



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA  
Electoral Matters Committee

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

---

# Hearings to explore social media impact on state elections

The Victorian Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee next week will commence public hearings for its inquiry into the impact of social media on Victorian state elections.

To be broadcast live on the Victorian Parliament's [website](#), the online hearings will be held on Tuesday 17 November and Thursday 19 November.

The schedule for the hearings is available on the Committee's [website](#). Further hearings will take place in early 2021.

"We've received more than 100 submissions to this inquiry from a range of organisations and community members," said Committee Chair Lee Tarlamis.

"Our hearings will provide the opportunity to explore in more detail what can be done to reduce the negative impacts of social media and online advertising on our elections, and how we can take advantage of the positive opportunities that social media brings," he said.

Among those scheduled to present at these first hearings are the Victorian Electoral Commission, Facebook, political parties and academics who have focused on the issues.

"This inquiry has gained international interest with submissions from Canada and Europe in addition to those from our own community," Mr Tarlamis said.

"We will be looking at options that best suit Victoria, while taking account of actions that have been taken in other jurisdictions," he said.

The submissions are available to read on the Committee's [website](#).

"We expect some very interesting discussions at the hearings about the impacts of social media on our elections, so it's well worth tuning in to our live broadcasts next week," Mr Tarlamis said.

*Issued: 13 November 2020*