

Read, Shane (REPS)

From: slucki
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To: js cem.reps@aph.gov.au
Subject: submission

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	72
Date Received	
Secretary	

To the Joint Senate Committee on Election Matters;
from Rev. S. Slucki;
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July 1, 2002.

(I wish to make it clear that the following is a private submission, expressing my own views and those of no-one else).

MICRO Issues:

[1] I would like to urge that the practice of assigning individual electors to specific polling-booths within their electorate be resumed so as to avoid possible electoral fraud--especially relevant in "marginal" electorates.

[2] The placing of "how-to-vote" lists within each booth, only, would not merely save money (and trees) but would remove the offense which the thoughtful elector feels at being assailed by leaflet-wielding party workers as they approach the polling place.

A positive by-product of limiting the phenomenon of "how-to-vote cards" would be the lessening of the impact of the distraction as to who's done a deal with who!

MACRO Issues:

[3] I'm a great enthusiast of optional preferencing i.e. where electors only need preference the candidates whom they would like to see representing them, rather than having to assign every candidate a place on the ballot.

If I choose to (effectively) disenfranchise myself by only voting for two "minority" candidates, ignoring the major parties' representatives, my decision should be respected.

[4] I believe that the legislation guaranteeing funding to political parties should be abolished as an unwarranted fiscal extravagance! I would like to see quality time given to all parties, in the media, especially on television to express their views--sometimes under cross-examination sometimes via a prepared speech--so the electors can have a fair exposure to their platforms.

[5] I think it would be good to begin examining the possibility of electronic voting perhaps using the library (global information centre) network throughout Australia. Eventually, this could save money and if this were done, the way might be opened for the real consultation of the people via citizens' initiated referenda and the placing before the electors issues for comment by the parliament.

The above opinion assumes that an intelligent, informed minority makes the real decisions, now and seeks to simply make that situation clearer and perhaps widen the circle.

Best wishes in your work.

Stefan Slucki.

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