

John Golawski, President

June 7th, 2021

WA Electoral reform SUBMISSION

Dear Sir/Madam

Re; Changes to the Western Australian electoral system.

BACKGROUND

It has been the desire of the two (Liberal and Labor) most powerful political parties in Western Australia to create supreme duopoly. The simple strategy, worked for the Holden/Ford duopoly for several years. Those companies (Holden and Ford) managed to control this clandestine duopoly until the 1980's arrival of Honda, Toyota, Hyundai, VW and so on.

The Western Australian Legislative Council 'group voting' system has been an obstacle to exercise the 'full duopoly' plot of those two major parties. The opportunity to ridicule that (group voting) system arrive at 2021 state election.

In the Mining and Pastoral Region, the Labor Party, astonishingly, directed their second preference to the Daylight Saving Party (first preference given to SFFP) to deliver Western Australian voters, this preposterous result. As a result of this Labor Party action your committee has been established.

RESOLUTION

The only valuable option to consider is the NSW voting system (given that the Hare-Clarke one is not even feasible for WA). The NSW system operated for a long time, with much smaller population number for years, with 42 upper house members elected for 8 years term with 4-yearly rotation of 21 +21.

Considering the fast growth of our State, the election of 42 members could be the most desirable option. We do not however agree with an eight year term which can reduce the elected Member of Parliament motivation to improve his/her performance, since they would not be held to account for a lengthy eight years. We would like to see 42 Legislative Council members actively fighting to win their seats every four years.

Giving a chance to the smaller political parties would not only be hugely advantageous to our democracy, but undeniably, will give the opportunity to the leading parties to gauge the broader opinion of the public.

VOTING BALLOT

Above The Line voting;

Ballot paper should consist all registered political parties in WA with voters to mark numbers from 1 to 8 to make the vote valid.

Below The Line voting; Ballot paper should consist all candidates (including independence) voters to mark numbers from 1 to 42 choice below the line.

Preferences – only to be counted from 1 to 8 on both- ATH and BTL ballots.

ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS

Given that new system will be introduced, we should take opportunity to improve other inefficient areas of our electoral system;

1. Pre-voting period should be reduced to a maximum of two (2) weeks or even one (1) week. Experience has shown, that even the major parties

have difficulties to cover all pre-voting booths during 4 weeks long pre-voting period.

2. Confusing/Misleading, pre-voting pamphlets (distributed by political parties not the WAEC) mailed by post, should be permanently abolished. Widely practiced by the Liberal Party in WA (distributed by Australia Post mail) creates nothing but confusion between voters with low level of voting knowledge. It is prohibited in the other states and one wonders why WA is still in dark ages on such an obvious rule.
3. All political donations above \$1,500.00 to be made public at nominated time before election (e.g. 4 weeks) to assure transparency to the voting public. From that (nominated) date to the Election Day all donations to be banned/prohibited. All donation to be publish on the WAEC website and "The West Australian" newspaper.

John Golawski, President

WAxit/Small Business Party