



Brian Loughnane
Federal Director
Liberal Party of Australia
PO Box 6004
Kingston, ACT
2604

17 November 2008

Dear Mr. Loughnane,

I am writing in reference to *The Soapbox* website, an online political archive here at The University of Melbourne [<http://thesoapbox.unimelb.edu.au>] which focuses on Australian federal elections. The website is a resource which makes available political speeches and advertisements dating back to 1901.

I originally wrote to you on 8 November 2007 to request your permission in writing for Liberal Party materials to appear on the site. I have not received a reply. My research assistant Stephanie Younane did however, verbally follow up on my request several times over the course of the past year and re-sent a written request for permission on 24 June, 2008. Since this time she was advised by Sarah Jaensch and Dominique that written permission would be forthcoming.

We have included Liberal materials on the site on this understanding. However, as a year has now passed and, despite many phone calls and faxes, no written permission has been provided, we must presume that this is either an oversight or that you do not wish us to include Liberal Party material on the website. I am hoping that it has been an oversight and that you are still willing to provide us written authorisation as I know we receive quite a bit of traffic on the website from academics, journalists and even party members (including some Liberal Party members and MPs) who have contacted me to say how much they enjoy the site.

If written permission is not provided by Friday 5 December, I will interpret this to mean that the Liberal Party does not wish to have its materials on the website. As the University's copyright office will not allow me to continue including those materials without written permission, we will therefore remove all Liberal Party materials on Monday 8 December 2008. In order to explain to the site's visitors why there are only ALP materials on the site and no Liberal Party materials, I will post a copy of this letter on the homepage.

As I said above, I really do hope that it was merely an oversight. I have always appreciated the Liberal Party's interest in political history and cooperation in documenting Australia's electoral history. I think the website is a very useful research and teaching resource for the academic community but also valuable for the media and the general public.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sally Young
Senior Lecturer
Media and Communications Program