30 days after the polling day for each quadrennial election the expenditure caps are adjusted in line with the Consumer Price Index.¹⁸

The electoral expenditure caps were informed by several factors, including the former Economics and Governance Committee's Report No. 47, 56th Parliament - *Inquiry into the feasibility of introducing expenditure caps for Queensland local government elections*, models proposed by the department and the Local Government Association of Queensland, and expenditure caps schemes in other jurisdictions such as New South Wales, Tasmania and New Zealand.

Submitters to the Parliamentary Committee's inquiry were generally supportive of the electoral expenditure cap levels.¹⁹

The department has reviewed the expenditure of participants at the 2024 local government elections provided by the ECQ. There is no evidence of the current expenditure caps causing issues, with most participants' expenditure well within the relevant expenditure caps.

5.1 Mayoral candidate electoral expenditure caps

Band	Number of electors	Mayoral candidates cap
Band 1	Up to and including 30,000	\$30,000
Band 2	Over 30,000 to 150,000	\$1 per elector
Band 3	Over 150,000 to 200,000	\$150,000, plus an additional 50 cents per elector for each elector over 150,000
Band 4	Over 200,000	\$175,000, plus an additional 25 cents per elector for each elector over 200,000

Brisbane City Council	\$1.3 million
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¹⁷ LGEA, sections 123D to 123M.

¹⁸ LGEA, section 41.

¹⁹ State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report No. 37, 57th Parliament, Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill, February 2023, pp. 10-11.

5.2 Councillor candidate electoral expenditure caps

Band	Number of electors	Councillor candidates cap
Band 1	Up to and including 20,000 in a LGA or division	\$15,000
Band 2	Over 20,000 to 39,999 in a LGA or division	75 cents per elector
Band 3	Over 40,000 in a LGA or division	\$30,000

Brisbane City Council	\$55,000 per ward
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To assist stakeholders' consideration of this issue, a list of the mayoral and councillor candidate electoral expenditure caps for each of Queensland's 77 local governments for the 2024 local government elections is at **Appendix A**.

5.3 Expenditure caps for groups of candidates, registered political parties and endorsed candidates

The LGEA also establishes electoral expenditure caps for groups of candidates and registered parties and their endorsed candidates.

These provisions enable a group of candidates for an election, or a registered political party that endorses a candidate in an election and the candidates endorsed by the party, to pool the caps of the members/candidates within a local government area. The pooling provisions enable coordinated campaign activities at local government elections involving, for example, common policy positions, joint advertising or shared how-to-vote cards.

The expenditure cap for a group of candidates or registered political party is the sum of the individual capped amounts for each group member/endorsed candidate up to a maximum amount for the election. The maximum amount is based on the number of vacancies to be filled at the election. In addition, the cap cannot be shared across different local government areas.²⁰

The LGEA also makes provision for the adjustment of caps where there is a change in the number of members in a group or candidates endorsed by a registered political party.²¹

5.4 Questions for stakeholders

- 6) Does the sliding scale approach to electoral expenditure caps for local governments, other than Brisbane City Council, provide for fair and even financial competition between candidates at local government elections?
- 7) Did the expenditure caps cause any issues in undivided local governments during the 2024 local government elections?
- 8) Do you have any feedback on the operation of the pooled expenditure cap provisions?

²⁰ LGEA, sections 123F and 123I.

²¹ LGEA, sections 123G, 123H, 123J and 123K.

6. Determining and publishing elector numbers and applicable electoral expenditure caps

Under the Scheme, the electoral expenditure caps for each election are established according to the number of enrolled electors as at a specified point in time – the *relevant day*. For quadrennial elections, the relevant day is 1 July in the year preceding the election.

The ECQ is responsible for determining the number of enrolled electors in each division or local government area and the relevant electoral expenditure caps.

The ECQ must publish this information on its website as soon as practicable after the relevant day (e.g. beginning of July in the year preceding the election), but no later than the start of the capped expenditure period (e.g. beginning of August in the year preceding the election).

The ECQ must also give a written notice to candidates about the relevant electoral expenditure caps.²²

6.1 Questions for stakeholders

- 9) Did the timing of the publication of enrolled electors and relevant expenditure caps provide sufficient time for compliance with the Scheme?
- 10) Are the notification requirements sufficient to ensure that candidates and other relevant parties are informed of the electoral expenditure caps?

