Balancing Openness and Integrity: Parliament's Role in the Age of AI and Deepfakes

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Abstract: This article explores how the Parliament of Victoria balances its commitment to accessibility and transparency with the risks posed by artificial intelligence (AI) and deepfakes. Traditionally viewed as exclusive and opaque, parliaments modelled on the Westminster system, specifically the Parliament of Victoria, have sought to strengthen democracy through reforms such as live broadcasting, closed captioning, and community engagement. While these initiatives enhance public participation, they also increase the risk that parliamentary material may be manipulated and misused. The issue is significant because existing scholarship has considered misinformation and parliamentary engagement separately, but little attention has been given to how accessibility reforms may heighten exposure to deepfake technologies. The research question guiding this paper is: How can parliaments remain accessible and transparent while protecting its integrity from AI-driven threats? This paper analyses parliamentary standing orders, legislative frameworks, and international developments. It argues that while current broadcasting rules ensure accuracy in traditional media, they are inadequate for the unregulated dynamics of social platforms. The key finding is that accessibility and integrity must be jointly pursued through measures such as watermarking, civic education, and digital literacy, reframing accessibility not as a vulnerability but as a foundation for democratic resilience in the face of technological change.

INTRODUCTION

The Parliament of Victoria, modelled on the Westminster system, carries with it a reputation for tradition and rigidity, reflecting the wider perception of such institutions as archaic and exclusive.[70] Although Australia has 'a relatively robust and resilient democracy, there remains

[70] Fotis Fitsilis, 'A Paradigm Shift for Parliaments', *International Journal of Parliamentary Studies* 3 (2023) 1-4.

significant pockets of discontent',[71] particularly in the face of growing public demand for accessibility, transparency, and engagement. In its 2023-2026 strategic priorities, the Parliament of Victoria has committed to enhancing public awareness and access through education and direct community interaction.[72] Central to this initiative is the use of technology, including live broadcasting and closed captioning, to make parliamentary proceedings more accessible to diverse audiences, including those with hearing impairments.[73]

While these advancements represent a significant step toward demystifying Parliament and fostering public trust, they also present new challenges in the form of emerging technologies like AI and deepfakes.[74] These tools, capable of creating highly realistic but fabricated content, raise concerns about the potential misuse of parliamentary footage. Such threats, although not entirely new, have become pervasive and sophisticated, making it easier to manipulate and spread false information.[75] With politicians increasingly targeted by deepfake content globally, the risk of misinformation influencing public perception, political debates, and even elections, has grown exponentially.[76]

Parliament now faces the challenge of balancing its commitment to accessibility with the need to safeguard its integrity and maintain public confidence in its processes. While traditional broadcasting rules and standing orders aim to ensure fair and accurate use of parliamentary material, the unregulated nature of social media complicates these efforts. This article explores the Parliament of Victoria's efforts to adapt to technological change, examining how accessibility and transparency can coexist with the need to address the risks posed by AI and deepfakes, ensuring the institution remains both relevant and resilient in an evolving digital landscape.

[71] Nicholas Biddle and Matthew Gray, 'Perceptions of democracy and other political attitudes in Australia: October 2024', *POLIS The Centre for Social Political Research*, Australian National University.

[72] Department of the Legislative Council, *Annual Report 2023-24*, Parliament of Victoria, p 4.

[73] Department of Parliamentary Services, *Annual Report 2023-24*, Parliament of Victoria, pp 22-23.

[74] Aileen Walker, 'A People's Parliament?', *Parliamentary Affairs* (2012), 65, 270-280; Olivier Aubert, Joscha Jager, Making Parliamentary Debates More Accessible: Aligning Video Recordings with Text Proceedings in Open Parliament TV, *Open Parliament TV*, May 2024.

[75] Maria Pawelec, 'Deepfakes and Democracy (Theory): How Synthetic Audio-Visual Media for Disinformation and Hate Speech Threaten Core Democratic Functions', *Digital Society*, 2022 pp. 1-19.

[76] Andrew Ray, 'Disinformation, Deepfakes and Democracies: The Need for Legislative Reform', *UNSW Law Journal*, 44(3), pp. 983-1013.

