



Appendix D – List of recommendations from interim reports

Senate voting practices interim report—May 2014

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that section 273 and other sections relevant to Senate voting of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 be amended to allow for:

- optional preferential above the line voting; and
- ‘partial’ optional preferential voting below the line with a minimum sequential number of preferences to be completed equal to the number of vacancies:
 - ⇒ six for a half-Senate election;
 - ⇒ twelve for a double dissolution; or
 - ⇒ two for any territory Senate election.

The Committee further recommends that appropriate formality and savings provisions continue in order to support voter intent within the new system.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that sections 211, 211A and 216 and any other relevant sections of Parts XVI and XVIII of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 be repealed in order to effect the abolition of group and individual voting tickets.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Government adequately resource the Australian Electoral Commission to undertake a comprehensive voter education campaign should the above recommendations be agreed.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that sections 126, 132, 134 and any other relevant section of Part XI of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* be amended to provide for stronger requirements for party registration, including:

- an increase in party membership requirements to a minimum 1 500 unique members who are not relied upon for any other party in order for a federally registered party to field candidates nationally;
- the provision to register a federal party, that can only run in a nominated state or territory, with a suitable lower membership number residing in that state or territory, as provided on a proportionate population or electorate number basis;
- the provision of a compliant party constitution that sets out the party rules and membership process;
- a membership verification process;
- the conduct of compliance and membership audits each electoral cycle; and
- restriction to unique registered officers for a federally registered party.

The Committee further recommends that the Government adequately resource the Australian Electoral Commission to undertake the above activities.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that:

- all new parties be required to meet the new party registration criteria; and
- all currently registered parties be required to satisfy the new party registration criteria within twelve months of the legislation being enacted or the party shall be deregistered.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the Government determine the best mechanism to seek to require candidates to be resident in the state or territory in which they are seeking election.

Electronic voting options interim report—November 2014

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government adequately resource the Australian Electoral Commission to deploy electronic certified lists where possible to all pre-poll voting centres and to all mobile voting teams at the next federal election.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that, after the next federal election, the Australian Electoral Commission undertake a full cost benefit analysis of utilising electronic certified lists at all polling locations based on a permanent investment in the relevant technology and/or the development of a platform that can be accessed from any networked computer, with a view to full implementation at future elections.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Special Minister of State propose to the states and territories that the further development of electronic electoral roll mark-off systems be undertaken in a collaborative approach to facilitate the sharing of resources.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that relevant sections of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*, be amended to allow for the expansion of the use of electronic certified lists as a form of approved list for marking electors who have been issued a ballot paper.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends the Australian Electoral Commission develop and trial the electronically-assisted counting of ballot papers at all pre-poll centres for the next federal election.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government investigate the feasibility of digital storage of scanned ballot papers to replace storage of paper ballots.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* be amended to allow for expansion of the current assisted telephone voting system to include people with assessed mobility or access issues for the next federal election.