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Strategic Policy, Legal and Executive Services
Department of Justice and Attorney-General
GPO Box 149
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Cr Graham Able

DIVISION 5
Chair Animals and City Standards

E grahamable@logan.qld.gov.au
P 07 3412 5505 F 07 3412 3444

Dear Minister

SUBMISSION - ELECTORAL REFORM DISCUSSIONS PAPER

I write in relation the Electoral Reform Discussions Paper with my views on better streamlining of the electoral process.

Being an elected member on the Logan City Council for some 28 years, I would love to see a Government abolish the 'how to vote cards' and have only candidates names and who they are standing for in the polling booths.

In this day and age where one looks at the amount of trees destroyed to generate the millions of 'how to vote cards' that are pushed into the hands of voters before and on election day is a disgrace. Surely Australians and Queenslanders are far more educated then the major political parties think.

I have often heard the term by previous political parties that they believe that they can increase votes by one (1) or two (2) percent by pushing the propaganda cards to the people on polling day. I would like to remind you Minister, that there are a large proportion of people that do not know if it is federal, state or local government that they are voting for. I have had more then ten (10) Election periods in my time as a Councillor and each one has become more expensive and I would like you to look at outlawing 'how to vote cards'.

Also, on the optional preferential voting I believe it should be first past the post non-compulsory voting because there are many people who do not know who they are voting for and are only doing it out of fear of being fined.

I would like to request feed back, if possible, on the amount of outstanding fines and the cost of pursuing those people who have not voted. Logan, as a Council, has never chased up people who have not voted in local government elections as we know the cost is far too much to burden rate payers.

Yours sincerely

Cr Graham Able
MEMBER FOR DIVISION 5
Chairperson of Animals & City Standards

