

Submission No. 56 - Form A or variation of Form A

Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025

Submitted by:

Tony Kelly
Paul Russell
Jane King
Neil Pohlman

Number of Submitters: 4

This is a [REDACTED] piece of legislation designed to increase the possibility of corruption and restrict accountability and transparency on all levels. Let's take it point by point, shall we? 1. Prohibit persons serving sentences of imprisonment or detention of one year or more from voting in State elections, referendums and local government elections. This ignores the fact that the majority of people in detention are there for non-violent offenses (usually non-payment of fines). It also ignores the fact that wealthy offenders are capable of performing the same, or worse offenses while avoiding detention. Therefore, this point is a blatant attempt to deprive citizens of their basic legal right to a vote based on economic standing. 2. Apply existing caps on political donations for State elections to financial years. As we've seen so many times over, the ability of wealthy individuals to shape policy through legalized graft disguised as 'donations' is something that needs to be further restricted, rather than relaxed. 3. Remove the ban on political donations from property developers and related industry bodies for State elections, and target the ban to local government elections only. Disgraceful. During a housing crisis where a small number of people are artificially limiting the housing market, to allow these people unrestricted access to politicians is again, a form of legalized graft. Again, this is an area where legislation needs to further restrict this form of behaviour, not relax it. 3. Allow loans from financial institutions to be used for electoral expenditure for State elections. As with the housing market, Australia's economy is being stifled by rampant cronyism and financial mismanagement and manipulation by the banking sector. As with other figures where such processes may be used to override democracy and permit the wealthy to buy the opinions and votes of politicians, this should be further restricted, not relaxed. 4. Enhance the independence of registered political parties to conduct preselection ballots without oversight of the Electoral Commission of Queensland. Corruption flourishes in the absence of independent oversight and transparency. Our politicians and processes need to be more transparent and accountable, not less. Rather than restrict the oversight of the Electoral Commission, its role should be strengthened to the point where actual consequences can for political malfeasance can be dispensed. 5. Amend authorisation requirements for election materials and how-to-vote cards, and allow post office boxes and other prescribed addresses to be used. As we have seen in the past, certain parties and individuals have shown that they have no problem in breaking existing regulations. We have seen false materials being disseminated, false signage being utilized, letters delivered which claim to be for the purposes of electoral registration when they are actually promotional material. If these suggested amendments to the authorisation requirements include stronger restrictions and harsher penalties for those knowingly attempting to subvert democracy with dirty tricks and subterfuge, then I am all for them. I do not suspect that this will be the case. Referring to this Bill as 'restoring fairness' is the sort of Orwellian doublespeak we are constantly exposed to by the American Right, and is a reminder that corruption flourishes and democracy dies in darkness. If an election cannot be won without accountability, without transparency and with wealthy 'supporters' purchasing votes in the guise of political donations, then it does not deserve to be won.