

Ron Munro

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Electoral Reform Green Paper.

**I welcome the opportunity to comment on electoral reform
My suggestions are as follows.**

1. I strongly support compulsory voting but I am shocked to learn that a huge number of those eligible to be on the electoral roll have not bothered to register and submit that if a person is eligible then it should be compulsory for them to register or face substantial fines.

I support including the electoral system in school programs and in citizenship nationalization programs.

2. I agree that the voting age should be reduced to 16 years

3. I suggest that the deposit for a candidate for the H of R and the Senate should be substantially increased to say \$ 5,000 and this should be forfeited if the candidate does not obtain 10% of the first preference votes. Furthermore they should not be paid the government subsidy if they do not receive 10% of the first preference vote.

(It is far too easy for nominees to gain cheap publicity by nominating)

4. I believe that Voting systems should be uniform throughout all States and Territories

5. If preference voting is permitted the second preference should be valued at no more than one half and the third no more than one third. Under no circumstances should preferences go beyond one third. The allocation of preferences should not be compulsory. In the case of the Senate voting paper it is a waste of money to print such a huge paper . I suggest that only the "above the line" section of the paper be provided for voters.

5. If a party is registered it should be obliged to spell out what it stands for. Otherwise its name can convey the wrong impression. eg. Family First

**7. At present parties can include in their propaganda claims which are utterly false.
A panel should be set up to vet false and misleading claims or statements. If dubious statements are published before being vetted the party should be forced to withdraw them and publicly apologise .**

8, A member of the House of Representatives should not be permitted to switch from one party to another during their term of office. If they wish to switch they should wait until the next election and re -nominate.

**9. with advances in technology we should move to online enrolment, online updating and online voting. It should not be difficult to ensure that a person who so votes is on the electoral roll and has not voted twice.
Vote counting should also be done electronically .This would permit the results to be determined in the shortest possible time. It is inconceivable that absentee votes should take so long to be counted. Surely they could be processed overseas and flashed to Australia.**

10. Should members of the House of Representatives resign before their term expires they should be obliged to pay a substantial fine bearing in mind the cost to the taxpayer of bye elections. Naturally exemptions should be granted in the case of Death or serious illness.