Electoral Reform Amendment Bill 2013 Submission 067

From: Erika Ferguson

To: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Subject: Submission to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee regarding changes to voting

Date: Wednesday, 15 January 2014 11:23:16 PM

Honourable Members

There is no need to change the voting laws in Queensland to require voters to show identification because there is no evidence of voters abusing the current system.

A requirement for voters to produce identification would simply slow the voting process down, without any demonstrable improvement in the integrity of the process.

Indeed, the real effect of such a change is much more likely to be a loss of integrity in the process because large numbers of voters would end up being excluded from voting. In particular, requirements to produce identity documents make it harder for young people, the homeless, Aboriginal people and the marginalised to vote.

Our ancestors believed in the ideal of every adult citizen having a vote because all citizens should have equal rights. The proposed changes in the Queensland voting laws are contrary to the spirit of this ideal and should therefore be rejected.

Yours sincerely

Erika Ferguson

