

Hello,

Firstly, let me congratulate the Attorney General for setting up this expert advisory panel to advise the WA Government on options for electoral reform of the Legislative Council. Reform of the Upper House is long overdue, and it is commendable that public submissions have been called for to assist the expert panel.

1. I strongly support reform of the Legislative Council to make votes equal in value. I have been campaigning on this issue for over 40 years, and have given the issue a lot of thought. I have attached a document which outlines some proposed models.

Option 1 – Makes all LC votes equal in value, but introduces some practical difficulties with very large ballot papers and a likely abundance of single issue micro parties.

Option 2 – More closely aligns with the current regional system, while making votes nearly equal in value. However regional boundaries could be manipulated in the future.

2. I support reform of the ticket voting system for the Legislative Council to eliminate “preference harvesting”. The rules for the Senate ticket voting system would be the best model for this reform.

I am happy for my submission to be made public, and I am also happy to speak to the panel if that is useful.

Yours,

Gordon Payne

Electoral Models for a reformed Legislative Council

Option 1 – The Whole of State Option:

- Whole of State Proportional Voting
- Optional preferential voting similar to Senate system
- No preference swapping for parties for votes “above the line”
- Parties/candidates must get minimum 3% vote to have a candidate elected
- Maximum 24 candidates per party

Advantages: Equal value votes, no regional boundaries to be considered
Similar to SA and NSW Upper House systems, and to Senate elections

Could also legislate to reduce LC to 30 members (1/2 LA), or have 18 members elected every 4 years (with 8 year terms)

Option 2 – The Regional Option:

- Firstly, increase LA to 60 seats using current legislation
- Eliminate Metro/Country boundary
- Electoral Commission to create 4, 5 or 6 LC regions
- Each region would have with an equal number of LA electorates
- This would give:
 - 4 regions, each with 15 LA electorates, or
 - 5 regions, each with 12 LA electorates, or
 - 6 regions, each with 10 LA electorates
- Option 2a (4 regions): 4 x 9 LC members
- Option 2b (5 regions): 4 x 7 LC members, 1 rural region has 9 LC members
- Option 2c (6 regions): 6 x 7 LC members

Advantages: Equal value votes (nearly), similar to current system and Vic model
No metro/country boundary, electoral commission redraws LA boundaries regularly and LC region boundaries realign automatically.

Regions could be renamed to take out geographical references