

Hi

Thanks for the opportunity.

The overriding rule that should be applied to whatever system you introduce is that everyone's vote is equal & is not weakened based on issues such as size of the area of each electorate. Find another way to assist with representation ( Extra Funds to those politicians for staff & travel perhaps ).

There should never be more than 5% population variation between electorates ( NSW & SA seem to have an equitable system where there appears to be no variation ).

In your discussion paper you said that the Terms of Reference exclude the elimination of the Upper House OR a reduction in numbers. I'm not sure what you mean by a reduction so I am assuming it means the total number of politicians can't change. I assume you don't mean each region must maintain the existing number of politicians otherwise not much point in this exercise unless you reset the regions boundary's so it has equal population?

For what it's worth by far the best system is the Elimination of the Upper House but I understand that requires a referendum. BUT it's virtually impossible for any Government to push through visionary legislation when the opposition parties control the upper house. There is just no need for an upper house. We can always kick the party out after 4 years if they stuff up.

I just mention it in case a side comment is made in your Report on " other " suggestions.

With regards to Proportional Voting it kills me having to put a number next to someone I absolutely disagree with. You must create an Optional aspect so we don't have to vote for fringe groups if we don't want to. Surely we only need to number 1 to 3 OR 1 to 5 AND definitely get rid of Group Voting Tickets. They are not needed anyway if we only have to number 3 to 5 choices. I also think they should all be voted on every 4 years. We don't want to wait 8 years to get rid of a politician who is not performing how the majority of electors require.

**Whatever you decide on PLEASE just protect our Democracy & have an equal number of voters per politician or very close to equal.**

Regards Geoff Colyer

PS :

Once this is done perhaps recommend to the Government that the FEDERAL Upper House needs reforming.

You can't have Tasmania for example having the same number of politicians as NSW. The Senate is NOT doing what it was created for which was to JUST REPRESENT STATE INTERESTS. They don't do that as they are controlled by & just reflect the major lower house party's. If they did as they were created for every WA Senator would have acted much more effectively on GST Reform rather just echo Federal views. Either have it that the State Government appoints politicians to represent us in the Senate OR the people vote for politicians that are NOT members of existing Federal Lower house party's. OR just get rid of the SENATE because at the moment it looks more like a Gerrymander ( I think that's the term ? ). The Senate has to rep[resent & vote according to major state issues & NOT Federal issues. Not sure how that can be done in a practical way BUT a committee should look at it.