

Sent:

Fri, 05 Dec 2014 07:12:16 +0800

Subject:

urgent - Eligibility to Vote in Wollongong - ALP Preselection Arthur Rorris

Dear Mr Clements,

Re: Eligibility to Vote in Wollongong ALP Preselection

I refer to the above matter and seek your urgent intervention to clarify and restore my rights as a member of the Australian Labor Party for 20 years to vote in the pre-selection for the state seat of Wollongong to be held tomorrow, 6th December 2014.

I was recently advised that my name did not appear on the eligible voters list issued to candidates for this pre-selection which surprised me and them. Upon raising this matter with state branch officials yesterday I was advised that I do not have continuity of membership because my ticket this year was not issued by the NSW Branch till the 1st May.

So that you are clear on this matter, please note the following facts.

1. I have, for several years authorised the NSW Branch to automatically renew my membership annually and deduct funds for this purpose, precisely for the purpose of ensuring that my membership and continuity does not lapse.
2. When my membership ticket did not arrive by the end of 2013 I contacted the NSW Branch to make sure that there was not a problem and was advised not to worry as I have my membership renewed automatically and that sometimes it takes a little while to ship out tickets.
3. When my membership ticket had not arrived towards the end of March I personally presented to the NSW Branch Offices in Sydney and insisted that the staff check my credit card details to ensure that they are current and they did indeed take my details but insisted that they could not immediately process this as the 'system was down'. I was again assured that my continuity was fine as the 31 March deadline had not passed.
4. My membership ticket did not arrive until much later in the year.

I would like to think that this is an unfortunate case of administrative errors. If that is so, please advise of your action to restore my democratic right to vote in tomorrow's pre-selection. If there is any other motivation behind this situation which threatens the most basic of membership rights then it raises much more serious questions about the Branch and this pre-selection process.

Thank you for giving this matter your urgent attention and I look forward to your response.

Arthur Rorris
Member 944617