Statement

By the Deputy of the Chairperson, NSW Electoral Commission

26 July 2017

Charge laid against the Australian Labor Party Member for Wallsend.

The NSW Electoral Commission has laid a charge against the Australian Labor Party Member for Wallsend for using enrolment information that had been provided by the Commission for a purpose not permitted under the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* ("the Act").

The Commission alleges that in August 2016, the Member used her position to cause access to enrolment information that been lawfully provided by the Electoral Commissioner to a registered party [the Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)] under the Act, for a purpose not permitted under the Act.

One charge has been laid by the Commission, under section 42(1) of the Act.

The New South Wales Crown Solicitor's Office is prosecuting this matter on behalf of the Commission.

The offence carries a maximum penalty of $110,000, but as the matter will be heard in the Local Court of NSW, the maximum fine that can be imposed is $22,000.

The Court Attendance Notice has been served and the matter is listed before the Downing Centre Local Court on Monday, 28 August 2017.

_____

ABOUT THE NSW ELECTORAL COMMISSION

In December 2014, the three member Electoral Commission was constituted. It is separate to the agency led by the Electoral Commissioner. The Commission is an independent, statutory authority. It approves public funding to the political parties and others and enforces the provisions of three NSW Acts. These provisions govern electoral funding, expenditure and disclosures, the conduct of State elections and the lobbying of government officials. The Commission's Chairperson is the Hon Keith Mason AC QC, a former President of the NSW Court of Appeal (1997 to 2008). The Deputy of the Commission's Chairperson is Adjunct Professor Joseph Campbell, a former judge of the NSW Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of New South Wales (2001 to 2012). Information about this independent Commission's work can view viewed at: www.elections.nsw.gov.au/about_us/work_of_the_commission.