



Inquiry into the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Maintaining Address) Bill

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters will inquire into and report on the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Maintaining Address) Bill 2011.

The Bill seeks to amend the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) to allow the Australian Electoral Commissioner to directly update an elector's enrolled address following the receipt and analysis of reliable and current data sources from outside the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

This Bill gives effect to Recommendation 10 in the committee's *Report on the conduct of the 2007 federal election and matters related thereto*, to allow the Australian Electoral Commission to receive and use information for the purposes of directly updating the electoral roll.

The Bill also contains provisions to enable the Electoral Commissioner to discontinue objection action under Part IX of the Electoral Act and update electoral address information rather than remove electors from the roll. 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.

The Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum are available from the committee's website.

"In examining this Bill, the committee will pay particular attention to ensuring the accuracy of the Electoral Roll and safeguarding the franchise of eligible electors", said Committee Chair Daryl Melham MP.

Stakeholders, members of the public and interested groups are invited to make **submissions to the inquiry by Friday, 27 January 2012.**

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.