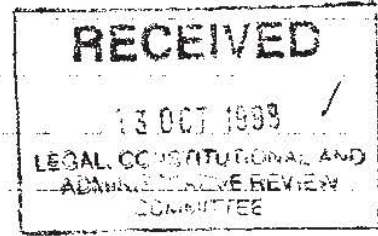


Mr. Henry W. Rowland
 WC & AR Committee
 Brisbane.

10. 10. 1998



Dear Secretary,

I thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the "Inquiry into issues of electoral reform raised in the Mansfield Decision".

Item number 148 is of great interest to me as I am totally disillusioned with the political process. That 1.2 million Australians were "preference out" of the October 3rd Federal election seems to me to be a shameful manipulation of process. This must never be allowed again. I attach hereto newspaper cutting from the Courier mail featuring under lined words in which I fully agree.

Items 150 and 151 Having worked as a beach worker many many times over the years, but only in small country areas, I have not personally witnessed the acts as described of exploitation of

voters who expect to be treated with
a hearty and courteous en route to the
polling booth. My answer to that
contagion is to forbid absolutely
"handing out" or forcing upon voters
"How to Vote" cards. In the recent
election, major political parties
merely laid upon the table "How to
Vote" cards and as voters passed
they selected cards of their choice.
This occurred at my 1040 vote
Ocala booth and order was the
result. In larger booths, I suggest
booth workers be close by to
see that supply is maintained
only.

to use in order, that decent people will
not stand by and allow to continue
dreadful injustice as seemingly now
applies. Let us return to simple,
unadorned one sided "How to vote"
cards personally selected by voters
with free intent and not harassment.
An alternative method of course is to
print large posters of each "How to
vote" card, display them prominently
and provide writing material at
points prior to the election. Voters
could then prepare their own "How
to vote card" in privacy and take
it to the polling booth when they
attend to vote.

There has to be a better way. The
too clever manipulation of process
currently favoured, must cease.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M. Morris

'Scrap voting system'

QUEENSLAND'S unique optional preferential voting system as too confusing and should be scrapped, Liberal Party state president Bob Carroll said yesterday.

Such a move would vastly reduce the chances of One Nation repeating its state election performance where it won 11 seats, largely on the back of Coalition preferences.

Mr Carroll said the system

which differs to the system used during last Saturday's federal election - had caused many Queenslanders to vote informally.

Opposition Leader Rob Borbidge agreed the federal system was better and called on Labor to offer bi-partisan support to a change.

But Premier Peter Beattie has rejected any change, saying the current system offered "freedom of choice".

Continued Page 4

Liberals urge voting system to be scrapped

COURIER MAIL 10.10.98

From Page 1

Mr Carroll sparked a major row in June when the Coalition put One Nation ahead of Labor on preferences in the state election and the fledgling party picked up 11 seats.

Under the Queensland system, which was used during the state election, people can vote for one candidate and then chose whether to direct preferences to other candidates.

The federal system forces voters to direct preferences to every candidate.

This system prevented One Nation from winning any seats at the federal poll, even though it polled 1.2 million votes.

Mr Carroll said Queensland should adopt the system in order to avoid confusion.

"The system is in conflict with the federal system and there's great confusion with how to vote," he said.

"I really think in the interests of the electorate, it needs to be addressed."

Mr Borbidge said that all parties had asked for compulsory preferential voting when the Electoral Administrative Review Commission looked at the Queensland voting system in the early 1990s.

"All political parties which made submissions to the EARC review favoured compulsory preferential voting and the National Party's position has not changed," he said.

"(But) to effect any change would require cross-party support."

However, Mr Beattie said removing optional preferential voting would mean independents such as Gladstone MP Liz Cunningham and Nicklin MP Peter Wellington could not win seats in Parliament.

"They want to remove optional preferential voting, they want to remove freedom of choice - I support freedom of choice," Mr Beattie said.

"The only reason they want to get rid of it is because of party self interest."

— ELIZABETH MERYMENT