

Inquiry into whether Victoria should participate in a national electoral roll platform

Response to Electoral Matters Committee (EMC) Report

EMC recommendation	VEC response
<p>1. That, as part of the Victorian Electoral Commission's redevelopment of its Roll Management System, the Victorian electoral Commission seek opportunities to collaborate with the Australian Electoral Commission and its project to redevelop its roll management system where possible. This collaboration should seek any opportunities to reduce the duplication of effort and costs involved with separately commissioning two pieces of software with similar functions.</p>	<p>The VEC supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The VEC will continue to explore opportunities to collaborate with the Australian Electoral Commission with respect to the redevelopment of respective roll management systems and to ensure compatibility, while supporting the independence of the Victorian register of electors.</p>
<p>2. That the Government amend the <i>Electoral Act 2002</i> to specify what data can be stored in the register of electors. The legislation should specify what data <i>must</i> be stored and what data <i>may</i> be stored for each elector, as in the Australian Capital Territory's <i>Electoral Act</i>. The legislation should also provide for flexibility by allowing further data categories to be specified in subordinate legislation.</p>	<p>The VEC supports this recommendation in part.</p> <p>The VEC notes the need to clearly define elector 'particulars' in the context of electoral roll products produced from the register of electors under the <i>Electoral Act 2002</i> (or any other Act). As roll products produced from the register of electors invariably contain elector 'particulars', a definition for these particulars will set a clear expectation of the enrolment information to be made available to, inter alia, registered political parties, members of parliament, and candidates at elections through these electoral roll products.</p>

EMC recommendation	VEC response
	It is appropriate to regulate the information arising from the register of electors rather than the register itself, which is established, maintained and regularly updated using a range of data inputs.
3. That the Victorian Electoral Commission continue working with other jurisdictions towards the creation of a national electoral platform, including a national electoral roll platform. As part of this, the Victorian electoral Commission should advocate for the platform to be designed in a way that will meet Victoria's needs.	The VEC supports this recommendation.
4. That Victoria not commit to a national electoral roll platform until details of the design and governance structure are more developed. At that time, an assessment can be made as to whether or not a national electoral roll platform would meet Victoria's needs.	The VEC supports this recommendation.