

I've not voted for maybe fifteen years, and I'm not on the roll.

There're two reasons for this.

I can remember standing in a polling booth, trying to fill all the boxes with numbers. The ballot paper was as big as a table cloth, and at that stage in my life, I didn't like either of the major parties. Albert Langer had been in gaol for telling people how to cast a valid vote, without voting for the major parties, and the law had been changed to make sure that people couldn't vote that way again. So I looked at all these candidates, knowing that there was no way to cast a valid vote, without my vote passing to someone I didn't like. I forget whether I voted informal or not, but I could see that politicians were having a lend of me.

Then later in life I retired and spent much time travelling. I was still on the roll and jury duty was calling. I was happy to do this duty but my circumstances required that I be contacted by phone or at a postal address. (there was no email then) Fines were increased for non attendance and I was away a good deal of the time. I tried to work things out; I contacted the number provided, and I wrote, but nothing seemed to get through. I gave up when they replied to my box number- but it was sent to my residential address.

Being off the roll just seemed to solve all the problems

Also, I have opinions regarding the process, and some suggestions.

The NSW state elections use the optional preferential system to count their votes. To me, this seems like the most usable way. I'm offended by the audacity of politicians who've told people *how* to put their numbers in the boxes. How dare they. It's my ballot paper, they're my boxes, and my numbers.

Also, the Hare-Clarke, or proportional representation system, as used in the senate and in some council elections, is by far the most representative. It should be used in the lower house.

I'd also prefer non-compulsory voting.

Many people don't watch in the news. Maybe 70% of us wouldn't vote if we weren't forced. The intellectual dignity of election campaigns are distorted when politicians skew their rhetoric to appeal to this majority of disinterested who can't recall the issues of the previous election.

This has real effects on the legislation that follows. The USA is much more likely to pass maverick legislation that will deal with the matters at hand.

Also, please give us citizens-initiated-referenda.

Thank you, Neville Peck.