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**From:** Joshua Blundell-Thornton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 3 January 2013 10:39 AM  
**To:** Electoral Reform  
**Subject:** Electoral Reforms

To whom it may concern,

My name is Joshua Blundell-Thornton and I am a university student that lives on the Gold Coast. I am deeply troubled by the possible changes to Queensland's Electoral legislation. My primary concern is in the possibility of scrapping compulsory voting. This staple of Australian democracy has ensured the average Australian remains engaged with the political system. Also, this has ensured a truly democratic society as our leaders must obtain a 'true' majority as nearly all the electorate votes. This is not seen in other countries with voluntary voting where low voter turnout has resulted in the elected leaders not nearly receiving a majority of their electorates vote. Also, scrapping compulsory voting would increase the costs of elections as political parties would have to spend more money just to encourage people to vote rather than focusing on policy development. Furthermore, the argument that compulsory voting increases 'donkey' votes and that this somehow invalidates the current system is false. The data collected on the number of 'donkey' votes is important as an increase in this would highlight voter apathy and disillusionment with the current candidates which could be used to select better future candidates.

I hope you take on these points and see that compulsory voting is an important feature of our democracy and must be kept,

regards,

Joshua Blundell-thornton