

# House of Assembly

## Bill

29 June, 2010

Electoral (Publication of Electoral Material) Amendment Bill

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (12:58):** Thank you to the member for Frome for attempting to drag his contribution out to one o'clock. I, too, would like to echo the sentiments of the member for Frome and also the member for Stuart and say that, in the seat of Flinders, the election was fought as a very clean fight. In fact, all my opponents fought the clean fight. We saw a lot of each other during the election. In a country community, we were often all at the same event at the same time.

In many ways, we in Flinders were untouched by the election trickery that occurred on 20 March this year. I note that there were no dodgy how-to-vote cards in my electorate. There were no dodgy T-shirts used in my electorate. However, I would like to put on the record my absolute disdain for the deceitful conduct of the Australian Labor Party in those marginal metropolitan seats where bogus how-to-vote cards were used. In fact, I think it goes to the very heart of our parliamentary democracy, and I think South Australians were rightly outraged by what occurred at that state election. I believe that this bill seeks to ensure that such a deceptive practice never occurs again at any future election. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (15:47):** I was speaking prior to lunch about the dirty tactics undertaken during the recent state/federal election. I think what has happened is that the faith of the public—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Federal election?

**Mr TRELOAR:** Sorry, my apologies: state election. I really think that South Australians expect and deserve better than the tactics that were undertaken during the last state election. It also, I believe, reflects badly on all of us in this house who have chosen this profession, and undeservedly so. In essence, I would like to echo the Liberal Party sentiments of support in terms of the importance of this select committee in relation to this matter. I would also like briefly to discuss one last matter, particularly in relation to my electorate of Flinders, and it has also been mentioned today by a number of other country members, that is, the issue of postal votes.

Unfortunately, the government decided not to issue the writs for the election until only one month prior to the date of the election, leaving just two weeks prior to the election date for the closing of candidates. In essence this meant that there were only two working weeks for the Electoral Commission to get postal votes out and returned to allow people to vote. Obviously, those two weeks are critical. It just so happened that there was a long weekend in there as well, so it came down to nine working days.

I have kept a record of the number of my constituents who contacted me in regard to this matter and who indicated that, despite having applied for a postal vote, either they did not receive in time or at all their form on which to lodge a postal vote. As members would be well aware, it is compulsory to vote in this state, in this country. By issuing the writs and closing nominations for candidates so late in the day, what we have done is deprive people of their obligation to vote and their opportunity to vote in the state election. With those few remarks I close my comments, Madam Deputy Speaker. I was trying to think, during your grievance speech, of the French word for 'grandstand', but it did not come to me.