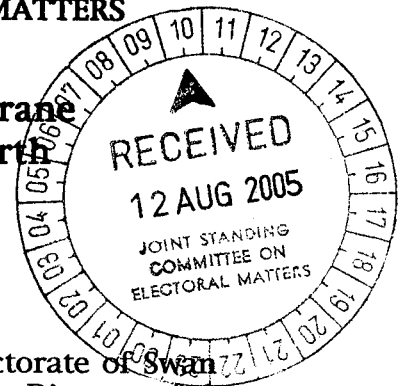


SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION TO THE  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS  
12 AUGUST 2005

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	189
Submission No	12/6/05
Date Received	At
Secretary	SD

**Notes of a Meeting with Winston Crane  
At Samuel Griffith Conference. Perth  
14 March 2004**



## 1. SWAN - 1993 Federal Election

A report describing apparent fraudulent enrolment in the electorate of Swan prior to the March 1993 federal election was handed to the State Director of the Liberal Party of Australia -Western Australian Division, Mr Peter Wells (previously Research Officer) around April/May 1993 after the 1993 Federal election. The report came from the then Senator, Winston Crane who asked Peter Wells to get the AEC to clean up the roll and hold a new election. I asked Winston to fill me in on the background.

Kim Beazley's win in the seat of Swan had been by a margin of 278 votes over the Liberal Party's candidate Brian Hilbert. It was alleged in the report, put together by Winston Crane and the research people in the campaign office and under cover of a handwritten note from him, that around 1500 votes had come from recent enrolments. He was later informed that it was organised by an aboriginal woman supporter of the Labor Party, a Ms Kickett.

Winston told me that, between 1993 and 1996, information came from an Aborigine called Cedric Wyatt who had been a supporter of the ALP but had switched his loyalty due to some promise which the ALP had made to him but had broken ( Carmen Lawrence's name was mentioned) and because the Liberal Party had accepted his name for preselection for the Federal seat of Kalgoorlie.

Crane was informed that after the 1993 election, Ms Kickett "had turned sour against the ALP" and Cedric Wyatt "went quiet but told Winston Crane about it". At that time Wyatt was living in Lathlain, Perth. He was not a supporter of the Mabo decision. Most of the false named applications for registration were allegedly made out on Voter Registration forms by Ms Kickett in Aborigine names.

In 1990, the Liberal Party in WA had set out to target the Beazley/Labor held seat of Swan, the third lowest socio-economic area in Australia, formerly held by 16%. The ALP margin was reduced from 12.5% to 8.5%. In 1993 the John Hewson GST letter was posted to every elector in Swan by Crane. 7500 were returned to sender and passed to the AEC. The margin came down to 4%.

After the pre 1993 election cull of the roll from the Return-to-Sender mail this had resulted in a significant reduction in the next Return to Sender mail - 2500 letters after the 1993 election were returned to Winston Crane's office. In the initial pre 1993 election mail out 48 voters had been registered at a block of flats which had been knocked down six years previously. The post 1993 election analysis showed that the increase in voter registrations were primarily aboriginal families who had allegedly been moved in to bolster the ALP supporters. There were few new addresses, just more names at existing addresses of occupied residences.

Under cover of a letter, a copy of the report was allegedly passed by Peter Wells to the AEC Swan electorate office in WA. The AEC did nothing to investigate the complaint and apparently commented that "*there was nothing of substance in it, the election is over, it would be impossible to prove how many were at false addresses, as far as we are concerned all those on the past list are bone fide*" and they did not investigate the matter.

An official at the Swan Electorate office in Mint Street Victoria Park told this to Winston Crane that the matter was over and they were not going to investigate. It is understood that the AEC sent the report or a copy on to their Canberra office.

However, the ABC's "4 Corners" Program got hold of the story and appeared in Perth chasing Wyatt. Ms Kickett disappeared and could not be found. The crass handling of their enquiry by the "4 Corners" reporter killed the hunt.

As the story unfolded, Cedric Wyatt was nominated in 1996 for preselection as Liberal member for the Federal seat of Kalgoorlie but lost. Wyatt was appointed by the Dowding/Lawrence/Court governments to run the WA office of Aboriginal Affairs from 1988 to 1997.

Enquiries since about the report have drawn a blank. When Winston caught up with Cedric Wyatt late in 2004, Wyatt did not want to discuss the matter - 'it has all gone long ago' and he did not want to be involved in it any more.

Peter Wells in 1996 was the Executive Director of the Liberal Party's Western Australian Division at a time when Senator Noel Crichton Brown was a significant power broker in that Division and running into trouble with parts of the Liberal Party, due to having been caught out claiming unjustified travel expenses.

In the wash-up following Noel Crichton Brown's disendorsement, Peter Wells, some years later, also lost his job as Executive Director. When he went it was understood that he was disgusted with his treatment by the Liberal Party and hence did not have access to the information beyond that time.

On 4 August 2004 I tried unsuccessfully to contact Peter Wells via Bill Hassell and Vicki Moore, the Secretary to Paul Everingham, until recently Executive Director of the Liberal Party's WA Division.

On 24 July 2005 I managed to contact Peter Wells, who told me that there should be a copy of the report in the WA Liberal Party's files with a minute recording its receipt and presumably also on the files of the WA Office of the AEC. A Freedom of Information request should enable its discovery. However, inquiries since about the report have drawn a blank.

*As described by Winston Crane*  
10.08.05

I include copy of the Statutory Declaration By Winston Crane with the letter from Cedric Wyatt attached, confirming the accuracy of this submission.