TENSIONS BETWEEN THE NOTION OF AN ACCESSIBLE PARLIAMENT AND CONTROL OVER THE SOURCE OF TRUTH

The Parliament of Victoria is based on the Westminster Parliament in the United Kingdom—a system that is widely respected for its historical significance and democratic traditions.[77] However, it's important to note that the Westminster Parliament is not universally admired.[78] Many observers, both in the UK and abroad, regard it as an institution that can feel outdated, exclusive, and somewhat closed off from the public.[79] These perceptions stem from its centuries-old customs, formal procedures, and the physical grandeur of its buildings, which together can create an impression of privilege and privacy rather than openness and accessibility.[80]

For readers unfamiliar with the Australian context, this is a crucial entry point: the very model on which Victoria's Parliament is built carries both prestige and criticism.[81] Understanding these mixed perceptions helps frame ongoing debates about how parliaments can balance tradition with the need for transparency and public engagement.[82]

The public does not have much knowledge about Parliament or its day-to-day activities.[83] This lack of knowledge, which can also be seen as a lack of transparency, creates a significant barrier to engagement with the public.[84] Due to the current digital society, there is also growing public expectation for transparency and accessibility.[85] Citizens now expect to be informed about politics and parliamentary activity[86], so it is evident that in order to have a true working representative democracy, it is important that the public is informed and engaged with their

[77] Susanna Kalitowski, 'Parliament for the People? Public Knowledge, Interest and Perceptions of the Westminster Parliament', *Parliamentary Affairs*, 62(2), 2009, 350-363.

[78] Philip Norton, 'Is the Westminster system of government alive and well?', *Journal of International and Comparative Law* (2022) 9(1), pp. 1-24.

[79] Walker, *A People's Parliament?*, pp. 270-280.

[80] Kalitowski, *Parliament for the People?* pp. 350-363.

[81] Walker, *A People's Parliament?*, pp. 270-280.

[82] Kalitowski, *Parliament for the People?* pp. 350-363.

[83] Kalitowski, *Parliament for the People?* pp. 350-363.

[84] Kalitowski, *Parliament for the People?* pp. 350-363.

[85] Cristina Leston-Bandeira, 'How public engagement has become a must for parliaments in today's democracies', *Australasian Parliamentary Review*, 37(2), 2022, p. 9.

[86] Leston-Bandeira, *How public engagement has become a must for parliaments in toda*y*'s democracies*, p. 9

Parliament.[87]

The Parliament of Victoria has signified the importance of democracy and accessibility, with one of its strategic priorities for 2023-26 being creating 'greater awareness of and access to Parliament through direct community engagement and education'.[88] The overarching theme for the Parliament of Victoria's strategic plan is strengthening democracy by making the Parliament more accessible and increasing engagement with the community.[89] This reflects key points made by the Inter-Parliamentary Union about the importance of public engagement with parliaments, especially the need for parliaments to be future focussed by keeping up with technological change.[90]

One of the measures that the Parliament of Victoria has introduced to improve accessibility is the live closed captioning of the chamber proceedings.[91] Although formal written records of proceedings are available through *Hansard*, the Legislative Assembly's *Votes and Proceedings* or the Legislative Council's *Minutes*, live broadcasting has enabled the public to watch proceedings in real time without having to physically attend the building. This technology assists in disseminating information about Parliament and the role of members, effectively opening Parliament up to the public and demystifying it.[92] The introduction of closed captioning has further improved accessibility, allowing the hearing-impaired to engage with the Parliament in real time.[93] Live broadcasting is currently available on the Parliament of Victoria's website, with Question Time and other debates of public importance posted on YouTube.

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[87] Kalitowski, *Parliament for the People?* pp. 350-363; Jorn von Lucke, Fotios Fitsilis and Stephane Gagnon, 'Comparative Analysis of the Relevance and Priority for Artificial Intelligence Tools, Services and Open Questions in the Hellenic, Argentinian and Canadian Parliaments', *International Journal of Parliamentary Studies*, 2024, pp. 1-30; Fotios Fitsilis, *Beyond standard parliamentary work:side activities of modern representative institutions*, Working paper – 3. Global Conference on Parliamentary Studies, 10 June 2024.

[88] Department of the Legislative Council, *Annual Report 2023-24*, Parliament of Victoria, p 4.

[89] Department of the Legislative Council, *Annual Report 2023-24*, Parliament of Victoria, p 4.

[90] Inter-Parliamentary Union *Public engagement in the work of parliament,* Global Parliamentary Report 2022*,* p. 8.

[91] Department of Parliamentary Services, *Annual Report 2023-24*, Parliament of Victoria, pp 22-23.

