



Australian Government

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

*Second interim report on the inquiry into the conduct of the 2013
federal election: An assessment of electronic voting options*

MAY 2024

Introduction

On 20 November 2014, the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) tabled a report titled *Second interim report on the inquiry into the conduct of the 2013 federal election: An assessment of electronic voting options*.

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

**Government Response to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters report:
Second interim report on the inquiry into the conduct of the 2013 federal election:
An assessment of electronic voting options**

#	Recommendation	Government Response
1	The Committee recommends that the Australian Government adequately resource the Australian Electoral Commission to deploy electronic certified lists where possible to all pre-poll voting centres and to all mobile voting teams at the next federal election.	<u>Noted</u> The Government notes the recommendation. Given the passage of time, a substantive government response is no longer appropriate.
2	The Committee recommends that, after the next federal election, the Australian Electoral Commission undertake a full cost benefit analysis of utilising electronic certified lists at all polling locations based on a permanent investment in the relevant technology and/or the development of a platform that can be accessed from any networked computer, with a view to full implementation at future elections.	Refer to recommendation 1.
3	The Committee recommends that the Special Minister of State propose to the states and territories that the further development of electronic electoral roll mark-off systems be undertaken in a collaborative approach to facilitate the sharing of resources.	Refer to recommendation 1.

#	Recommendation	Government Response
4	The Committee recommends that relevant sections of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> and the <i>Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984</i> , be amended to allow for the expansion of the use of electronic certified lists as a form of approved list for marking electors who have been issued a ballot paper.	Refer to recommendation 1.
5	The Committee recommends the Australian Electoral Commission develop and trial the electronically-assisted counting of ballot papers at all pre-poll centres for the next federal election.	Refer to recommendation 1.
6	The Committee recommends that the Australian Government investigate the feasibility of digital storage of scanned ballot papers to replace storage of paper ballots.	Refer to recommendation 1.
7	The Committee recommends that the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> and the <i>Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984</i> be amended to allow for expansion of the current assisted telephone voting system to include people with assessed mobility or access issues for the next federal election.	Refer to recommendation 1.

The Government notes that there are no dissenting reports or recommendation.