



Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Maintaining Address) Bill

Public hearing

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters will hold a public hearing on the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Maintaining Address) Bill 2011 (the Bill) on Wednesday, 8 February 2012 in Canberra.

The main aim of the Bill is to amend the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) to allow the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to directly update an elector's enrolled address following the receipt and analysis of reliable and current data sources. The Electoral Commissioner will be required to inform an elector when the AEC proposes to update the elector's address details and again once the update has occurred.

This Bill will not provide the capacity to directly enrol electors. Persons who are not on the roll will still need to enrol by completing and submitting an enrolment form to the AEC.

"An accurate electoral roll is an important part of Australia's democracy," said Committee Chair, Mr Daryl Melham MP.

"It is a requirement for all eligible electors to enrol to vote and to keep their address details up to date. However, when eligible electors do not meet their obligations they may miss out on their vote.

"In examining this Bill, the committee will consider whether the measures proposed strike an appropriate balance between keeping eligible electors on the roll and ensuring that the updates enhance and do not compromise the accuracy of the Australian electoral roll," said Mr Melham.

Public Hearing program
Wednesday, 8 February 2012
Committee Room 1R2
Parliament House, Canberra

9.30 am Australian Electoral Commission

10.45 am Adjournment

The hearing will be audio webcast live: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

The Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum are available from the committee's website. For more information and to follow the progress of the inquiry visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>.

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chair, Daryl Melham MP on 02 6277 2054 (Parliament House office) or 02 9774 2111 (Electoral office).

For general information: Contact the secretariat on 02 6277 2374 or jscem@aph.gov.au.