²² LGEA, sections 123R and 123S.

7. Dedicated accounts, record keeping and audit requirements

7.1 Dedicated accounts

The LGEA provides that the following participants in an election must operate a dedicated account for an election:

- a candidate
- group of candidates
- registered political parties who endorse candidates, and
- registered third parties.

Certain electoral income and all expenditure must be paid into or from the dedicated account.²³

7.2 Record keeping

The Amendment Act amended the record keeping requirements in the LGEA to more closely align with the relevant provisions of the *Electoral Act 1992*.

Currently, the LGEA provides that a *relevant entity* (i.e. a candidate, registered political party that has endorsed a candidate or a group of candidates or an associated entity of one of those participants) must make a record about the following *prescribed matters*:

- a gift or a loan made to, or for the benefit of, the relevant entity
- a gift or loan made by the relevant entity to another relevant entity for the election
- electoral expenditure incurred by the relevant entity or with the relevant entity's authority
- an electoral expenditure return given by the relevant entity to the ECQ, or
- an amount paid from or into the relevant entity's dedicated account.²⁴

The information to be included in the record is outlined in the Local Government Electoral Regulation 2023. The specific information to be recorded varies depending on whether it relates to gifts or loans, electoral expenditure or the operation of a dedicated account.²⁵

7.3 Audit requirements

The ECQ may appoint an auditor to conduct an audit of a participant in a local government election.²⁶ If ECQ appoints an auditor, the participant must give them the assistance they reasonably require.²⁷

An auditor must prepare a report about the audit, stating whether the participant has been truthful and accurate in relation to the matters audited and whether the participant has contravened provisions of the LGEA. The auditor must give a copy of the report to the ECQ and the participant.²⁸

7.4 Questions for stakeholders

- 11) Do you have any feedback on the requirement to have dedicated accounts and the record keeping and audit provisions?

²³ LGEA, sections 126 to 127BA.

²⁴ LGEA, section 127M.

²⁵ Local Government Electoral Regulation 2023, sections 11 to 17.

²⁶ LGEA, section 127U.

²⁷ LGEA, section 127V.

²⁸ LGEA, section 127W.

8. Penalties, recovery provisions and disqualifying offences

The amendments to the LGEA introduced new offences and expanded existing offences in support of the Scheme. The amendments also introduced a mechanism for the recovery of unlawful electoral expenditure. Most of these provisions align with corresponding provisions in the *Electoral Act 1992*.

8.1 Integrity offences and serious integrity offences

The LGA and CoBA provide that a person who:

- is convicted of an *integrity offence* is disqualified from being a councillor for four years, or
- is convicted of a *serious integrity offence* is disqualified from being a councillor for seven years.²⁹

A councillor is automatically suspended from office, if charged with a treason offence, electoral offence, serious integrity offence, or an integrity offence (a *disqualifying offence*).³⁰

The amendments to the LGEA prescribed certain new offences as integrity and serious integrity offences under the LGA and CoBA – see table below.

8.2 New or amended offences and penalties

The LGEA introduces or amends the following offences and penalties in the LGEA:

Section	Offence	Maximum Penalty	Offence type
31	Failure to notify ECQ of a registered political party's withdrawal of endorsement for a candidate	40 penalty units	N/A
116G	Failure of agent to ensure compliance	100 penalty units	Integrity offence
121B	Failure by donor to disclose source of gift or loan to an associated entity	20 penalty units	N/A
122	Failure by financial controller or agent to notify the public about disclosure obligations	1 penalty unit	N/A
122A	Failure by agent to notify third party of obligation to give a return	20 penalty units	N/A
123N	Breach of expenditure cap by a candidate, member of a group of candidates, registered political party that endorses a candidate or registered third party	1,500 penalty units or 10 years' imprisonment	Serious integrity offence
123O	Breach of expenditure cap by unregistered third party	Greater of:	Integrity offence

²⁹ *Local Government Act 2009* (LGA), section 153 and *City of Brisbane Act 2010* (CoBA), section 153.

