



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

Your official guide to the Groom by-election

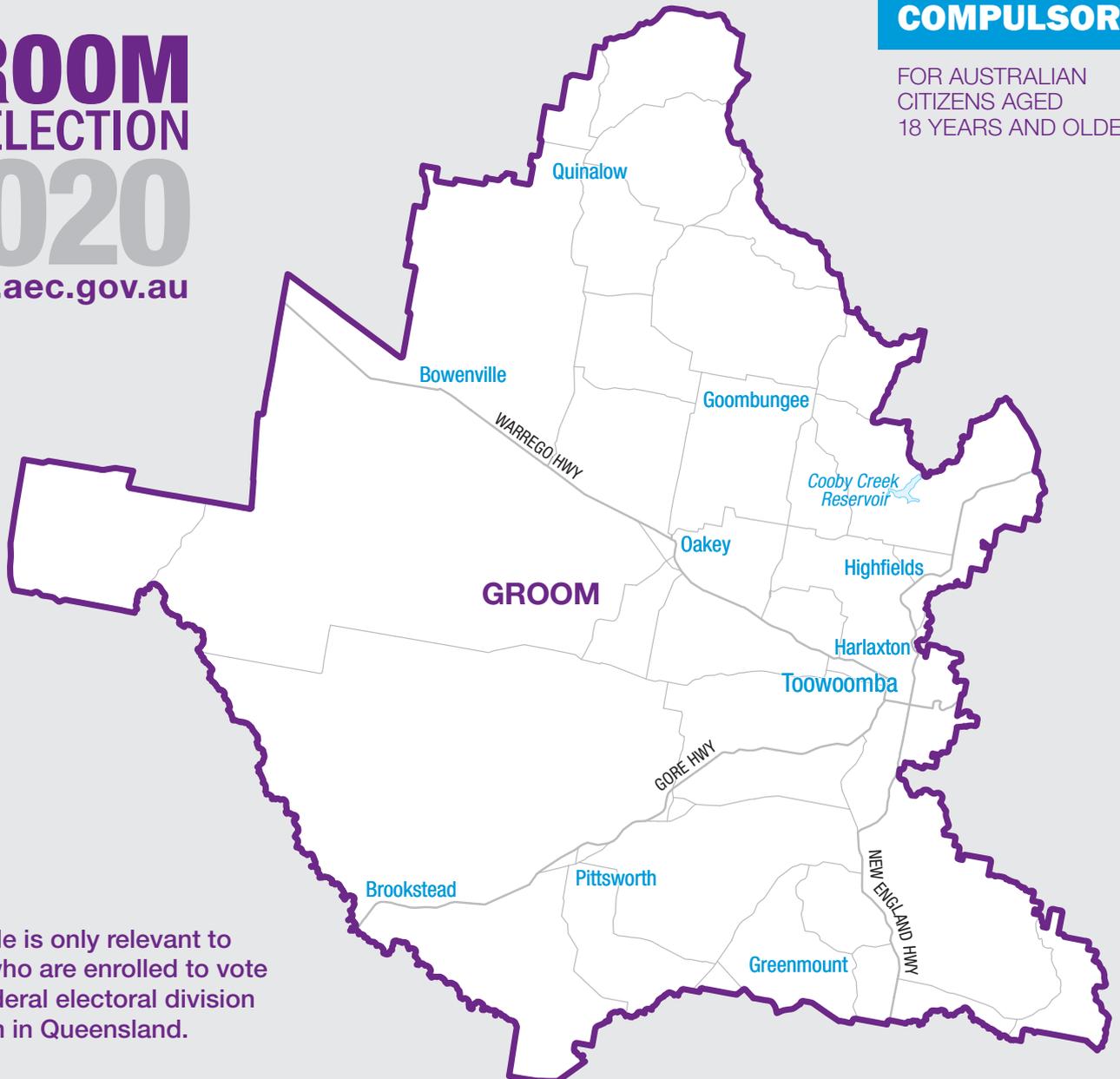
including COVID-19 safety measures

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2020

**GROOM
BY-ELECTION
2020**
www.aec.gov.au

**VOTING IS
COMPULSORY**

FOR AUSTRALIAN
CITIZENS AGED
18 YEARS AND OLDER



This guide is only relevant to people who are enrolled to vote in the federal electoral division of Groom in Queensland.



Message from the Electoral Commissioner

The AEC is committed to providing the highest standard of electoral services during the Groom by-election. During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic this includes being at the forefront of protecting the health of voters, AEC staff and other participants.

