

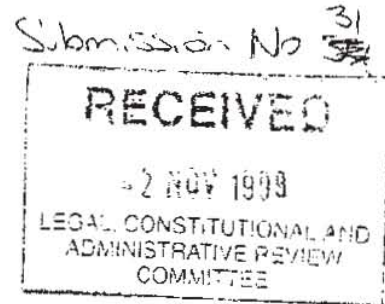


**Queensland
Nationals**

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The Research Director
Legal Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Legislative Assembly of Queensland
Parliament House
Brisbane



November 2nd 1998

Dear Sir

INQUIRY INTO ISSUES OF ELECTORAL REFORM

The National Party of Australia (Queensland) takes this opportunity to respond to the call for public submissions on the above issues arising from the challenge to the election result in the electoral district of Mansfield at the recent State Election.

You have on record previous submissions from our Party in relation to the Committee's inquiry into "Truth in Political Advertising". The material previously submitted and evidence presented to the Committee hearings by the National Party are relevant to the current inquiry and should be considered in context. *(Our references included changes modelled on the former section 329(2) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act and sections of the Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958 -Victoria)*

The National Party believes that the practice of misleading voters by issuing what have become known as "Second Preference" how to vote cards should be prohibited. In our view certain political parties in the past, in adopting how to vote card designs to maximise their vote, have transgressed the basic requirement that voters should not be misled.

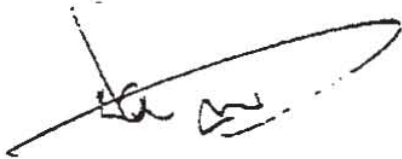
The practice, whether it is confined to one political party or not, has the effect of bringing the whole political process into disrepute and demeaning the status of those seeking political office in the eyes of the public.

In recommending necessary changes to legislation the Committee should ensure a result which prevents the issue of "bogus" how to vote cards by:-

- (a) Establishing a system of registration of how to vote materials prior to polling day.

- (b) Allowing sufficient time for objections to any misleading materials to be dealt with by the courts prior to polling day.
- (c) Preventing the representation that how to vote material is the material of an entity other than the entity making the material available.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.G. Russell', is written over a large, horizontal, hand-drawn oval scribble.

D.G. Russell
President