

# DETERMINATION

## Verifying the identity of an elector applying by electronic means to vote by post

*Electoral Act 2002*, section 101

Determination 006/2026

### Keywords

*Application, elector, electronic verification, postal voting*

### Preamble

Section 101 of the *Electoral Act 2002* (Vic) (Electoral Act) provides that an elector may apply to vote by post. Applications may be in writing or by electronic means.

Section 101(2A) of the Electoral Act provides that applications by electronic means must be in the prescribed form and must contain information to enable the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to verify the identity of the elector in accordance with the verification process determined by the VEC for that purpose.

If the VEC receives an application to vote by postal vote in accordance with section 101(2A) of the Electoral Act and is satisfied the application contains sufficient information to verify the elector's identity in accordance with the verification process, the VEC must process the postal vote application and issue a postal vote.

This determination sets out the process to verify the identity of an elector for the purposes of section 101(2A) of the Electoral Act.

### Audience

The main audiences for this determination include:

- election managers and election officials
- electors seeking to vote by post
- registered political parties
- candidates.

## Determination

I, Sven Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner for the State of Victoria, make the following determination in accordance with section 9(3) of the Electoral Act.

### **1. Identity verification process**

- 1.1. The VEC may publish an electronic postal vote application on its website. If available, the application must operate from the day after the writ is issued for the election until 6 p.m. on the Wednesday immediately preceding election day.
- 1.2. The postal vote application detailed in 1.1. must capture information required by Form M of the Electoral Regulations 2022 (Vic) (Regulations).
- 1.3. The postal vote application detailed in 1.1. will allow the applicant to select a verification question. The elector must enter an answer to the selected elector verification question.
- 1.4. The VEC will store the selected elector verification question and the elector's answer. The VEC will use these in the subsequent verification process.
- 1.5. Once satisfied that the electronic postal vote application meets the requirements of Form M of the Regulations, that an elector verification question has been selected, and an answer has been captured, the VEC will issue an applicant a postal vote and make the appropriate record of issuing.
- 1.6. On receipt of a returned postal vote declaration envelope, the procedures prescribed by regulations 25 and 42 of the Regulations are to be followed, subject to 1.7. of this determination.
- 1.7. In respect to each returned postal vote declaration envelope issued to an elector who made their postal vote application by electronic means, the verification process to be completed under regulation 42(3) of the Regulations is as follows:
  - 1.7.1. The election official must locate the answer to the elector verification question on the returned postal vote declaration.
  - 1.7.2. The election official must compare this answer with the selected elector verification question and the answer kept with the elector's electronic postal vote application.
  - 1.7.3. If the answer to the elector verification question on the returned postal vote declaration does not match the answer kept with the elector's electronic postal vote application, the election official must put the ballot paper aside as disallowed, without opening the declaration envelope.

- 1.7.4. If the answer to the elector verification question on the returned postal vote declaration matches the answer kept with the elector's electronic postal vote application, the postal vote declaration envelope is accepted for further processing.

### **Revocation of previous instrument**

Determination 007/2022 ('Verifying the identity of an elector applying by electronic means to vote by post') made by the Electoral Commissioner on 31 October 2022 is revoked and replaced by this determination.

### **Start date of this determination**

This determination comes into effect on 25 May 2026. It remains in effect until it is amended, revoked, superseded, or otherwise replaced.

Sven Bluemmel  
Electoral Commissioner  
Victorian Electoral Commission

25 May 2026

**Document details**

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— Version 1.0	004/2018	26 September 2018	Not applicable	007/2022
— Version 2.0	007/2022	1 November 2022	004/2018	006/2026
— Version 3.0	006/2026	25 May 2026	007/2022	Not applicable

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