Your official guide to the Eden-Monaro by-election including COVID-19 safety measures
SATURDAY 4 JULY 2020

This guide is only relevant to people who are enrolled to vote in the federal electoral Division of Eden-Monaro in New South Wales.
Message from the Electoral Commissioner

The AEC is committed to providing the highest standard of electoral services during the Eden-Monaro 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 Eden-Monaro community is important to the AEC. That is why at this by-election we have introduced 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 comply with specific restrictions and rules in place.

While these measures are designed to protect the community, it does mean they will 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 and appreciate both your patience and cooperation with the measures.

The AEC is also mindful of the impact that bushfires have had on the Eden-Monaro community, including those who are living away from their usual residential address, so we have additional advertising and outreach activities in place to support voters.

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 Eden-Monaro by-election will be held on Saturday 4 July 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 Eden-Monaro in the House of Representatives. This by-election is being held following the resignation of the member for Eden-Monaro.

Who has to vote?
If you are enrolled in the federal electoral Division of Eden-Monaro you are required to vote in the by-election. If you are not sure whether you are enrolled in the Division of Eden-Monaro, 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 1 July 2020.

In person
If you are entitled to vote early, you can vote at an early voting centre (below) from Monday 15 June 2020.
Changes may occur to the information below. Visit www.aec.gov.au/eden-monaro to see the final list of early voting centres and to check opening dates and hours.

BEGA
Bega Showground Hall
Upper Street

BELCONNEN
Belconnen Community Centre
26 Chandler Street

CANBERRA CITY
Pilgrim House
69 Northbourne Avenue

COOMA
Cooma Multi Function Centre
10 Boundary Street

GREENWAY
Centrepoint
Unit 8, 175 Anketell Street

JERRABOMBERRA
Community Centre
25/31 Jerrabomberra Parkway

JINDABYNE
Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre
207 Barry Way

MERIMBULA
Merimbula RSL Club
52-54 Main Street

NAROOMA
Country Women’s Association Rooms
96 Campbell Street

QUEANBEYAN
116 Monaro Street

QPRC Indoor Sports
1a Yass Road

TUMUT
Country Women’s Association Rooms
148 Wynyard Street

YASS
St Clements Church Hall
17 Church Street


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. During the nomination process the AEC requested candidate website addresses. Websites provided have been included with candidates’ details on the AEC website. See www.aec.gov.au/eden-monaro
- 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.
What happens at the polling place, including new COVID-19 safety measures

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 Eden-Monaro 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 Eden-Monaro 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/where

The final list of polling places, along with a list of candidates, will be published in the Bega District News on Friday 3 July, the Merimbula News Weekly on Wednesday 1 July, the Monaro Post on Wednesday 1 July, the Tumut and Adelong Times on Friday 3 July, The Rural on Thursday 2 July, and the Western Magazine on Friday 3 July.

For accessible voting options and information, visit www.aec.gov.au/eden-monaro or call 13 23 26.

ADAMINABY
Adaminaby Memorial Hall

ADELONG
Adelong Services and Citizens Club

ARALUEN
Araluen Federal Hall

BATLOW
Batlow Technology School

BEGA
Bega Showground Hall
Bega High School
Bega Public School

BEMBOKA
Bemboka Memorial Hall

BERMAGUI
Bermagui Community Centre

BERRIDALE
Berridale Community Hall

BINALONG
Binalong Public School
How to make your vote count

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

You will be voting for a representative for the federal electoral Division of Eden-Monaro 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

Alternative versions of this guide

You can download alternative formats of this guide, such as audio and large print, from www.aec.gov.au/eden-monaro. 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.

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<td>Other languages</td>
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Voting is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18 years or over. If you don’t vote, you may be prosecuted.

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