



Electoral Matters Committee to continue investigation into lost WA Senate ballots

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters will continue its investigation into the issue of the lost WA Senate ballots in a public hearing tomorrow morning with the investigating officer in the Australian Electoral Commission's inquiry into the matter, Mr Mick Keelty AO.

"The loss of 1370 ballots which has resulted in an unprecedented re-run of the WA Senate election is, as the AEC has conceded, its greatest electoral failure. That is why the Committee considers it has a duty to continue its inquiry in a manner that doesn't interfere with the election campaign within Western Australia" said Committee Chair, Tony Smith MP.

"Mr Keelty has made a series of wide-ranging recommendations for the AEC and for this Committee to address," Mr Smith continued, "this is an important opportunity to ensure that we have a full understanding of his concerns before seeking assurances from the AEC that his recommendations have been implemented appropriately."

"Next week, the Committee will proceed with its public hearing with the Acting Electoral Commissioner, Tom Rogers. This will provide a valuable and timely opportunity for Committee members, on behalf of Western Australian voters, to receive a public assurance that all necessary enhancements and improved arrangements have been put in place by the AEC for the conduct of the new election on 5 April."

The Committee welcomes input from individuals who may have knowledge on the events surrounding the management of ballot papers. Submissions can be made to em@aph.gov.au.

Details of the hearing are as follows:

Wednesday, 5 March 2014

10:00am – 11:00am

Committee Room 1R2

Parliament House, Canberra

A detailed program is available at the Committee website. Proceedings will be webcast at [http://www.aph.gov.au/News and Events/Watch Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament).

Media inquiries: contact Andrew Hallam on 0404 043 764 (*Office of Tony Smith MP*).

For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2374, email em@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>