[92] Aileen Walker, 'A People's Parliament?', *Parliamentary Affairs*, 65, 2012 pp. 270-280; Aubert, Olivier, Jager, Joscha, *'Making Parliamentary Debates More Accessible: Aligning Video Recordings with Text Proceedings in Open Parliament TV'*; Parliamentary broadcasting – context, engagement and evolution – an Irish perspective, Donnacha McKeon, 10 January 2023, Accessed at: https://www.ipu.org/event/parliamentary-broadcasting-context-engagement-and-evolution-irish-perspective

[93] Department of Parliamentary Services, *Annual Report 2023-24*, Parliament of Victoria, pp 22-23.

Whilst this accessibility has been positive for engaging with Victorians and allowing the public to easily keep up to date with parliamentary proceedings, with the flood of new technology, in particular Artificial Intelligence (AI) and deepfakes, one wonders if the hours of available footage of Members of Parliament will be used maliciously. This threat is not a new phenomenon, media manipulation is an age-old issue, and this is simply a modern manifestation.[94] Prior to the invention of the printing press, books and information were written by hand and closely guarded.[95] Mass printing production was looked upon suspiciously and this saw the beginning of propaganda and misinformation being printed and shared.[96] There are similarities to this with how carefully parliamentary records are produced and kept, with accuracy being a key tenet. Hard copies of parliamentary records are carefully guarded yet with growing technologies, there is a question of whether parliamentary records posted online (and the voices and faces of members) are at threat.[97]

CURRENT BROADCASTING RULES IN VICTORIA

Broadcast is defined under the Parliament of Victoria's Legislative Council Standing Orders as the 'transmission of proceedings, by any medium, including but not limited to television, radio, internet and still photography, and including any broadcasting'.[98] The Legislative Council authorises the broadcast of proceedings on terms and conditions set out by the President.[99] Filming and photography may only occur when the Chair is presiding over the House or Committee, and it may only include activities related to the Legislative Council or Committee proceedings.[100] Importantly, the Legislative Council Standing Orders set out the rules for use of the broadcast, including that it needs to be a 'fair and accurate' report of the proceedings and a 'reasonable balanced presentation of views'.[101] It also states it must not be used 'in a way

[94] Pawelec, *Deepfakes and Democracy (Theory): How Synthetic Audio-Visual Media for Disinformation and Hate Speech Threaten Core Democratic Functions*, pp. 1-19.

[95] Foley, Dr Catherine, Australia's Chief Scientist, Australian Government, *Official Committee Hansard*, Parliament of Australia, 20 May 2024, pp. 14-21.

[96] Foley, Dr Catherine, Australia's Chief Scientist, Australian Government, *Official Committee Hansard*, Parliament of Australia, 20 May 2024, pp. 14-21.

[97] Von Lucke, Jorn, Frank, Sander, 'A few Thoughts on the Use of ChatGPT, GPT 3.5, GPT-4 and LLMs in Parliaments: Reflecting on the results of experimenting with LLMs in the parliamentarian context', *Digital Government: Research and Practice* 6(2) 2025, pp. 1-21.

[98] Parliament of Victoria, *Standing Orders*, Legislative Council, Chapter 20.01

[99] *Standing Orders*, Chapter 20.02

[100] *Standing Orders*, Chapter 20.03

[101] *Standing Orders*, Chapter 20.04

that is misleading'.[102]

The Legislative Assembly Standing Orders similarly defines broadcast as 'transmission to the public by radio, television, landline, the internet or any other electronic means' and includes rebroadcast. [103] The Legislative Assembly Standing Orders cover off on accredited media and the permission they must seek from the Speaker. [104] There are numerous rules that must be adhered to when broadcasting the proceedings, such as no undue fixation on one member in particular, no misrepresenting the context of the proceedings, the seating position or the office held and ensuring a balance of government and non-government members and their differing views.[105] Additionally, the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders outline what the proceedings must not be used for. Unsurprisingly, the recordings must not be used for 'political party advertising or election campaigns', 'commercial sponsorship or commercial advertising' or 'media advertisements or promotion'. [106] The Standing Orders also explicitly state that recordings must not be used for 'satire or ridicule'.[107] Complaints of breaches can be made to the Speaker or President to decide on an outcome. It is important to note that this is a very complicated space for parliaments to govern as they cannot police social media. Members are public figures who are often provocative in the House, and it is not uncommon for this to be used against them on social media after the fact.

