

SUBMISSION ON DISCUSSION PAPER – ELECTORAL REFORM
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Part A

POLITICAL DONATIONS:

1. Generally revert to the laws existing before the 2011 Act.
2. Remove capping of donations
3. Disclosures only required for donations of \$2000 and above.

PUBLIC FUNDING OF ELECTIONS:

I support the public funding of political parties and candidates should be on a per vote basis
(option (a))

ELECTION CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE

1. My preference is for a candidate's electoral expenditure to be capped in Queensland, but the cap should be increased eg \$100,000. The current figure is insufficient to cover a campaign
2. The expenditure of a political party should **not** be aggregated with the expenditure of affiliated organizations
3. The expenditure of affiliated organisations should **not** be aggregated
4. Electoral expenditure should include only expenditure that is for the dominant purpose of promoting or opposing a party or candidate or influencing voting at an election
5. Volunteer labour – the 'cost value' of volunteer people assisting in a campaign, working in their own time, should not be included in the overall amount of expenditure on a campaign.

Part B

TRUTH IN POLITICAL ADVERTISING

I do not support the introduction of legislation relating to truth in political advertising. It would be difficult to interpret and create a minefield of claims, many of which would just be nuisance tactics

HOW-TO-VOTE CARDS

1. I support how-to-vote cards being published on the ECQ's website (option (a))
2. The ECQ should have the power to refuse to register or publish a how-to-vote card that is likely to mislead or deceive a voter in casting their vote (option (b))
3. The behaviour of works who hand out how-to-vote cards should be regulated, but such regulations should include some flexibility to allow workers to promote their candidate and/or party
4. I believe the offering to voters of a how-to-vote card is useful, particularly when the voting system is Preferential. It should not be banned.

PROOF OF IDENTITY

Voters should be required to produce proof of their identity on polling day only if the system is changed to non-compulsory voting

ENROLMENT ON POLLING DAY

Should voters be permitted to enroll on polling day? Yes, but not entitled to vote until their application is registered by the ECQ. For example, new enrollees cannot vote, but voters transferring from another electorate should vote in the electorate for which they were enrolled prior to their application for a transfer.

ELECTRONIC VOTING

1. I support electronically assisted voting for: blind and vision impaired voters; and voters who require assistance voting because of a disability, motor impairment or insufficient literacy (option (A)); but a witness/scrutineer should be allowed to be present
2. It should not be necessary to introduce electronically assisted voting to voters who will not throughout the hours of polling on polling day be in Queensland and/or who do not reside within 20km by the nearest practical route, of a polling place; This could be handled by Postal Voting or pre-polling

3. I believe it would be an advantage for electors to have their names marked off the Electoral Rolls electronically, but would prefer voters be issued with a manual voting paper.
4. If electronic voting was introduced for all voters, it should be a requirement to ask for proof of identity

POSTAL VOTING

Are there any opportunities to improve the postal voting system?

Yes

1. Allow any voter to apply for a postal vote – no special requirements.
2. Online postal vote applications should be permitted , provided adequate security is available
3. Applications for postal vote, both manual and online, should close three days prior to Polling Day to allow time for the voting paper to be posted, and received and returned by the applicant, prior to Polling Day. Eg – close late on a Wednesday evening if the Polling Day is a Saturday.

COMPULSORY VOTING

Yes, I support compulsory voting. I believe every eligible voter should lodge a vote as part of their civic duty.

VOTING SYSTEM

I support Optional Preferential Voting in Queensland elections; however it does cause some confusion with Federal elections where the system is Preferential Voting.

ANY OTHER MATTER

Pre-Polling should be allowed for all voters wishing to do so, and available hours extended for the convenience of voters – eg later closing time and/or Saturdays.

Abolish Electoral Visitor Voting.

Introduce Fixed four year terms of Parliament