Your wellbeing and that of the Groom community is important to the AEC. That is why at this by-election we will implement a range of protective measures at polling places, including social distancing and other hygiene practices. These, and the other actions outlined in this guide, are based on advice from health authorities and conform to specific restrictions and rules in place.

While these measures are designed to protect the community, they may also slow the voting and counting processes at this by-election. It may take longer for you to cast your vote at the polling place, and you may have to queue under social distancing rules. Please help us protect your wellbeing and that of your community by following the advice on the signs at the polling place and by listening to the directions of AEC staff. We are all practised

in following such rules in recent times, and it is important to maintain this when voting. I ask for and appreciate both your patience and cooperation with the measures.

I trust the information provided in this guide will help you confidently plan ahead for your vote at this by-election. It details the protective actions we have taken and the range of voting options available to meet your personal circumstances, including postal voting, more early voting centres, and of course a large number of polling places in the electorate on by-election day.

Tom Rogers
Electoral Commissioner



Stop and consider Check the source this by-election

During electoral events there is a large amount of information being distributed which is seeking to influence your vote.

It's important that you consider what you see, hear or read. Take the time to consider whether the information is from a reliable or recognisable source, current and safe (not a scam). If you have doubts about information there are questions you can ask to help you form your own opinion and make a decision. To find out more visit www.aec.gov.au/stopandconsider

Information in this guide reflects circumstances at the time of printing. The AEC will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and follow the advice from federal and state health authorities. This may result in changes to measures put in place.

The Groom by-election will be held on Saturday 28 November 2020. Polling places open at 8am and close at 6pm sharp.

Why?

You will be voting for a representative for the federal electoral division of Groom in the House of Representatives. This by-election is being held following the resignation of the member for Groom.

Who has to vote?

If you are enrolled in the federal electoral division of Groom you are required to vote in the by-election. If you are not sure whether you are enrolled in the division of Groom, you should check your enrolment information at

www.aec.gov.au/check or call **13 23 26** if you need help.

What if I can't make it?

If you can't make it to a polling place on by-election day, you may be entitled to vote early.

By post

Postal voting is an important voting option available to eligible voters at this by-election.

You can apply for a postal vote online at www.aec.gov.au/pva

Please call **13 23 26** if you don't have online access and want to apply for a postal vote.

The AEC must receive your application as soon as possible and no later than 6pm local time Wednesday 25 November 2020.

In person

If you are entitled to vote early, you can vote at an early voting centre (below) from Wednesday 11 November 2020.

Changes may occur to the information below.

Visit www.aec.gov.au/groom to see the final list of early voting centres and to check opening dates and hours.

DARLING HEIGHTS

Concannon College Dining Hall
131 Baker Street

GLENVALE

21 Rocla Court

TOOWOOMBA

101 Mort Street
180 Herries Street

For further information about early voting options and eligibility visit www.aec.gov.au/groom or call **13 23 26**.



Plan ahead before you vote

- While voting is often a social activity, for this by-election please limit attendance at polling places to eligible voters only, and avoid socialising.
- Do your research on candidates and preferences before you go to vote.
- Single-use pencils will be given out at the polling place, but if you prefer you can bring your own pen or pencil to vote.
- If you are feeling unwell or have any cold or flu symptoms in the lead up to by-election day, don't attend a polling place. Postal voting is available. Apply online at www.aec.gov.au/pva
- Download the **COVIDSafe** app.

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What happens at the polling place, including new COVID-19 safety measures



Stay at home if you are unwell



Cover your coughs and sneezes



Sanitise your hands



Stand 1.5 metres apart

Due to COVID-19, health and safety measures at early voting centres and polling places will include:

- The number of voters in a polling place at any one time will be managed.
 - If, on arrival, you are not able to enter the polling place immediately you may be required to queue outside, keeping an appropriate distance from others.
 - Once inside, hand sanitiser will be available for use.
 - You will need to keep your distance from others when waiting to receive your ballot paper, with floor markers in place to guide you.
 - When you reach the ballot paper issuing point, a polling official will ask for your full name and address, and if you have voted before in the 2020 Groom by-election. Your name will be marked off the electoral roll.
- You will be given your green ballot paper for the House of Representatives.
 - If you haven't got your own pen or pencil, you will be given a single-use pencil.
 - Voting booths will be separated and regularly cleaned.
 - Read the instructions on your ballot paper carefully.
 - Complete your ballot paper. You must number every box to make your vote count.
 - Take your pen or pencil with you—don't leave it in the booth.
 - Once you have completed your ballot paper, fold it and place it in the ballot box provided.

Remember, if you need help, you can ask a polling official.



Where?