The *Constitution Act 1975* (Vic) also touches on the transmission and broadcasting of Parliamentary proceedings.[108] Section 74AA of the *Constitution Act 1975* (Vic) sets out that no civil or criminal action or proceedings will occur for the transmission, broadcast or rebroadcast of parliamentary or committee proceedings if there is authority of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council or its Committees.[109]

[102] *Standing Orders*, Chapter 20.04

[103] *Standing Orders*, Chapter 27, 232 (1)

[104] *Standing Orders*, Chapter 27, 232 (2)

[105] *Standing Orders*, Chapter 27, 232 (3)

[106] *Standing Orders*, Chapter 27, 232 (3)

[107] *Standing Orders*, Chapter 27, 232 (3)

[108] *Constitution Act 1975* (Vic), s74AA

[109] *Constitution Act 1975* (Vic), s74AA

THE PROLIFERATION OF POLITICAL DEEPFAKES

Deepfakes, AI and related technologies are becoming increasingly prevalent and beginning to affect parliaments around the world.[110] The *Artificial Intelligence Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689)* defines deepfakes as 'synthetic or manipulated image, audio, or video content, which would deceptively seem to be truthful or authentic, and that resembles existing individuals, places, objects or other events or entities'.[111] Once perceived as a threat exclusive to celebrities for face swapping and pornographic content,[112] it is reported that politicians are increasingly becoming the target of deepfake materials.[113]

From previous technology that was clunky and easy to spot, recent advancements have meant that the quality of deepfakes are now almost impossible to detect with the naked eye.[114] Previously, hundreds of images were required in order to make a convincing deepfake, whereas now a realistic deepfake can be generated with a small number of images.[115] Along with advancements that create the potential for high quality deepfakes, it is also easier than ever to share and spread the material with thousands of people via social media.[116]

Videos shot with consistent, front-on lighting are easier to replicate, putting footage of politicians at risk.[117] Not only have we seen numerous examples of political deepfakes in the

[110] Jorn von Lucke, Fotios Fitsilis and Stephane Gagnon, 'Comparative Analysis of the Relevance and Priority for Artificial Intelligence Tools, Services and Open Questions in the Hellenic, Argentinian and Canadian Parliaments', *International Journal of Parliamentary Studies* (2024), pp. 1-30

[111] *Artificial Intelligence Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689), Article 3(60)*; Felipe Romero Moreno, 'Generative AI and deepfakes: a human rights approach to tackling harmful content', *International Review of Law, Computers and Technology 2024* 38(3), pp. 297-326

[112] Felipe Romero Moreno, 'Generative AI and deepfakes: a human rights approach to tackling harmful content', *International Review of Law, Computers and Technology 2024* 38(3), pp. 297-326

[113] Paula Tabea Berenzen, Deepfakes as a Threat to Democracy – Perceptions, Challenges and Implications of Deepfake Discourses in Democracies, University of Twente, Enschede & Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster 2024, pp. 20-25; Maria Pawelec, Deepfakes and Democracy (Theory): How Synthetic Audio-Visual Media for Disinformation and Hate Speech Threaten Core Democratic Functions, *Digital Society* (2022), pp. 1-19

[114] Todd C. Helmus, 'Artificial Intelligence, Deepfakes and Disinformation: A Primer', *RAND Corporation* 2022, pp. 3-5; Ray, *Disinformation, Deepfakes and Democracies: The Need for Legislative Reform*, pp. 983-1013

[115] Ray, *Disinformation, Deepfakes and Democracies: The Need for Legislative Reform*, pp. 983-1013

[116] Pawelec, *Deepfakes and Democracy (Theory): How Synthetic Audio-Visual Media for Disinformation and Hate Speech Threaten Core Democratic Functions*, pp. 1-19

[117] Ray, *Disinformation, Deepfakes and Democracies: The Need for Legislative Reform*, pp. 983-1013

Unites States and other countries – such as the deepfake of Donald Trump getting arrested[118] – but we are also seeing an increasing amount in Australia. It has been over four years since the first political deepfake in Australia debuted, of the then Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk; and although if you looked closely, it was marked as fake, it has had over one million views.[119] Since then, there has been numerous other examples of political deepfakes in Australia, such as satirical deepfakes of Stephen Miles and Peter Dutton dancing.[120]

The Australian Senate recently completed a Select Committee on Adopting AI. Whilst the Committee looked at a breadth of matters concerning AI in Australia, it raised significant issues concerning the upcoming federal election.[121] The Committee noted that deepfakes can be produced at significant volumes and low cost, thus potential malicious actors are able to take advantage of this growing technology.[122] If political deepfakes are allowed to run rampant, it is possible that it will influence the result of political debates or elections, as well as erode public trust and lead to uncertainty.[123]

