

COMMISSIONER'S SUMMARY

Electoral authorisations – Current investigations

No. 46

Issue	What is the AEC doing about the approximately 30 Facebook pages run by Andrew Laming MP that may not comply with the Electoral Act?
Position	The Facebook pages are currently under investigation by the AEC. It would not be appropriate to comment further.

S 22

No: 46

ELECTORAL AUTHORISATIONS – CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS

Commissioner's summary

Issue	What is the AEC doing about the approximately 30 Facebook pages run by Andrew Laming MP that may not comply with the Electoral Act?
Position	The Facebook pages are currently under investigation by the AEC. It would not be appropriate to comment further.
Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Electoral Act was amended in March 2018 to broaden the authorisation requirements to cover certain electoral mater communicated on social media. • The AEC proactively investigates electoral communications on referral and from our own investigations. If issues are found, the AEC contacts political participants to ensure that electoral matter is properly authorised or removed. • The Electoral Act does not regulate the content of political messages.

Talking points

Question: *What is the AEC doing about the approximately 30 Facebook pages administered by Andrew Laming MP as reported in The Guardian?*

- The Facebook pages purportedly created and/or administered by Andrew Laming MP are currently under investigation by the AEC therefore it would not be appropriate to comment further.

Branch	Legal and Procurement	Updated	10/05/2021 2:08 PM
Contact	Andrew Johnson, Chief Legal Officer	Printed	10/05/2021 2:08 PM

No: 46

Background

Allegations concerning unauthorised Facebook pages administered by Andrew Lamming MP

- On 6 April 2021, the Guardian reported that [Liberal MP Andrew Laming created dozens of Facebook pages to promote LNP and attack opponents](#). The article alleged that the Facebook pages contained electoral matter that was not properly authorised.
- On 7 April 2021, the Guardian reported the [AEC to investigate Liberal MP Andrew Laming over network of Facebook pages that promote LNP](#). Following the allegation of unauthorised electoral matter on Facebook pages, a number of those pages were removed.

S 22



