

REF: EC22-000003

Ms Sarah Redden
Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Redden

Correction

I am writing to correct my response to a question asked during the Additional Estimates hearing of the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee on 15 February 2022.

During the hearing the Chair, Senator Chandler, and Senator Farrell asked about writing implements that may be used to mark ballot papers at federal electoral events.

I wish to correct my comments at the hearing and advise that the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act) did not prohibit voters supplying and using a marking implement of their choice (pen or pencil) prior to 2020.

The legislation amendment I referred to is the *Electoral Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Act 2020*. This legislation amended section 206 of the Electoral Act to allow for the provision of implements or methods of marking ballot papers – other than pencils as previously prescribed – to be provided in polling booths for use by voters.

The 2022 federal election will be the first federal election for which this provision is in force.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Pope
Deputy Electoral Commissioner

7 March 2022