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Submission

Wednesday, 8 April 2015

Queensland Parliament
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Dear Committee members,

On Friday, 27th March 2015, only 4 business days before the public holidays for Easter, the 'Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015' was introduced into the Queensland Parliament by the honourable Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Without extensive mass media coverage, the members of the public were invited to make submissions on this Bill. However, the submissions close 'at 4.00pm on Friday, 10 April 2015'. This is only 4 days after the long weekend.

We would like to make two comments regarding this Bill:

1. The time given for the public to make submissions of substance was way too short. Why would the government give the public such limited notice to make submissions?
2. One of the objectives of the Bill, as stated, is to 'remove voter proof of identity requirements'. This is a major regressive step because it opens the electoral system up to deception. Dishonest voters would be given the opportunity to go to various polling booths in multiple electorates across a city – when they know the names and addresses of people in those electorates – to vote a multiple number of times. We urge you to drop this retrograde move.

In regard to electoral donations, it is stated that 'the Bill contains key measures for ensuring the public can have confidence in the accountability, transparency and integrity of the electoral gift disclosure regime'. We are supportive of this measure. **But** this Bill does not apply the same standard of 'accountability, transparency and integrity' with voter proof of identity when the voter goes to the electoral booth to vote. Therefore, we urge you not to pass this Bill to remove voter ID. It is a backward measure for a progressive democracy.

A more progressive move would be to move to electronic voting at polling booths where an ID is required and this would automatically prevent multiple voting by a person.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Spencer & Desley Gear