You can vote at any polling place in the federal electoral division of Groom on by-election day.

Please note that polling place locations may have changed since you last voted. At the time of printing this publication, the locations of some polling places were yet to be confirmed. Final locations are available at www.aec.gov.au/groom

The final list of polling places, along with a list of candidates, will be published in the *High Country Herald* on Tuesday 24 November, *The Pittsworth Sentinel* and *The Oakey Champion* on Wednesday 25 November, *On Our Selection News* on Thursday 26 November and *The Chronicle* (Toowoomba) on Friday 27 November.

For accessible voting options and information, visit www.aec.gov.au/groom or call **13 23 26**.

BIDDESTON

Biddeston State School

BOWENVILLE

Bowenville State School

BROOKSTEAD

Brookstead State School

CAMBOOYA

Cambooya State School

CENTENARY HEIGHTS

Gabbinbar State School

Centenary Heights State High School

DARLING HEIGHTS

Darling Heights State School

DRAYTON

Drayton State School

EAST TOOWOOMBA

Fairholme College

Toowoomba East State School

GEHAM

Geham State School

GLENVALE

Glenvale State School

GOOMBUNGEE

Goombungee State School

GOWRIE JUNCTION

Gowrie State School

GREENMOUNT EAST

Emu Creek State School

HARLAXTON

Harlaxton State School

HARRISTOWN

Good Shepherd Lutheran Hall

Harristown State High School

Toowoomba Community
Baptist Church

Toowoomba Philharmonic Society

HIGHFIELDS

Mary MacKillop School

Highfields State School

Highfields State Secondary College

JONDARYAN

Jondaryan State School

KINGSTHORPE

Kingsthorpe State School

KULPI

Kulpi State School

MERINGANDAN

Meringandan State School

MIDDLE RIDGE

Middle Ridge State School

Toowoomba Valleys Leagues Club

MOUNT LOFTY

Toowoomba State High School

MOUNT TYSON

Mount Tyson State School

NEWTOWN

Newtown State School

Oakey

Oakey State High School

PITTSWORTH

Pittsworth Function Centre

QUINALOW

Quinalow State School

RANGEVILLE

St Joseph's College

Rangeville State School

ROCKVILLE

Rockville State School

SOUTHBROOK

Southbrook Central State School

TOOWOOMBA

101 Mort Street

St Saviour's College

TOOWOOMBA CITY

St Luke's Hall

Toowoomba North State School

WELLCAMP

Wellcamp State School

WESTBROOK

Bunkers Hill State School

WILSONTON

Fairview Heights State School

Sacred Heart School

Wilsonton State School

WILSONTON HEIGHTS

Wilsonton High School

WYREEMA

Wyreema State School



You can check the accessibility rating and details of polling places at www.aec.gov.au/groom. For blind and low vision voting options call **13 23 26**.

How to make your vote count

For the Groom by-election you will be given a green ballot paper.

You will be voting for a representative for the federal electoral division of Groom in the House of Representatives.

Number every box in the order of your choice.

Don't worry if you make a mistake. You can ask for another ballot paper and start again.

You can practise voting at www.aec.gov.au/practise

House of Representatives
Ballot Paper

State
Electoral Division of Division Name

Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice

2 SURNAME, Given Names
INDEPENDENT

3 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

7 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

4 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

1 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

5 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

6 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

8 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

Remember... number every box to make your vote count

Sample ballot paper

Alternative versions of this guide

You can download alternative formats of this guide, such as audio and large print, from www.aec.gov.au/groom. Braille is also available on request by calling **13 23 26**.

People who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS):

- TTY users phone 13 36 77 and quote 13 23 26.
- Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 and quote 13 23 26.
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS then ask for 13 23 26.

For information about voting and elections in other languages call the number listed next to your preferred language.

العربية	Arabic	1300 720 132
廣東話	Cantonese	1300 720 135
Hrvatski	Croatian	1300 720 136
Ελληνικά	Greek	1300 720 137
Italiano	Italian	1300 720 138
ខ្មែរ	Khmer	1300 720 134
한국어	Korean	1300 720 468
Македонски	Macedonian	1300 720 139
普通话	Mandarin	1300 720 142
Język polski	Polish	1300 720 143
Português	Portuguese	1300 720 145
Русский язык	Russian	1300 720 146
Српски	Serbian	1300 720 147
Español	Spanish	1300 720 148
Türkçe	Turkish	1300 720 149
Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	1300 720 152
Other languages		1300 720 153

Voting is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18 years and older. If you don't vote, you may be prosecuted.

If you vote more than once it is a criminal offence.

www.aec.gov.au 13 23 26

