



14 July 2008

The Hon Daryl Melham MP
Chair
Electoral Matters Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA VIC 2600

Dear Daryl

Thank you for the opportunity to have some input into the Electoral Matters Committee inquiry into regional aspects of the 2007 Federal Election.

While I heartily congratulate you on focussing on accessibility of our electoral process for regional and rural voters, I would like to draw your attention to the initial issue of ensuring the integrity of peoples' votes.

You would be aware of the recent decision by the Court of Disputed Returns of the outcome of my electorate of McEwen. You may not be aware but this is the first time that the Australian Electoral Commission has notified such an authority of "dual" or multiple voting.

I strongly encourage you and your committee to recommend to the Government of the urgent need to introduce a requirement for all voters to produce proof of identity and further the need for the introduction of an integrated electronic electoral roll.

Until these have been introduced, our system of voting which ensures the strength of our democracy, can be undermined.

There is simply no benefit to ensuring accessibility of voting if the security of that very system can't be guaranteed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fran Bailey".

HON FRAN BAILEY MP
Federal Member for McEwen