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Sent: Friday, 16 May 2008 8:27 AM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
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Subject: Submission

From: Gregory Horne
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Message:

To: The Committee Secretary, JSCEM

Dear Sir,

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2007 Federal Election.

I am an Australian who was posted by my employer to UK in 1996 and have remained here in UK since then.

I have been on the Australian electoral roll (most recently in the Federal seat of North Sydney) since 1974 and have voted in all elections since then.

I was on the electoral roll until early 2007 when the AEC challenged my enrolment on the basis that I didn't live at the address at which I was registered – which was true ... it was my accountant's address which I had registered because I did not know how long I was to be overseas, and received no notification about having to make alternative arrangements.

So in spite of the fact that I continued for years voting at Australia House in London my request to be retained on the electoral roll was denied, and I was subsequently struck off the roll. Since then I have been fighting a losing battle to be re-enrolled, and now understand that I am prevented from re-enrolling until such time that I return to live in Australia.

As a Australian citizen who owns property and other assets in Australia for which I am taxed, who has family still living in Australia who I visit regularly, who is proud of his Australian heritage and tries to always be a good ambassador internationally, I have been quite shocked and upset by this affair, and I firmly believe that I am being denied my constitutional right as an Australian citizen to have an entitlement to vote. In fact, I believe that this Electoral Act places Australia firmly out of step with other Western democracies such as USA and UK and somehow in contravention of International Law in terms of Human Rights.

I urge the Committee to consider overhauling this Electoral Act and review the status of those many thousands of disenfranchised Australia like me.

Yours faithfully
Gregory Horne