

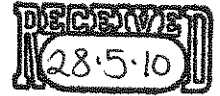


Bendigo Federal Electorate Assembly
of the
Australian Labor Party



The Executive Officer
Electoral Matters Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne 3002

Submission 8



27th May 2010

Dear Mr Scott,

I write this submission on behalf of the Bendigo FEA Executive.

The number of joint electoral booths in Bendigo East and Bendigo West numbered eight in the November 2006 State election.

The proposed number of joint booths for the 2010 election has been increased to nine.

Feedback from voters and from volunteers in the Labor Party working at the joint booths in 2006 revealed the following;

- a. the eight joint booths were poorly staffed by VEC personnel
- b. the booths were either extremely overcrowded (particularly at the Town Hall joint booth) or poorly attended (ie. Big Hill joint booth)
- c. voters were generally confused because the booths were joint Bendigo East and Bendigo West booths
- d. many voters did not know which electorate they were enrolled in

There appears to be a general consensus among those who offered feedback that fewer joint booths would be better for Bendigo voters overall.

However, if the joint booths are to proceed then the following recommendations are suggested by the Bendigo FEA Executive;

- a. that there be fewer joint booths across the electorates in order to avoid confusion and overcrowding
- b. that any joint booths be well staffed by VEC personnel
- c. that clear delineation is made between Bendigo East and Bendigo West voter rolls in joint booths
- d. that clear direction is given to voters at joint booths prior to voting regarding which electorate they are enrolled in.

Yours faithfully

J. Maree Edwards
President
Bendigo FEA