

From: [Kellie Muffatti](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to the Electoral Reform Amendment Bill
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Attorney General Bleijie claims that the rationale for this law in QLD is to prevent voter fraud. However, the Queensland Government's own discussion paper on the topic acknowledged that there is no evidence that voter fraud is occurring at the ballot box.

The laws would create unnecessary hurdles for ALL Queenslanders wanting to vote in elections: longer voting lines; requirement for more staffing and the additional costs this involves; the practical matter of forgetting ID - an annoying issue for the able bodied with private transport, but a potential vote-stopper for those who are less mobile - the elderly, disabled, and those with limited access to transport.

Importantly, the laws would be particularly tough on some demographic groups: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; people living in remote communities; people experiencing homelessness; young people; old people; people living with a disability; people living without a fixed address; women (recent name changes due to marriage or divorce). All these groups are less likely to have a driver's licence or other ID containing sufficient proof of identity.

On the evidence available in Queensland there is simply no need for this law and it poses too great a risk of denying many Queenslanders their fundamental democratic rights.

Given the lack of evidence of voter fraud, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the voter ID laws are politically motivated to suppress the vote of demographics like those listed above who may be less likely to vote conservative.

The right to vote is a fundamental democratic value and a human right. It must only be limited where absolutely necessary.

The heart of the problem with the Queensland proposal is that voter ID requirements will make it harder for people to vote.

I urge you to consider the violation of the democratic rights this law represents. It is a law which: is unwarranted by evidence; creates obstacles in the voting process for ALL voters; can easily be vote-stoppers for some demographics.

with regards,
Kellie Muffatti

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