³⁰ LGA, section 175K and CoBA, section 186B.

Section	Offence	Maximum Penalty	Offence type
		Amount that is equal to twice the amount by which the electoral expenditure exceeds the cap Or 200 penalty units	
127AA 127AB	Failure of registered political parties, registered third parties and third parties required to be registered to operate dedicated accounts and prohibition on credit card payments	100 penalty units	Integrity offence
127J	Failure to notify ECQ of change to details of registered third party	20 penalty units	N/A
127N to 127S	Failure to comply with requirement for election participants, political parties, candidates, groups of candidates, associated entities and broadcasters/publishers to keep records	20 penalty units	N/A
127V	Failure of an election participant to assist appointed auditor	200 penalty units	Integrity offence
135A	Failure of registered political party to notify ECQ of endorsement of candidate	40 penalty units	N/A
135E	Failure of auditor preparing audit certificate to give notice of a contravention to ECQ	100 penalty units	Integrity offence
194B	Scheme to circumvent prohibition on incurring electoral expenditure	1,500 penalty units Or 10 years' imprisonment	Serious integrity offence

8.3 Recovery provisions

The amendments to the LGEA introduced a recovery mechanism for unlawful electoral expenditure.

Section 123P of the LGEA provides that if a participant, or person acting with their authority, incurs unlawful electoral expenditure for the election, the amount that is twice the amount of the unlawful electoral expenditure is payable to the state.

The amount may be recovered by the state as a debt due to the state from:

- if the unlawful electoral expenditure was incurred by, or with the authority of, a registered political party that endorsed a candidate in the election and is not a corporation – the party's agent
- if the unlawful electoral expenditure was incurred by, or with the authority of, a candidate – the candidate or the candidate's agent

- if the unlawful electoral expenditure was incurred by, or with the authority of, a group of candidates – the group’s agents
- if the unlawful electoral expenditure was incurred by, or with the authority of, a third party that is not a corporation – the third party’s agent, or
- if the unlawful electoral expenditure was incurred by, or with the authority of, another participant – the participant.

8.4 Questions for stakeholders

- 12) Do you have any feedback on the offences and penalties?
- 13) Do you foresee any issues with the operation of the recovery mechanism for unlawful electoral expenditure?

9. Summary of stakeholder questions

- 1) Did the definitions of *electoral expenditure* and *campaign purpose* cause any issues at the 2024 local government elections?
- 2) Did the concept of *gifted electoral expenditure* cause any issues during the 2024 local government elections?
- 3) Did the capped expenditure period cause any issues at the 2024 local government elections and are there any other suggested alternative periods?
- 4) Do you have any feedback on the provisions of the third party registration scheme?
- 5) Are you aware of any examples of the third party registration scheme adversely impacting organisations involved in the 2024 local government elections?
- 6) Does the sliding scale approach to electoral expenditure caps for local governments, other than Brisbane City Council, provide for fair and even financial competition between candidates at local government elections?
- 7) Did the expenditure caps cause any issues in undivided local governments during the 2024 local government elections?
- 8) Do you have any feedback on the operation of the pooled expenditure cap provisions?
- 9) Did the timing of the publication of enrolled electors and relevant expenditure caps provide sufficient time for compliance with the Scheme?
- 10) Are the notification requirements sufficient to ensure that candidates and other relevant parties are informed of the electoral expenditure caps?
- 11) Do you have any feedback on the requirement to have dedicated accounts and the record keeping and audit provisions?
- 12) Do you have any feedback on the offences and penalties?
- 13) Do you foresee any issues with the operation of the recovery mechanism for unlawful electoral expenditure?

