



9 November 2020

Mr Mike Jessop
PO Box 3791 DC
CALOUNDRA QLD 4551
Email: mike@whigparty.com.au

Dear Mr Jessop

Thank you for your email dated 4 November 2020 and subsequent email received on 8 November 2020 regarding the conduct of the State general election. Mr Pat Vidgen, Electoral Commissioner, has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I have investigated the matters raised in your correspondence, and I provide the following information for you.

Overnight security of ballot papers at the Caloundra Returning Office and Early Voting Centres

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) takes matters regarding the security of ballot papers seriously, and at all times ensures that ballot boxes are stored securely when not in the possession of ECQ staff.

One of the ways in which this is managed is by storing ballot papers in a locked room, within a locked venue and this has been the case at the Beerwah and Caloundra early voting centres you mention in your correspondence. It is not reasonable to deduct that a person would access the secure premises through other means such as a ventilation shaft, false floors or suspended ceilings. Further, ballot papers have security features such as imbedded markings that can only be seen under blue-light and they are printed on distinct, watermarked paper.

The use of pencil/pen on paper ballots

The *Electoral Act 1992* sets out the way in which electors must vote and it is a matter for Government to consider if alternate methods such as electronic or online voting should be considered. I recommend that you seek consultation with your local Member of Parliament to discuss this matter further.

Results Software

You refer in your correspondence to the 'Chinese communist party 'results' software' in relation to the Queensland electoral roll. I wish to clarify that the ECQ's Election Management System data and infrastructure is entirely housed within Australia and your statement is untrue. There is no reason to suspect the results of the 2020 State general election are unsafe and unsatisfactory as stated in your letter.

If you have evidence to support any of the allegations made in your correspondence, please provide them. Without further evidence, the ECQ is unable to investigate these matters any further.

Should you require further information regarding any of these matters, please contact Mr Bill Huey, Team Leader (Election Event Management), ECQ on 1300 881 665 or at Bill.Huey@ecq.qld.gov.au.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Julie Cavanagh
Executive Director
Election Event Management