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Key speaking points to media AFP inquiries in Herbert regarding apparent multiple voters

- This is a normal, but important, election integrity process, where the AEC scans and compares certified (voter) lists within each electoral division.
- By conducting this activity, the AEC is able to identify instances where there appears to be more than one mark against the same voter's name, and potentially more than one vote cast by the elector.
- The AEC undertakes this comparison for every seat.
- Noting that the prevailing margin was as little as one vote during the Herbert recount in recent days, the AEC decided to prioritise its check of voter lists and refer apparent instances of multiple votes to the AFP. **All instances are apparent dual votes.**
- The narrow margin at the conclusion of the recount is also the lowest in several elections, so the decision to make an early referral to the AFP for their assessment is clearly justified in the view of the AEC.
- The AFP are presently assessing the referral and making inquiries. The AEC will be advised of the outcome in due course.
- This activity has no effect on the processes of finalising the count in Herbert. The full distribution of preferences is underway, and once completed and the final margin is known, arrangements will be made for the seat will be declared in favour of the leading candidate.
- The outcome for Herbert included in the return of writs for the House of Representatives by 8 August 2016. All of these processes are all required under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

Commented [P1]: Note without this comment we will get free media speculation of egregious multiple voting, such as occurred in FE13, of up to 14 times etc

If asked about potential CDR petition by the AEC or the safety of the Herbert election result

- I am unable to comment on those matters at this time. The AEC's present focus is to finalise the count in Herbert, declare the seat and return the writs.
- Following AFP assessment, the AEC will advise if it has a further comment to make.

If asked about whether or not we will make public the AFP's examination of Herbert multiple votes

- Following AFP assessment, the AEC will advise it's response.
- The AEC also provides information to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters on a wide range of matters, including multiple voting data. AEC submissions are published through the APH website.