



**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS**

Public hearing: Inquiry into the 2007 election

Events in the Division of Lindsay

*Chair: Daryl Melham*

*Deputy Chair: Scott Morrison*

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## **Review of penalty provisions in the Commonwealth Electoral Act**

Federal parliament's Electoral Matters Committee will conduct a roundtable public hearing on Tuesday, 17 November 2009 from 12.30 to 2.00pm in Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra.

The Joint Committee tabled its *Report on the conduct of the 2007 federal election and matters related thereto* in June 2009, noting the events surrounding the distribution of unauthorised election material in the western Sydney electorate of Lindsay. The Committee indicated that it would examine these events in more detail once court proceedings were concluded.

"This hearing provides an opportunity for the committee to examine proposals aimed at deterring the distribution of unauthorised election material," Committee Chair Daryl Melham (Member for Banks, NSW) said.

In its June 2009 report, the committee recommended that 'the penalties imposed under s 328 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (\$1000 for a natural person and \$5000 for a body corporate) be revised to ensure that they provide a greater deterrent'.

The committee will take evidence from representatives of the Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Electoral Commission.

The committee will test a range of penalty options with the witnesses for the purpose of providing government with more guidance about the revisions needed to penalty provisions that currently exist under s 328 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act.

### **Roundtable public hearing Tuesday, 17 November 2009 Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, CANBERRA**

12.30pm Australian Electoral Commission and the Attorney-General's Department  
2:00pm Adjournment

**Webcast:** The hearing will be webcast live (audio only) on  
<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

**For media comment:** please contact the Committee Chair, Daryl Melham, on (02) 9774 2111.