



Electoral System's Inadequacies in Today's Challenges

The world experiences 4 converging challenges:

- (1) peak oil 2005 – 2008
- (2) global warming
- (3) accumulated debt problem
- (4) geopolitical crisis in the Middle East

Our current electoral system is not designed to cope with these problems. Our elections for the House of Representatives are knock-out competitions in which a substantial part of votes are uncontrollably re-distributed (2 party preferred). In some European countries, e.g. Germany, 5 parties have evolved: CDU (conservatives), FDP (Democratic Liberals), SPD (Labour), PDS (Leftists) and Greens. They form varying coalitions in negotiations.

Example: last elections in Bennelong. MP Maxine McKew won over former PM Howard only with the votes of the Greens. But these votes have not entered political objectives and actions. "Environment" Minister Peter Garrett approved the Wiggins coal terminal in April 2008 and even PM Kevin Rudd himself is proud to finance a 3rd coal train track in the Hunter with \$580 million. Read my report card 2008: Has the Federal government prepared for oil decline and CO2 reduction? <http://www.crudeoilpeak.com/?p=403>

If we had a proportional voting system, the Greens would also be in the Lower House and the ALP would have been forced to enter formal coalition agreements where such coal friendly decisions would have been excluded. The Greens in the Senate have only a limited role and mostly when it is too late.

The 2nd example is Kevin Rudd's statement he is not interested in financing the NW rail link in Sydney because there are no votes in it in electorates dominated by Liberals anyway. This is absurd, that such considerations influence important infrastructure decisions.

Therefore, the whole electoral system would have to be changed. In Germany, half of the MPs in the lower House enter via party lists, the other half are direct candidates. It is a balanced system in which both federal and local interests come together. More details are here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mixed_member_proportional_representation

Donations to parties should be completely banned as they also have undue influence over decisions, something which is outside a democratic decision making process. We have 1 man = 1 vote and NOT \$1 = 1 vote. Parties should be funded by the tax-payer, to whom MPs would have to be loyal, not to donating companies.

Thanking you for the opportunity to make this submission

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