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THE HON JACKIE KELLY MP

Federal Member for Lindsay

The Secretary Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

Re: Inquiry into the conduct of the 2004 Federal election and matters related thereto

There are two things I would particularly like to raise regarding Federal (and State) elections.

1. Voters should be required to show identification to vote;

In an age when we have to show identification to open an account with our local library, we should have to prove our identity when we vote. It is the case that someone could easily vote on behalf of someone else, because they do not have to prove who they are. This opens up the possibility of buying votes from people who choose not to vote, or using the vote of someone who you know never votes.

2. The voting system should be electronic.

This relates closely to my first point. If people had to show identification and their vote was made electronically, this would lessen the possibility of electoral fraud. Once the voter has made their vote, no-one would be able to duplicate it.

Those who are not computer literate would have the choice of filling in a paper vote and the system would eventually become fully electronic over time.

I realise this demands a massive new infrastructure, but it would be better sooner than later. If the whole system were electronic, we would get much more accurate vote counts – and quicker. Security of the system would be paramount, but I believe we have the technology to create a safe and secure new electoral system.

Yours sincerely,

JACKIE KELLY MP

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