

Q and A on postal voting

Q: Who can apply for a postal vote?

A: Any enrolled voter can apply for a postal vote. Postal voters should meet one of the following criteria:

- I will be more than 16km away from the nearest polling booth during the polling period (this includes polling booths set up outside of Bougainville, in PNG, Australia or Solomon Islands)
- I will not be able to get to the polling booth as I am seriously ill/infirm/disabled
- I am unable to get to the polling booth as I am about to give birth or am caring for a young child
- My religious beliefs prevent me from attending a polling booth to vote

Q: When can someone apply for a postal vote?

A: Applications open 8 October and close 22 November.

Q: How does someone apply to vote by post?

A: There is a form available at BRC regional offices, at PNGEC in Port Moresby and on the BRC website. Electors can also apply via a letter, as long as the letter has enough information to enable BRC to find the elector on the roll and deliver the voting pack.

Q: Can someone apply by phone?

A: Yes: an elector can apply over the phone to a BRC officer. The officer has to note on the form they complete that they acted as the agent for the elector.

Q: Can someone apply by email?

A: Yes – the form is available on the BRC website and it can be sent back to postalvoting@bougainville-referendum.org. This email address is also on the form.

Q: Can someone apply via a third person?

A: Yes, an agent can apply on behalf of the elector. In this case, the agent must indicate on the form they are acting as an agent.

Q: Why is there now postal voting?

A: Postal voting is already in the law for PNG and Bougainville elections. The BRC wants to ensure that everyone has the chance to participate in the referendum, so we are making sure people can still vote even if they can't get to a polling place.

Q: How will the BRC stop a postal voting stop someone voting also in the polling period?

A:: The BRC will note on the roll that an elector has been issued a postal vote. The elector fills out a declaration in order to vote. Those electors will not be able to have an ordinary vote issued during the polling.

Q: How will the postal vote be delivered?

A: The BRC will deliver postal votes by hand, through an agent, the AROs or other BRC officials, in Bougainville. We will use a courier service and PNGEC to deliver them outside of Bougainville.

Q: When will the postal votes be issued?

A: Postal votes will be issued in early November to ensure that there is enough time for them to be returned to the BRC before the polling ends.

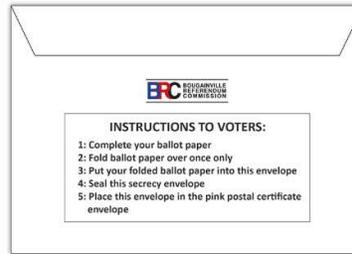
Q: Is postal voting secret?

A: Yes: Electors their ballot paper into a secrecy envelope which placed inside the declaration envelope. There is nothing on the secrecy envelope to indicate the identity of the voter.

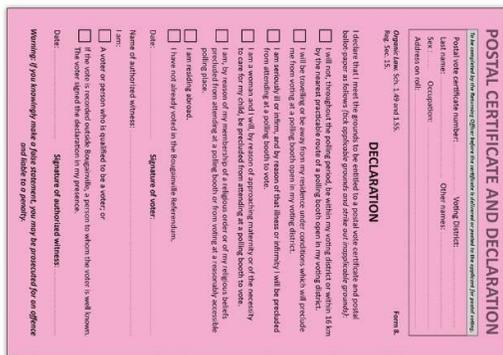
POSTAL VOTING SET



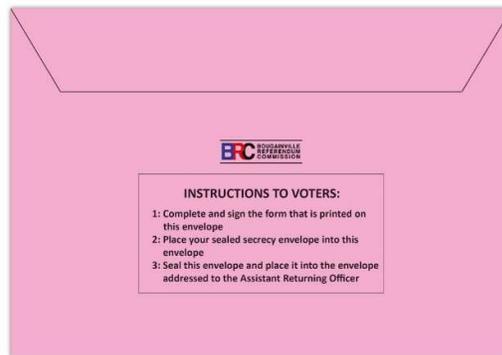
Postal Secrecy envelope (front)



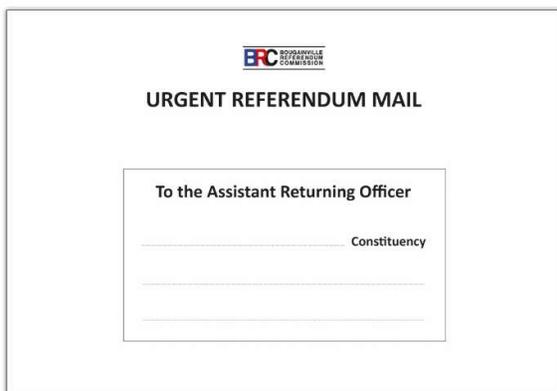
Postal Secrecy envelope (back)



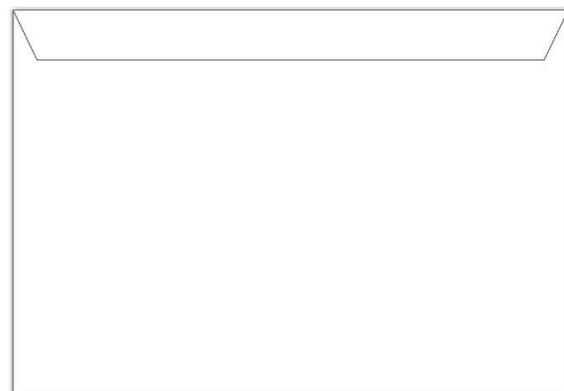
Postal Certificate and Declaration envelope (front)



Postal Certificate and Declaration envelope (back)



Postal envelope (front)



Postal envelope (back)