

**From:** Jane Bettridge  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 January 2013 2:00 PM  
**To:** Electoral Reform  
**Subject:** submission on possible voting changes

## **Issues for consultation – Election campaign expenditure**

### **2 How can the existing laws in relation to electoral expenditure be made more effective?**

#### **Item 3e. Address issues relating to the definition of electoral expenditure**

The ECQ considers that the following items are not electoral expenditure: expenditure on novelty items such as car stickers, t-shirts, lapel badges or buttons, pens, pencils, balloons or items of a similar nature.<sup>39</sup>

One option for reform would be to clarify the definition of electoral expenditure in the Act. I feel that further clarification is definitely required. The use of “novelty items such as car stickers, t-shirts, lapel badges or buttons, pens, pencils, balloons or items of a similar nature” is blatant advertising, and whilst there is nothing wrong with such advertising, it is most definitely a campaign expense in my opinion – no different to a newspaper ad, or a billboard. The people who receive these novelty items certainly consider them to be political in nature.

#### **3.4 a - retain current caps on electoral spending - agree**

## **Part B – Other Opportunities for Improvement and Change**

### **1 – Truth in Political Advertising**

I'd like to see political advertising limited to advertising their own political party. I.e Advertising the strengths of their own candidates and policies. In the previous elections ads have deteriorated into slanging matches and less and less information has appeared in the ads. Pointing out the negatives of the opposition should be reserved for debates and face to face, or interviews. Advertising is paid for with public funding and it is therefore the right of the public to be given factual information about what the party and the candidate have to offer. They should have to justify their use of the advertising budget – and name calling and bad mouthing the opposition is not a worthy use of the public money.

### **2 – How to Vote Cards**

#### **Option D – ban how to vote cards - agree**

I'd like to see how to vote cards displayed in each voting booth (preferably behind plastic so as to prevent them being defaced or removed). This would minimise the printing, the rubbish and the possible interference of people handing them out.

### 3 – Proof of Identity

3.1 Introduce Proof of Identity – agree Those who don't have photo ID would have to be given an option of providing an alternate form of ID. eg birth cert and Medicare etc., same as for establishing a bank account.

#### 4.1 Allow enrolment on polling day – Disagree

People need to take responsibility for their votes. They manage to organize car registration etc. They can do this too.

### 5 – Electronic Voting

#### 5c Introduce electronically assisted voting for all voters in Queensland – agree

This would also solve the issue of how to vote cards. The count would be finalized much more promptly. If it is possible to organize for the census then the technology and the security measures could surely be adapted.

#### 7 – maintain compulsory voting – agree

#### 8 – retain current voting system - agree