Appendix A Electoral expenditure caps for 2024 local government elections

Local Government Areas

Aurukun Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	962 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Balonne Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	3,086 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Banana Shire Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	1,598
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	9,585
Registered third party	\$30,000	9,585

Barcaldine Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	2,125 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Barcoo Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
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Councillor candidate	\$15,000	224 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Blackall-Tambo Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	1,454 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Boulia Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	236 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Brisbane City Council**

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$55,000	N/A
Mayoral candidate	\$1,300,000	
Registered third party	\$1,300,000	

Bulloo Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	206 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Bundaberg Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	7,652

Mayoral candidate	\$76,520	76,524
Registered third party	\$76,520	76,524

Burdekin Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	11,883 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Burke Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	176 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Cairns Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	12,949
Mayoral candidate	\$116,540	116,542
Registered third party	\$116,540	116,542

Carpentaria Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	1,194 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Cassowary Coast Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	3,562
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	21,373

Registered third party	\$30,000	21,373
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Central Highlands Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	17,889 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Charters Towers Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	8,026 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	771 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Cloncurry Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	1,914 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Cook Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	2,897 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Croydon Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	163 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Diamantina Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	151 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	723 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Douglas Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	9,305 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Etheridge Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	521 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Flinders Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	1,227 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Fraser Coast Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	8,787
Mayoral candidate	\$87,870	87,871
Registered third party	\$87,870	87,871

Gladstone Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$30,000	46,280 total
Mayoral candidate	\$46,280	
Registered third party	\$46,280	

Gold Coast City Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$22,950	30,600
Mayoral candidate	\$232,100	428,404
Registered third party	\$232,100	428,404

Goondiwindi Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	7,859 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Gympie Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	5,228
Mayoral candidate	\$41,820	41,821
Registered third party	\$41,820	41,821

Hinchinbrook Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	8,573 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	706 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Ipswich City Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$28,550	38,062
Mayoral candidate	\$151,120	152,246
Registered third party	\$151,120	152,246

Isaac Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	1,501
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	12,004
Registered third party	\$30,000	12,004

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	779 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Livingstone Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$21,920	29,231 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	383 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Lockyer Valley Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$21,950	29,267 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Logan City Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	18,489
Mayoral candidate	\$180,470	221,863
Registered third party	\$180,470	221,863

Longreach Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	2,499 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Mackay Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$30,000	87,741 total
Mayoral candidate	\$87,740	
Registered third party	\$87,740	

Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	239 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Maranoa Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	9,098 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Mareeba Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	16,050 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

McKinlay Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	504 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Moreton Bay City Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$21,230	28,302
Mayoral candidate	\$209,910	339,627
Registered third party	\$209,910	339,627

Mornington Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	729 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Mount Isa City Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	12,080 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Murweh Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	2,935 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	652 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Noosa Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$30,000	43,820 total
Mayoral candidate	\$43,820	
Registered third party	\$43,820	

North Burnett Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	1,261
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	7,565
Registered third party	\$30,000	7,565

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	312
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	1,561
Registered third party	\$30,000	1,561

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	1,293 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Paroo Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	1,191 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	496 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Quilpie Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	552 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Redland City Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	11,815
Mayoral candidate	\$118,150	118,146
Registered third party	\$118,150	118,146

Richmond Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	561 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Rockhampton Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	8,408
Mayoral candidate	\$58,860	58,858
Registered third party	\$58,860	58,858

Scenic Rim Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	5,417
Mayoral candidate	\$32,500	32,503
Registered third party	\$32,500	32,503

Somerset Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	18,890 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

South Burnett Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	4,213
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	25,279
Registered third party	\$30,000	25,279

Southern Downs Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$21,010	28,009 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Sunshine Coast Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$19,270	25,691
Mayoral candidate	\$189,230	256,905
Registered third party	\$189,230	256,905

Tablelands Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	3,265
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	19,587
Registered third party	\$30,000	19,587

Toowoomba Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$30,000	124,694 total
Mayoral candidate	\$124,690	
Registered third party	\$124,690	

Torres Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	2,024 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Torres Strait Island Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	180
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	2,705
Registered third party	\$30,000	2,705

Townsville City Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	13,951
Mayoral candidate	\$139,510	139,505
Registered third party	\$139,510	139,505

Western Downs Regional Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	24,044 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Whitsunday Regional Council*

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	3,923
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	23,540
Registered third party	\$30,000	23,540

Winton Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	844 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	566 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	218 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

Participant type	Electoral expenditure cap	Electors
Councillor candidate	\$15,000	1,643 total
Mayoral candidate	\$30,000	
Registered third party	\$30,000	

* Divided council. The number of electors for a councillor candidate is averaged across the number of divisions, then multiplied by the number of councillors to be elected in each division, in accordance with section 123S of the LGEA. Numbers may not equal due to rounding.

** The expenditure caps for Brisbane City Council are set by the LGEA and are not determined by reference to the number of electors in the council area.

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