

Attention Electoral Reform
Strategic Policy
Department of Justice and Attorney General

Dear Attorney General

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your discussion paper. There are many issues to consider and I commend your initiative. [REDACTED]

Part A

Issue 1 -- Political donations, I believe that all donations (not just for campaign purposes) should be capped. I believe only those that are on the electoral role should be allowed to donate. Lobby groups already often have significant resources to inform the public of their causes through media advertising.

Part B

Issue 1 -- I believe that truth in political advertising legislation should be introduced in Queensland. How it is implemented beyond advertising is complex and worthy of a further discussion paper.

Issue 7 -- Compulsory Voting, I strongly support the retention of compulsory voting in Queensland. Democracy relies on access to the opportunity to vote for all Queenslanders irrespective of their circumstance. We have duties and responsibilities as a society to discuss, engage and debate on issues at election time. Compulsory voting is fundamental in protecting this. While there is an argument put forward that says that it is undemocratic to force people to vote, there is an even stronger argument to protect the right to vote. Removing compulsory voting makes it harder for the more vulnerable in our society to exercise this right, especially if pressured by employers or family. In this sense compulsory voting is very democratic, it allows people to vote who may otherwise abstain from voting through coercion.

Issue 9 - Further issues

Strengthen teaching democracy and politics in the school curriculum to help inform the next generation of the role and value of politics in Queensland.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to comment.