



New South Wales

Local Government Amendment (COVID-19— Elections Special Provisions) Bill 2021

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Local Government Act 1993* to make special provision for the conduct of the 2021 local government elections.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name, also called the short title, of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Clause 3 inserts proposed Chapter 18, Part 1B into the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The proposed Part will enable the making of regulations to modify the application of 1 or more provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* that apply to the 2021 ordinary elections of councillors for the purposes of responding to the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Minister for Local Government may recommend to the Governor that regulations be made under the proposed Part only if—

- (a) the proposed regulations are in accordance with advice issued by the Electoral Commissioner, and
- (b) the proposed regulations are reasonable to protect the health, safety and welfare of persons from risk of harm caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new provisions also provide that a regulation under this section must not enable an election to be conducted exclusively by means of postal voting or postal voting and iVoting.