



David JANETZKI MP

Member for **Toowoomba South**

15 November 2019

Mr Peter Russo MP
Chair
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Via email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Russo,

Response to public submissions on the Electoral (Voter's Choice) Amendment Bill 2019

I would like to provide a response to the submissions made by various stakeholders in relation to the Electoral (Voter's Choice) Amendment Bill 2019 (**the Bill**).

I welcome the support of the Bill from the majority of submitters. The Bill is designed to restore public confidence in the electoral system by giving voters more discretion for who they vote for in State elections.

The benefits of the Optional Preferential Voting (**OPV**) system are endless. As expressed in the explanatory speech, the OPV system will give voters more options to express their political opinions while preserving the voting choice available under compulsory preferential voting (CPV). Unlike CPV, the OPV system does not compel electors to vote for candidates they would ordinarily not vote for. This in turn has the desired effect of increasing participation in the electoral system.

Under the OPV system, the rate of informal voting is significantly reduced because of the system's simplistic nature. The reduction of informal voting under the OPV system is backed by the Electoral Commission Queensland's general election statistics. At the last OPV general election in 2015 the informality rate was only 2.11 per cent. By the next general election in 2017, the first under CPV, the informality rate had more than doubled to 4.34 per cent. The statistics are proof that informality rates are lower under an OPV system.

It is undeniable that the OPV system is the fairest and most democratic voting system which should be available to Queenslanders for the upcoming 2020 election.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response.

Yours sincerely

Mr David Janetzki MP
Shadow Attorney-General
Shadow Minister for Justice