

Please find attached my submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee

Regards

Joe Boswell

Submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform

1. Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee's review of the electoral system for the Legislative Council.
2. I am an Australian citizen resident in the South Metropolitan region, where I have resided since the end of 2005.
3. I wish to begin by stating my full and unqualified support of the objective of electoral equality for all citizens entitled to vote for the Legislative Council.
4. I have seen some objections originating from regional areas where voters benefit from the existing inequality. They said these voters would be "disenfranchised" if the current system is reformed. I hope this absurd and disingenuous complaint or canard is refuted before it can be given any wide credence. A reform that provides provides electoral equality would correct a serious injustice currently suffered by voters in less favoured regions. At risk of stating the painfully obvious, everyone who has a vote now will still have a vote if malapportionment is eliminated. Nobody will be disenfranchised.
5. It is not hard to find people who support malapportionment in favour of less populated regions, though they seldom name it as that. Some favour it from simple self-interest. Other have a misguided belief that somehow the these populations require or merit over-representation. It is easy enough to construct arguments of varying sophistry attempting to justify extra representation in favour of just about any identifiable group within the total population of the state, not just the rural population. Each has some particular interests it would like to see get special treatment, and in the end they all cancel out each other. The only appropriate and defensible way to represent voters in the Legislative Council is through equal representation for all.
6. In addition to ending malapportionment in the Legislative Council it would also be most welcome if the Group Voting Ticket system was ended. This system, in effect, encourages each voter not to vote directly but instead to appoint as proxy a political party. This was always a terrible idea, but it has become normal through familiarity and is now the method used by the great majority of voters. The profusion of obscure micro-parties feeding on the confusion they create on the ballot papers, the shoddy deals between those parties and the weird outcomes that result from it are a disgrace.



J. L. Boswell

NAME: Joe Boswell