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From: Bruce Kynaston [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 12 January 2013 1:52 PM
To: Electoral Reform
Subject: Compulsory voting

With respect, I submit me thoughts in defence of compulsory voting.

Democracy, the word, is derived from Greek demos, the people, and kratos, power.

In his Gettysburg Address, Lincoln's attitude to democracy was that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

It seems that we in Australia have achieved the version of 'by (all) the people' with our current policy, whereas that of the United States of America lags somewhat by not insisting on compulsory voting. Similarly, the United Kingdom does not insist on all people voting. Such is not a precedent we ought adopt.

that voting could not truly be considered a 'right' if people could not exercise a 'right' not to vote

As opposed to the submission that voting is a 'right', it is insisted that it is a 'responsibility' of the citizen.

Democracy has been defended by our armed forces, so please let us retain our duty at the ballot box.

Bruce Kynaston
(Electorate of Clayfield)