



Pat Farmer MP

Federal Member for Macarthur



The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	129
Date Received	4-4-05
Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>

Re: Inquiry into the conduct of the 2004 Federal Election

Dear Secretary

I would like to raise with the Committee the conduct of *Liberals for Forests* during the 2004 Federal Election campaign.

I have a number of concerns about the way in which *Liberals for Forests* conducted themselves during the campaign, particularly in marginal New South Wales electorates.

I am concerned with the conduct of *Liberals for Forests* in my electorate and media reports of how the Party:

- i. masqueraded as 'Liberals' during the election campaign;
- ii. adopted very similar colours and printed look alike 'how to vote' pamphlets to those of the Federal Coalition; and
- iii. engaged overseas backpackers who passed themselves off as 'Liberal'.

At the time of writing, the website for *Liberals for Forests: Australia* (www.liberalforforests.org.au) fails to display authorisation and contact details on its home page, yet the site carries a search engine tag stating it is 'a political party representing communities views, not that of party machines'.

I strongly object to political parties who adopt dishonest and misleading campaign tactics as they directly undermine the foundations of the very democracy that extend and defend their freedom to exist.

I thank you and the Committee for considering my concerns and I wish you well in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Pat Farmer

Working with Macarthur

300 Queen Street, Campbelltown NSW 2560 • PO Box 129, Campbelltown NSW 2560
Telephone: (02) 4627 9644 • Facsimile: (02) 4627 9622 • Email: pat.farmermp@aph.gov.au