

Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No: 017
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public

From reading the key stated purposes of this bill, I am frankly disgusted by the blatant attacks on our electoral system. See the following:

1) All people have the right to vote, it should be an unalienable right no matter what the person has done, felon or not. Removing one of the few freedoms from people in custody removes their right to express their views and have a say in the system they are held within. Not only that, is the Liberal Party government really so scared of these inmates from expressing their views on how well our doctors/nurses are paid, whether or not public utilities and infrastructure should be privatised, whether police should be held to account for acts of excessive force or does the government believe that oversight from the public would be to the detriment of a functioning democracy.

2) Do we really need property developers to have an even greater influence over our politics; they can't even build proper, up to code and liveable buildings let alone positively affect public discourse surrounding their own industry. I would advise the government to look into the definition of the term "conflict of interest".

3) Loans for election ad campaigns... really. The governments of past years have already struggled not to spend money they don't have on stupid policies. Society is benefited by a level playing field when it comes to elections, not by artificially allowing all parties involved to spend even more money on attack campaigns attempting to smear each other of the stupidest of points.

4) QEC oversight of pre-selection is a bare minimum for ensuring that dodgy affairs are not happening behind closed doors. Why in heavens sake would the government be opposed to a neutral party from overseeing their preselection. What's the typical line trotted out by governments wanting to give police more power? "Nothing to hide, nothing to fear".

I would encourage any decision makers in this process to truly assess if these changes would make elections more trustworthy and fair or would they just serve the interests of a select few.