
From: Malcom Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, 15 January 2013 6:42 PM
To: Electoral Reform
Subject: Review of compulsory voting

Dear Attorney General.

It scares me terribly to consider the consequences of dropping compulsory voting in Queensland. Corruption would no doubt rear its ugly head, with people being paid to turn up at the polling booth. In other cases where bribery didn't rear its ugly head, plenty of potential voters fed up with politicians generally would, with what I would feel to be considerable justification, stay away in droves. The end result could easily be the election of a parliament very unrepresentative of the majority of Queenslanders by say a paltry one-third of voters.

Conversely, it would also seem that some minor parties, whose passionate adherents are often viewed by voters like myself as raving ratbags, could gain a very unhealthy advantage by urging their followers to turn up to vote en masse.

As things stand, all voters have to do is virtually arrive at the polling booth and have their names ticked off. Nothing should be changed. Much as I would never wish to agree with the Federal Treasurer on anything at any time, I do strongly share his stated view that to dispense with compulsory voting in our State would be a return to the 'bad old days'.

Already far more than enough money is spent at election time, but voluntary voting would mean obscene millions upon millions of dollars wasted by major parties in frantic efforts to ensure a large turn out by their sympathisers.

There are times when we are made to do things we don't like. I didn't like performing compulsory National Service in the 1950s, but in retrospect consider it to have been one of the best things in my life. Australians should be proud of compulsory voting. It runs rings around voting procedures in countries such as the USA.

I urge you NOT to change compulsory voting, else dark days would follow.

Yours sincerely,
Malcolm Thomas.
Address: