

# Anti-terror unit joins hunt over death threats

By Simon Benson

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Daily Telegraph

**THE NSW Counter Terrorism Unit has been brought in to help police track down four men discovered tampering with star Labor recruit Maxine McKew's car last week.**

*The Daily Telegraph*

has learned that police now have the registration number of a car the men were believed to have used when they fled the scene.

Yesterday a defiant Ms McKew kept her Clean Up Australia commitment, picking up rubbish in the electorate of Bennelong - where she plans to take on Prime Minister John Howard at the next federal election.

*The Daily Telegraph*

had revealed that last Thursday night four men were seen around the former ABC TV journalist's car. One of the men was seen underneath the car shining a torch.

The incident followed a series of death threats against Ms McKew, made to the National Security Hotline since she announced she would take on Mr Howard.

Police yesterday confirmed that the Counter Terrorism Unit had been called in to assist Harbourside Local Area Command with investigations.

However they would not comment on the investigation.

ASIO and the bomb squad were called in to investigate a series of death threats and a "suspicious incident" outside Ms McKew's home.

A full search of her car by the bomb squad and sniffer dogs turned up nothing.

Former intelligence analyst Andrew Wilkie, who was the Greens candidate for the same seat in 2004, revealed he too had been threatened during the last federal election campaign.

It was suggested at the time that cult religious sect Exclusive Brethren were campaigning against the former defence intelligence official using "bullying" tactics to dissuade him from his campaign.

Ms McKew said she would not be deterred by the events, but hinted there had been other incidents which had unsettled her.

"I've just got to take it in my stride," Ms McKew said at the weekend.

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