

From: [David and Alex Todd](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Electoral Reform Amendment Bill 2013
Date: Wednesday, 15 January 2014 8:46:10 PM
Importance: High

To the Research Director,
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

With regards to the **Electoral Reform Amendment Bill 2013**, please consider the contradictory nature of some of the objectives, in particular points one and three:

1. Removing caps on donations and expenditure as unnecessarily restricting participation in the political process.
- 2.
3. Returning the basis for electoral public funding to a stated dollar amount per vote and increasing the threshold for entitlement to public funding from 4% to 10% of the primary vote to reduce the cost of funding to the community.
4. Etc..

Both these objectives unfairly support the major parties, who often attract the larger donations, run more expensive campaigns, and who will almost always attract 10% (or more) of the primary vote.

To **“ensure the opportunity for full participation in Queensland’s electoral process and to enhance voter integrity...”** the Bill must provide opportunity for independent candidates and minor parties to stand as alternatives to the major parties. This needs to be reflected by the financial support/cost to candidates/parties.

In many electorates ONLY the two major parties would attract 10% of the primary vote, if this change is made it will eliminate MANY of the independent and minor party candidates who already struggle to meet the financial cost of standing – these people are often standing on principles the major parties do not address, and voters deserve an opportunity to vote according to their values.

It would appear the proposed Bill is attempting to limit participation in the electoral process, and limit the options for voters. May we suggest the threshold is lowered (to 1% of the primary vote), and the entitlement is allocated per vote? This seems the logical way to distribute funding, **supporting each candidate with the proportion of the public funding appropriate to the % of primary vote attained.** To reduce the cost to the community please consider lowering the dollar amount each vote attracts.

Thank you for carefully considering how best to provide an accurate representation of Queenslanders in our State Parliament, both from the voter standpoint and the candidate standpoint.

Kind Regards,
David & Alex Todd

Mr & Mrs David & Alex Todd

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