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From: Michelle Rafter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 January 2013 6:14 PM
To: Electoral Reform
Subject: Submission

Dear Premier Newman

Compulsory voting is considered by most as a right, a duty and an opportunity to have a say in the future of Queensland and how it is Governed. By abolishing this provision, the people of Queensland are being offered an "opt out" choice, which in no way should be a viable option. Those of us disheartened by the conduct of the LNP would still cast their ballots, but the young, the ill informed and the disinterested would choose the easy way out by not voting.

Voting rights for women, indigenous and the less privileged in society have been fought for, long and hard. They battled for the opportunity to shape the State of Queensland. These people have, by their actions, enabled a level of Democracy in this State that should never be taken for granted.

In my experience, the decision by the LNP to even consider submissions on this subject can only be viewed in two ways. The *first* is that by creating this debate, the LNP seeks to distract attention away from the already shameful Policy changes it has made. Policies which impact on the lives of those it was elected to represent by way of cuts to Health Services, School Programmes, establishing various and unnecessary Boards to oversee Health Services and the Racing Industry etc. All this whilst creating wealth for the Private Sector at the expense of the Lower Class. The *second* is to allow an easy way out of voting for those above mentioned eligible but, marginalised potential voters.

Perhaps a more viable option would be a one vote, one party option. A Policy where preferential votes are no longer a free ticket to a seat which would otherwise have been won by the more suitable and accountable candidate.

After all this, "Open and Accountable" LNP Government wouldn't even consider offering the people of Queensland any opportunity to have their say if there wasn't a hidden agenda.

The sooner we get rid of Government on a State level, the better, if it means never again having a Dictatorship in power.

Michelle Rafter