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Sent: Tuesday, 8 October 2013 8:54 AM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: Voting in Seanate and House of Reps

Dear JSCEM,

I make the following submission on Voting in the Senate and HoR:

The major parties are indicating in the media that they may hold an inquiry into Senate voting. The major parties are being hypocritical – they say that an ordinary Australian voter, minor party or micro party should not be allowed to be elected because, for example:

- they do intricate cascading preference deals with other groups. So what! Thats exactly what the major parties do. So on what basis should this be outlawed for the Australian voter, minor party or micro party but still allowed for the major parties?
- they do not have the experience to decide bills in the Senate – this is rubbish! The major party polities dont have the necessary experience either. Stewth, no one needs to meet any specific experience criteria to stand for election in either house. So on what basis should the experience Australian voter, minor party or micro party exclude them from the chance to stand for election, while experience of major parties is no deterrent?
- crikey, I even heard major party polities on election nite trying to make fun of Clive Palmer because he spent \$1M on the election campaign for his electorate. Gees, at least it was HIS OWN money! The major parties have been spending hundreds of millions of dollars from the public purse (NOT THEIR OWN money) on their own election campaigns for decades!!!!!!!!!! Howard infamously spent \$400M just on GST adverts!!!!!! The amount theyve plundered for the taxpayer must be well over the Billion \$ mark by now and heading for several Billion\$s!!!!

Australia is supposed to be a democracy! Its not supposed to be a two major party controlled voting system so that no-one else but the major parties can get elected!!!!!!

Voters should not be forced to vote for parties they do not want to vote for – eg because the parties are on the public record as liars and theives of the public purse.

Therefore Optional Prefential voting shud be used instead of compulsory pref. It will be

then be exactly the same rule for all major, micro small parties and individuals. It will get rid of preference deals which are completely unknown to the voter and best of all, it will allow voters to vote for the candidates or candidate OF THEIR CHOICE and will not force voters to vote, knowingly or unknowingly, for candidates that they DO NOT WANT TO VOTE FOR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

OPTIONAL PREFERENTIAL VOTING should be used for the HOUSE OF REPS TOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Compulsory preferential voting was bought in by the then Fed govt in 1922, purely and only as a political connivance to help that govt get re-elected (source AEC website). COMPULSORY PREFERENTIAL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SUFFRAGE, the right to vote for the candidate of your choice, one person one vote, democratic voting, Bill of Rights, Magna Carta, etc, etc. Optional Prefeerntial is used in the QLD State govt and local Council elections, so if it is not democratic, then all these elections are invalid – I think not!.

Peter McMahon