W. Bruce Kirkpatrick  
11.08 2005

# Statutory Declaration

I, Arthur Winston CRANE  
(FULL NAME OF DECLARANT / PERSON MAKING THE DECLARATION)

of Oldfield location 800 Jerdouctah  
(ADDRESS OF DECLARANT / PERSON MAKING THE DECLARATION)

Via Ravensthorpe WA Postcode 6346

in the State/Territory of West Australia

Insert your occupation(s) Farmer & Grazier

do solemnly and sincerely declare that

The information that I have provided to the joint submission with Bruce Kirkpatrick to your committee is as far as I recall absolutely accurate as to the fundamentals of the contents. The numbers as I recall them are accurate but have been rounded off. The comments of the A.E.C. officer are absolutely correct in their fabric and happened when I went to that office on Mint Street <sup>East</sup> Victoria Park to find out what was happening.

P. W. Crane

Place your initials in the box beside the State or Territory in which your Statutory Declaration is being made.

N.S.W. - And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1900*.

VIC. - And I acknowledge that this declaration is true and correct, and I make it in the belief that a person making a false declaration is liable to the penalties of perjury.

QLD. - And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

S.A. - And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1936*.

W.A. - And I make this solemn declaration by virtue of section 106 of the *Evidence Act 1906*.

TAS. - I make this solemn declaration under the *Oaths Act 2001*.

N.T. - And I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the *Oaths Act* and conscientiously believing the statements contained in this declaration to be true in every particular.  
NOTE: A person wilfully making a false statement in a declaration is liable to a penalty of \$2,000 or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

CTH/ACT - And I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* statutory declarations, conscientiously believing the statements contained in this declaration to be true in every particular.

Declared at RAVENSTHORPE in the State/Territory of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

this 10<sup>TH</sup> day of AUGUST 2005

R.W. Crow

(SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT / PERSON MAKING THE DECLARATION)

before me,

Keith Rowe

(SIGNATURE OF WITNESS / PERSON BEFORE WHOM THE DECLARATION IS MADE)

KEITH ROWE

(NAME OF WITNESS / PERSON BEFORE WHOM THE DECLARATION IS MADE)

LOT 639 DONN ST.

(ADDRESS OF WITNESS / PERSON BEFORE WHOM THE DECLARATION IS MADE)

RAVENSTHORPE W.A. Postcode 6346

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE 3476

Winston Crane  
Fax 98385046

Winston Crane has provided me with details of a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters.

My response to that information is that the comments are correct, according to my recollection of events.

Crane

CODIC WYATT

11 August 2005

STATUTORY DECLARATION  
NSW OATHS ACT 1900

I, Alexander Cornell Stewart, of 20 Benalong St, St Marys in the State Of New South Wales do hereby solemnly declare and affirm that:-

1 On 19<sup>th</sup> March I was handing out How to Vote leaflets near the gate of the Greenway Park Polling Booth. At about 11 am I observed a man (plus wife and one or two children) with a distinctive shirt of green and black on white, with a small 'pot belly' and a brown moustache take an ALP How to Vote leaflet from a person near me; he declined to take my leaflet and made a derogatory remark. He went into the Polling Booth presumably to vote.

2 At about 1202pm I was walking towards the Polling Booth at William Carey Christian School, Bumbera Rd, Prestons West to give my wife the Esky with food in it for lunch and to collect her friend Diane to deliver her to Liverpool railway station. I saw this same man (plus wife and 1 or 2 children) with distinctive shirt, pot belly and moustache walking out of the Polling Booth. As I gave my wife the Esky I said, "Get the Scrutineer Form NOW and go in and register, because I need to know the name of the Officer in Charge. I will be back as soon as I drop Diane at the station." She could not find the scrutineer Form and so it took me about 20 seconds to find it. I said to Diane, "Please follow me out to the car; you can walk, but I shall run."

3 I ran out to the car park - about 120 metres - to see if I could observe the number plate of the car of the man who appears to have voted twice, but I could not find him.

4 After I had driven Diane to the station, bought some food, and made some phone calls, I returned to the Prestons West polling booth, where I spoke to the security guard, Mr Robert John Campbell. He said he clearly remembered me running out shortly after midday. Then I went into the Polling Booth, introduced myself to the Officer in Charge and wrote down a "Report on Miscellaneous Matters and Incidents".

5 Just after 5pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, I visited a home near Liverpool, and told the above incident of apparent multiple voting to a man whose name I prefer not to say till I have his permission (let us call him Mr X). He has been a member of the ALP for years.

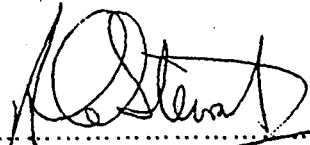
6 Mr X said, "We used to do that all the time in the Labor Party, and there were at least 100 other people like me, and we would go and vote at 5 or 6 or 7 schools." I said, "Did you do it only when the seat was marginal, or all the time?" Mr X said, "We did it all the time. Labor Party Head Office told us to do it. You are talking about at least 700 votes each election. They wanted us to do it. It makes the figures look better, makes the seat look safer. And the Electoral Commission never checks up on it. We were never caught."

I said, "At how many elections did you do this?"

Mr X said, "At the last 2 or 3 State elections, and at the last 2 or 3 Federal elections"

And I make this solemn declaration, in accordance with the Oaths Act 1900, and subject to the punishment by law provided for the making of any willful false statement in any such declaration.

Declared at..... St Marys )  
this..... 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 2005 )

  
SIGNATURE

before me: Suzanne English  
.....  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

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SUZANNE ENGLISH  
J.P. # 200201556  
POLICE STATION  
ST. MARYS