

From: Anne-Marie Pike [wacni@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 May 2008 2:38 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject:

14 May, 2008

The Joint Standing Committee
on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Background

The Council for the National Interest in Western Australia (CNI) has taken a keen interest in Australia's Electoral System and the operation of it.

CNI has made a number of submissions to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters in the past and has been researching aspects of the 2007 Federal Election.

These aspects have relevance to the issue of "Voter identification at the ballot box."

Information that we require to finalise our comment on voter identification is not yet available from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). Accordingly we reserve our position on this issue until the information is available, when we will make a further submission.

In the meantime we make the following recommendations.

Recommendations:

- (i) **Identification at the Polling Place** - Procedures must be put in place which ensure that the elector provides identification and proof of address to the satisfaction of the Polling Place supervisor, prior to the voting papers being handed to the elector. This could include a formal identification document for example a Driver's Licence with photo and address or a combination of documents for example a Medicare Card and a Rates Notice.
- (ii) **Multiple Voting** - Implementation of the requirements of the preceding section (i) will go a considerable way towards deterring multiple voting but where an election result in any Seat is very close then before declaration of the poll for that Seat all polling place rolls and provisional votes must be scanned for any evidence of multiple voting. If multiple voting has occurred to an extent which could change the result the poll should not be declared and if necessary a second election should be held.
- (iii) **Closing the Electoral Roll** - The Electoral Roll must close precisely at the time an election is called.
- (iv) **Public Education** - The AEC must be required to conduct an on going programme of public education and information about enrolment requirements, Polling Place voter identification and Roll closure. Prospective electors being properly informed will then come to the Polling Place armed with identification and those who fail to enrol or re-enrol will be disenfranchised by their failure, alone.
- (v) **Cleansing the Electoral Roll** - Australia wide habitation surveys must be conducted on a regular bases of at least once between each federal election.

In view of the absolute need to ensure that the integrity of Australia's electoral system is beyond question, the above recommendations should be adopted.

Yours sincerely

Denis J Whitely
Executive Office
CNI-WA