

Damage to Denison ballot papers

On Saturday evening the returning officer for Denison conducted a count of 3,727 postal votes. In preparation for the count, postal vote certificate envelopes were opened with a letter opening machine.

As a result of improper operation of the machine and poor quality control measures, 2,338 postal ballot papers were damaged.

While 2,175 ballot papers were able to be repaired and admitted to the count, 163 were irreparably damaged and have had to be treated as informal.

A range of candidates are likely to have been affected, but Liberal Party candidates disproportionately so.

As Electoral Commissioner I bear ultimate responsibility for this extensive procedural failure, and I apologise unreservedly to Denison candidates and voters.

ENDS — 5:30 PM Sunday 16 March 2014

For further information — Julian Type ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

**YOUR VOTE IS
BIGGER
THAN YOU THINK.**

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