

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015
Date: Thursday, 9 April 2015 4:32:12 PM

I am very concerned that the Queensland Government is proposing to remove the requirement for voter ID from the electoral act.


Could you please explain the reasons behind this amendment?

Geoff Lapthorne

[REDACTED]
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350



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From: 
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015
Date: Thursday, 9 April 2015 5:42:58 PM

Dear Research Director

The reasons for this Bill are listed below as copied from the Queensland Parliament website.

Reasons for the Bill

The Bill contains key measures for ensuring the public can have confidence in the accountability, transparency and integrity of the electoral gift disclosure regime, including the Government's commitment to the member for Nicklin to work with the Electoral Commission of Queensland and the other parties to develop a real-time online system of disclosure of electoral donations.

The Bill removes the voter proof of identity requirements introduced by the former government in 2014, from both the Electoral Act and the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*.

The Bill's proposed amendments to the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* and *Judges (Pensions and Long Leave) Act 1957* aims to ensure that the Chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission will have access to a judicial pension, as part of the remuneration package for that position.

I find the gathering together of the three objectives of this Bill rather confusing.

Each should be debated on its own merits rather than lump three different matters together.

The explanatory notes on the website support the lowering of the threshold for the disclosure of electoral donations. They also support the Chairperson of the CCC receiving adequate renomination and pension.

However I can find no argument for the removal of the voter proof of identity requirement, other than it was introduced by the former government. Surely there must be some better reason?

I also find the first two reasons for this Bill to be contradictory. Reinstating the \$1,000 gift threshold is to ensure that the public can have confidence in the accountability, transparency and integrity of the electoral process, and I agree that the Bill does this.

However I cannot see how the removal of voter proof of identity can in any way improve the public confidence in the accountability, transparency and integrity of the electoral process. I have not heard of any person being prevented from casting their vote due to this requirement. I have worked as an electoral official in the past and have seen instances where a voter has given their name as "Nugget Smith" but this was not on the electoral roll. "Oh, my real name is William, but everyone calls me Nugget." Having voters produce some form of proof of identity would solve this problem.

Could someone please explain the real reason for wanting to remove voter proof of identity.

Geoffrey Lapthorne



TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350



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