MAINTAINING AN ACCESSIBLE AND TRANSPARENT PARLIAMENT AMID TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

Parliaments around the world have shown the ability to adapt to fast-changing environments, which was evident during the COVID pandemic.[124] Although lockdowns and regulations forced the hand of many parliaments, this landscape showed that parliaments were able to work in environments previously thought of as impossible.[125] The ever-increasing technological

[118] '*Fake images of Trump arrest show giant step for AI's disruptive power*', 22 March 2023, The Washington Post. Accessed at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/03/22/trump-arrest-deepfakes/

[119] ABC News (Australia) (2024, October 8), *Could digitally altered videos of politicians threaten our democracy?*, *ABC News* [Video], YouTube. Accessed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DFz-_9Sdwo

[120] ABC News *Could digitally altered videos of politicians threaten our democracy?*

[121] Senate Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence, Parliament of Australia, *Final Report*, November 2024, p. 1

[122] Senate Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence, *Final Report*, p. 10

[123] Senate Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence, *Final Report*,, p. 11

[124] Francesco Bromo, Paolo Gambacciani, & Marco Improta (2024), 'Governments and parliaments in a state of emergency: what can we learn from the COVID-19 pandemic?', *The Journal of Legislative Studies*, pp. 1-29

[125] The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, 'Socially Distant but Democratically Together: Towards a Virtual Parliament in NSW', *Australasian Parliamentary Review* 34(2) 2020, pp. 29-54;

advancements do not present as urgent or unavoidable like with COVID but whether parliaments are ready or not, this technology is going to start affecting every aspect of working parliaments.[126]

One thing that the pandemic helped fast-track for parliaments was the shift of certain functions online, which were previously considered only possible in person. This has helped put accessibility on the front foot, as parliaments were forced to look at ways that both the public and staff could interact and work with parliament, without having to physically attend the building.[127] With these accessibility advancements, parliaments have inadvertently loosened the grip on maintaining control over the source of information. Documents that previously needed to be hand delivered in person with an actual signature are now accepted with a digital signature online.[128] One could argue that this was a necessary change in procedure, whereas arguments against posting or publishing (or tightening the rules around) parliamentary proceedings would be seen as lessening transparency and creating a barrier for the public to access parliament. Submissions to the Victorian Law Reform Commission's project on Artificial Intelligence in Victoria's Courts and Tribunals show that other institutions are also grappling with these challenges.[129]

As previously mentioned, the Parliament of Victoria has made clear its commitment to accessibility and transparency. Although this is undoubtedly important – especially in a representative democracy – considerations must be made to the rapid advancements in technology, particularly in AI and deepfakes within the political context. Victorian Standing Orders in both the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council emphasise that any broadcast or rebroadcast material must be in context, not misleading and a fair and accurate report of proceedings.[130] Although this is seemingly easy to govern for accredited media in Victoria, social media is fast becoming like the Wild West, with users using fake profiles to spread

Jonathan Malloy, 'The Adaptation of Parliament's Multiple Roles to COVID-19', *Canadian Journal of Political Science* (2020), 53, pp. 305-309

[126] Fotios Fitsilis, Jorn von Lucke, Franklin De Vrieze, *Guidelines for AI in Parliaments,* July 2024

[127] Moulds, Sarah, 'As the First "remote" Sitting Starts in Canberra, Virtual Parliaments Should Be the New Norm, Not a COVID Bandaid'*, The Conversation*, 24 August 2020, Accessed at: https://theconversation.com/as-the-first-remote-sitting-starts-in-canberra-virtual-parliaments-should-be-the-new-norm-not-a-covid-bandaid-144737

[128] E.g. The Victorian Parliament will accept digital copies of tabling letters rather than the original signed copy

[129] Court Services Victoria, *Artificial Intelligence in Victoria's Courts and Tribunals, Response to Victoria Law Reform Commission's Consultation Paper,* 17 February 2025; Victorian Bar Association, *Artificial Intelligence in Victoria's Courts and Tribunals, Response to Victoria Law Reform Commission's Consultation Paper*

[130] Parliament of Victoria, Legislative Council Standing Orders, Chapter 20.04; Parliament of Victoria, Legislative Assembly Standing Orders, Chapter 27, 232 (3).

deepfakes or disinformation. These concerns were echoed in the Australian Senate's inquiry into social media and the resulting child safety laws introduced in Australia.[131]

Australians are increasingly accessing their news content through social media, coinciding with the trend to use accessible and shareable content.[132] As a flow on effect of being both accessible and shareable, it has meant that deepfakes and disinformation can be shared widely.[133] This means that as the public are turning towards social media platforms for their news, it is easier than ever for fake news to be spread and shared.[134] Currently, there are no safeguards or fact-checking with deepfakes like there is with traditional media and news outlets. Effectively, anyone could post and share false news or a deepfake without being aware of it. Deepfakes also appeal to a visceral level more than any text or picture ever would, so they appear particularly credible.[135] Even if something is proven to be fake, more likely than not, the damage is already done.

