

26 February 2016

Mr David Coleman MP
Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Coleman

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to your *Inquiry into the provisions of the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016*.

The National Party of Australia (The Nationals), welcomes and supports the Australian Government's legislation to reform the way in which Senators are elected.

In our 2014 Submission to the Committee, we encouraged the Inquiry to:

"... investigate reforms to current voting arrangements within the electoral system to ensure that voters make more deliberate choices about who they vote for and where candidate or parties' preferences ultimately flow when a vote is made above the line under the current voting system."

And noted that:

"In our view, deliberate deal-making among the micro-parties, particularly at the 7 September 2013 Federal election resulted in several micro-party candidates being elected with an extremely small share of the primary vote. An example of this is the Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party having their candidate elected in Victoria on 0.51 per cent of the first preference vote or 0.0354 of a Quota."

The Government's proposed amendments will address these very important issues and The Nationals commend the amendments to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Scott Mitchell
Federal Director