

Tuesday 12 February 2013

Electoral Reform

Strategic Policy, Legal and Executive Services

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

COMPULSORY VOTING

Dear Sir/Madam

Compulsory Voting **needs to remain** in Queensland State Elections for the following reasons:

1. **Compulsory Voting** maintains our democratic stability by conferring on the individual the duty to register to vote and cast a ballot on Election Day. It makes people participate in the democratic process whether or not they cast a valid or non-valid vote.

Unlike in many countries in the world, in Australia, everyone is given the opportunity to vote to elect their Parliamentary Representative. This ensures the majority of Australian Citizens elect the Government of the day.

To watch via the media, many people lining up for hours and days to exercise their right to vote for the first time in countries where these people have not been given this right before is heart-wrenching. In some instances these people vote under the threat of violence.

2. **Compulsory Voting** ensures protection against influential interest groups who push their causes and who may have undue influence on the Government.

3. **Compulsory Voting** creates uniformity between State and Federal Elections because Federal Elections will remain compulsory.

We strongly urge you to ensure that **Compulsory Voting** remains in Queensland State Elections.

Yours faithfully

Leta and Wal Threlfall