

Electoral Reform  
Strategic Policy  
Department of Justice and Attorney-General  
GPO Box 149  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Frank Henry  


26 February 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Discussion Paper on Electoral Reform

I have outlined below my response to each section of the Discussion Paper on Electoral Reform.

1. Political Donations

I request that:

- Political donations continue to be capped and apply to all donations
- Additional member/shareholder endorsement be required for donations from companies, big business, industrial organisations and corporations
- Additional transparency be required regarding political donations including requirements for donors, politicians and political parties to declare donations

2. Public Funding of Elections

I support public funding of political parties and candidates on a per vote basis with a cap on the amount of public funding provided.

3. Election Campaign Expenditure

I support caps on the amount political parties, candidates and third parties can spend on state election campaigns and disclosure of amount these groups spend. I don't support restrictions on volunteers.

4. Truth in Political Advertising

I request that truth in political advertising legislation be introduced in Queensland and extended beyond advertisements to other inaccurate and misleading statements and including misleading how to vote cards.

5. Proof of Identity

I support voters being required to show proof of identity if requested when voting.

6. Enrolment on Polling Day and Electronic Voting

I do not support enrolment on voting day or electronic voting.

## 7. Postal Voting

I support increasing the scope for postal voting.

## 8. Compulsory Voting

I very strongly support compulsory voting. I believe voting is a civic duty, it results in greater political participation, reflects more accurately the will of the electorate, requires political parties to consider the total electorate in policy formulation and management, reduces wasted energy and resources on encouraging voters to attend the poll.

I note that since 1915 when compulsory voting was introduced, Queensland's voting participation has not dropped below 90% and I also not a very small percentage of informal/invalid votes.

Removing the requirement for compulsory voting in state elections also has the potential to cause voter confusion as voting in federal and local government elections would still be compulsory.

If it isn't broken, leave it alone.

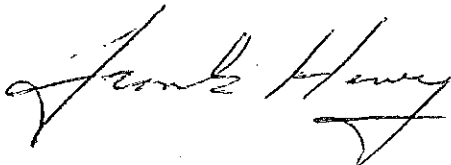
To re-iterate – I very strongly support compulsory voting. It's benefits strongly outweigh the negatives.

## 9. Voting System

I support a proportional voting system where political parties receive seats in government based on the proportion of votes they receive, with amendment to ensure people standing for election as independent s are not disadvantaged.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J' and a distinct 'H' at the end.