In light of this, it has become more important than ever that parliamentary footage is kept and used carefully. This may prove to be important to the Victorian Parliament, given that broadcast proceedings are currently only available to live-stream from the Victorian Parliament website, or certain clips from YouTube, which may be prone to misuse. Watermarking – both visible and invisible – is marked as a measure in preventing deepfakes, however given the rapidly advancing technology that can remove watermarks, this is far from fool-proof.[136] Civic education and digital literacy remains to be the last line of defence, the public must be able to identify AI generated threats and manipulation.[137] This has been echoed in the United States, with the US National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee listing recommendations for

[131] Social media: the good, the bad and the ugly – Final Report, Senate, Parliament of Australia. Accessed on: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Social_Media_and_Australian_Society/SocialMedia/Final_report; Online Safety Act 2021 (Cth), S4A

[132] Ray, *Disinformation, Deepfakes and Democracies: The Need for Legislative Reform*, pp. 983-1013

[133] Ray, *Disinformation, Deepfakes and Democracies: The Need for Legislative Reform,* pp. 983-1013

[134] Ray, *Disinformation, Deepfakes and Democracies: The Need for Legislative Reform,* pp. 983-1013

[135] Kwok, A. O. J., & Koh, S. G. M, *Deepfake: A social construction of technology perspective. Current issues in Tourism*, pp. 1-5. Accessed at: https://kr-asia.com/did-myanmars-military-deepfake-a-ministers-corruption-confession

[136] Anna Broinowski and Fiona R. Maron, 'Beyond the deepfake problem: Benefits, risks and regulation of generative AI screen technologies', *Media International Australia*, pp. 1-17

[137] Parliament of Australia, Senate Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence, November 2024, p. 29

enhancing AI literacy in America.[138]

CONCLUSION

As parliaments around the world face increasing technological advancements, including AI and deepfakes, the challenge of balancing accessibility with integrity has become more critical than ever. The Parliament of Victoria's strategic commitment to transparency and public engagement underscores its efforts in fostering a more inclusive democracy. Initiatives like live broadcasting and closed captioning have made parliamentary processes more accessible, opening government and parliament operations and fostering trust between parliament and the public.

However, the rise of AI-generated deepfakes poses significant threats to this progress. The potential for political misinformation, reputational damage, and erosion of public trust demands urgent and proactive measures. While traditional broadcasting rules provide guidelines for the ethical and accurate use of parliamentary material, they are limited in scope when it comes to addressing the unregulated nature of social media.

To navigate this evolving landscape, parliaments must adopt multifaceted solutions, such as watermarking parliamentary footage, coupled with civic education and digital literacy programs. Civic education and AI literacy will be critical in empowering the public to critically assess information presented to them.[139] Lessons can also be drawn from international models like the *Artificial Intelligence Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689)*, which emphasize accuracy and compatibility, which highlights the value of risk-based approaches in digital content regulation.[140]

Ultimately, the resilience and relevance of democratic institutions like the Parliament of Victoria, depend on their ability to remain open and accessible whilst safeguarding integrity. By striking the right balance between transparency and protection against technological threats, the Parliament can uphold representative democracy, strengthen public confidence, and ensure its operations remain trustworthy and resilient in the face of inevitable technological change.

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[138] Yucong Lao, Yukun You, 'Unravelling generative AI in BBC News: application, impact, literacy and governance', *Transforming Government People Process and Policy*, 5 April 2024

[139] Juliane Muller, *Meeting the EU AI Act's AI Literacy Goals: Lessons from IDEA,* 16 June 2025, Accessed at: https://www.idea.int/news/meeting-eu-ai-acts-ai-literacy-goals-lessons-idea

[140] European Commission, AI Act, Accessed at: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/regulatory-framework-ai#ecl-inpage-a-solution-for-the-trustworthy-use-of-large-ai-models