



MEDIA RELEASE

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ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE 2015 NSW STATE ELECTION

Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters has today tabled a report on preparations for the 2015 State Election.

“With the election only a few months away, it was a good time to examine the preparations for the forthcoming State Election in order to ensure the efficacy and security of this important democratic process,” Mr Ward said.

“After the experience in Western Australia where gross and unacceptable errors by the Australian Electoral Commission resulted in the High Court ruling that a new Senate election be held, we wanted to reassure voters that the same mistakes would not be made in NSW.”

The Committee on Electoral Matters examined preparations by the Electoral Commission and has made four recommendations. These include making sure all ballot papers are initialled, better storage for candidates’ material at pre-poll booths, and removing the requirement for the Electoral Commissioner to keep paper copies of the electoral rolls.

“I’m pleased the committee also examined the need to pursue electronic mark-off. Our committee has previously recommended the Government adopt Voter ID and I strongly support this push. I find it nonsensical that it’s more difficult to get a video card than it is to cast a vote in the future our State.

“We also impressed upon the Commissioner the committees desire to place an emphasis on engaging young voters through social media and keeping track of the latest and best technology in order to do so.

“Public confidence in our electoral system suffered an understandable blow after the experience in Western Australia,” Mr Ward said.

“Voters in NSW can be confident that the WA lessons have been learned and that steps are being taken to avoid similar issues with our Legislative Council count.”

Further information about the inquiry and a copy of the report can be obtained by visiting the Committee’s website at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/electoralmatters.

Media contact: Gareth Ward MP ph 0401 499 933