

Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025

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This is an absolutely dreadful Bill.

First, prisoners are in the care of the state while they serve their time. Not allowing them to vote on the party responsible for monitoring them opens them up to potential cruelty at the hands of a government they had no say in despite being particularly vulnerable to it. Their punishment is the sentence they receive through the legal system, not what governments potentially cook up as part of their election strategy.

Second, this proposal decreases political transparency, increases the potential for vested interests to 'pay to play' and is potentially financially risky for banking institutions. The less money in elections the better for democracy. Politicians are supposed to be accountable to the public, not moneyed interests. Get elected on the power of your ideas and policies, not how much of a sinking fund you have for attack ads. Finally, politically neutral oversight of potential candidates is an important bulwark to safeguard the quality of those entering politics and being paid generously with public dollars.