

## Statement

By the Chairperson, NSW Electoral Commission

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27 April 2018

### **Charges laid against a Sydney resident over unlawful electoral material.**

The NSW Electoral Commission has laid charges against Sydney resident Zheng Wei for printing and causing the distribution of non-compliant electoral material in the Georges River electorate during the regulated period leading up to the September 2017 Local Council Elections.

The Commission alleges that during the regulated period leading up to the Local Council Elections on 9 September 2017, Mr Wei printed and caused the distribution of electoral material which failed to legibly show the name and address of the person on whose instruction the material was printed, and the name of the printer and the street address of the premises at which it was printed. It is also alleged Mr Wei printed and caused the distribution of electoral material that was obscene or offensive.

Charges have been laid by the Commission under clauses 356D and 356G(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

The offences carry a maximum penalty of \$1,100 and \$550 respectively.

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

Court Attendance Notices have been served and the matter is listed before the Sutherland Local Court on Thursday 10 May 2018.

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#### **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 Commission. The Commission is an independent, statutory authority. It approves public funding to the political parties and others and enforces the provision of four NSW Acts. These provisions govern electoral funding, expenditure and disclosures, the conduct of State and local government 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). Information about this independent Commission's work can be viewed at: [www.elections.nsw.gov.au/about\\_us/work\\_of\\_the\\_commission](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/about_us/work_of_the_commission).