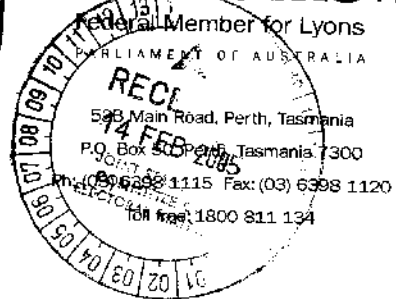


SUBMISSION NO. 10

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Submission No. 10  
Date Received 14-2-05  
Secretary *[Signature]*

**Dick Adams MP**

10 February, 2005



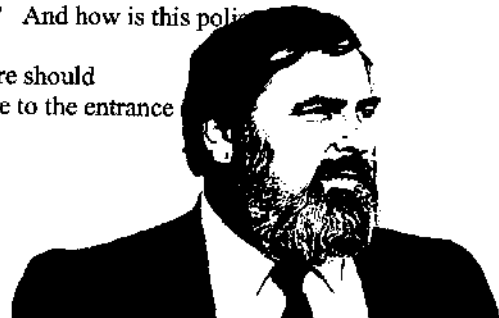
The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

Earlier this year I wrote to the Electoral Office in my State with a number of concerns on the processes during the 2004 election. As yet I have not received a reply, but I think it is appropriate that the contents of that letter be also referred to your committee.

During the Federal election period, there were a number of problems that occurred that need to be addressed before the next election and I would just like to point out the difficulties we had.

1. As I believe you are aware, there were a number of difficulties with postal votes. The office received requests for over 500 postal votes and found there were delays in the returns so that many people did not get to vote until the Friday before the election. I am unsure now whether the many who sought postal votes before going away actually received them.
2. Three postal vote applications took more than eight working days through the postal system to reach the office and thus missed the vote altogether. These have been forwarded under separate cover to the Lyons electoral officer.
3. Poster sizes and positions were also a query. Could you please advise if there are Federal guidelines that govern the size of political advertising and its positioning, on the roads and streets of the electorate? Also could you advise if there are any regulations that govern when the political advertising posters are erected? Are there similar guidelines that cover local, State and Federal elections? How are they policed?
4. On polling day, I believe that candidates' material should not be handed out closer than 6 metres to a polling booth. How is that six metres defined? From what point to what point? And how is this policed?
5. The last point is that I understood that there should be no posters or placards, bunting etc close to the entrance



of a booth. I noted around the fourteen or so booths I visited, that posters were propped up close to those who handed out how-to-votes and in two cases, Perth and Campania, they were within six feet of the door of the booth, inside the Polling Booth sign area.

Some of these things have been policed over the years, but it seems to have become more lax and the latter two points are really interfering with the passage of people to polling booths. I think it is time to review some of the regulations that are part of each Federal election.

I would be grateful if these points could be investigated and some new set of guidelines drawn up that are indisputable, both for local, State and Federal elections, as it is getting rather beyond the joke, particularly as there are now so many parties contesting elections.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dick Adams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dick Adams  
Federal Member for Lyons