

From: Susan Gregory
To: WA Electoral Reform Submissions
Subject: Submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform
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Submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform

Electoral Reform Australia is an organisation which promotes single transferable vote proportional representation (PR-STV)

We have produced a number of newsletters – entitled *The Largest Remainder* – which have articles on a number of subjects that should be considered by the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform when considering its recommendations.

These subjects include –

1. Whether electorates should only elect an odd number of candidates

There is no problem with electorates electing even numbers of representatives if district magnitude is sufficiently large so that the quota is small enough to avoid electoral stasis.

2. Whether any form of compulsory preferencing is needed –

Compulsory marking of preferences is not necessary under any circumstances.

3. Whether above-the-line voting is needed –

Compulsory marking of preferences is not necessary under any circumstances.

4. Whether exhausted votes can still play a part in determining the outcome of single transferable vote elections –

They can, by determining the order in which candidates are excluded and giving candidates an idea of their support levels, among other matters.

5. Is the Robson Rotation the only acceptable form of rotation of candidates on the ballot paper?.

No, it's not, unless it is determined that political parties should have no say in choosing which of their candidates should be elected. A simple rotation based on the parties' choice of candidate order is just as effective in ensuring that their vote is maximised.

These are all issues which are debated by PR-STV advocates and they are all explored, with worked examples, in our newsletters which can be found on our website at www.electoralreformaustralia.org by opening the Largest Remainder icon in the heading. We would recommend in particular the following articles -

Largest Remainder No.1 June 2008

- Electoral Stasis – by Stephen Lesslie

Largest Remainder No. 14 April 2012

- STV Electorates Returning an Even Number of Members – Is it all bad? – by Stephen Lesslie

Largest Remainder No. 17 February 2013

- Compulsory Marking of Preferences: the Australian Disease – by Stephen Lesslie

Largest Remainder No. 20 September 2013

- Optional preferential voting – make it meaningful
- The case for fully optional preferential voting for the Senate – by Stephen Lesslie

Largest Remainder No. 21 February 2014

- Compulsory Marking of Preferences: the Australian Disease (Part 3) – by Stephen Lesslie

Largest Remainder No. 22 May 2014

- Editorial – A fundamentalist argument for fully optional preferential voting!
- Exhausted Votes, exhausted, but still working; – by Stephen Lesslie

Largest Remainder No. 26 July 2015

- Is the Robson Rotation a Turn too Far?

I would highly recommend that you consider these subjects seriously as proportional representation is a system that should be allowed to work, not amended and tinkered with. Amendments to PR-STV, such as above-the-line voting and group voting tickets distort the results that the unadorned system would give and there can be no valid reasons for such amendments.

I look forward to seeing the results of your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Gregory
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5 June 2021