



Seeking the views of regional and remote voters on the 2007 federal election

Federal parliament's inquiry into all aspects of the 2007 federal election is seeking the views of regional Australians on issues such as what the impact of closing of the electoral rolls earlier and changing the proof of identity requirements had on their ability to vote.

The Chair of the Electoral Matters Committee, Daryl Melham, said the Committee is “particularly interested to hear from regional and remote voters about their concerns, if any, relating to the lead up to and running of the 2007 federal election”.

New technologies, demographic changes and shifting public attitudes to the political system provide ongoing opportunities and challenges to ensuring that all Australian voters can fully participate in the electoral system.

The Committee is interested in any issues or concerns which regional and remote voters may wish to raise relevant to the 2007 election including, but not limited to:

- enrolment
- voting, including postal voting
- remote mobile polling
- accessibility of polling places

The Committee will also investigate the impact on regional and remote voters of recent changes to the integrity of the electoral system, including:

- earlier closing of electoral rolls; and
- requirements for proof of identity when enrolling or re-enrolling

“While all Australian citizens are required to both enrol to vote and vote at elections, it is important that these acts are made as accessible as possible to the entire community,” Mr Melham said.

Members of the public who live in regional and remote areas of Australia and interested groups are invited to make submissions in writing to the Committee until **Friday, 18 July 2008**.

A copy of the full terms of reference for the inquiry is available at the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>.

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chair, Daryl Melham MP on (02) 9774 2111 (Electorate Office).

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2374 or jscem@aph.gov.au.