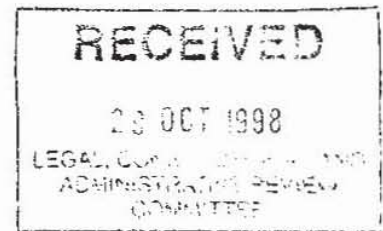


Submission No 23

Mrs Jade Rebecca Werner



October 27, 1998

The Research Director,
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee,
Parliament House,
George Street,
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Sir,

I am writing you this letter, in the hope that I may be able to persuade you, to help curb the rate of economic and environmental waste that is associated with each election that we encounter.

During the last six years, I have been on both sides of the fence at election time. I have been an active voter and have also participated in the ever wasteful - in all human, financial and environmental terms - voluntary position of handing out "How-To-Vote" cards. In the times that I have acted as a Booth Worker, I have witnessed many thousands of leaflets being thrown into the rubbish bins (provided by the Electoral Commission) with the end result being, in the majority of situations, that "How-To-Vote" cards are unable to be recycled, making the parties/individuals running for electorates, print more paraphernalia to ensure they have enough to see them through election day. Why can't we use a different system of informing the public of how to vote? Surely a poster inside each booth, with the details of each candidates preferences listed on it, would be more cost effective and efficient. These posters could be replaced by the Electoral Commission's staff, if they became vandalised or damaged in any way. The cost could be shared between all parties involved, and the amount of waste generated from this venture would be minimal compared to the waste produced from the use of "How-To-Vote" cards.

This style of informing the electorates constituents would also be far less stressful on the average voter, as they wouldn't have a bombardment of Booth Workers seeking them out, trying to persuade them to vote for their particular party/individual. At most elections I've counted more than ten people manning certain booths, and I'm sure that you would agree that to some people that could be quite annoying and frightening, especially for the elderly and disabled.

I urge you to take some action on this subject, as we lead into the next millennium, to ensure that the rate of waste generated from such events doesn't get any worse. I would greatly appreciate your response on this subject.

Yours Sincerely,

Jade Werner