

From: [Adam As Dusty](#)
To: [WA Electoral Reform Submissions](#)
Subject: Submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform.
Date: Tuesday, 8 June 2021 9:42:21 AM

Submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform.

Addressing the terms of reference:

1. Electoral equality has never been the goal for a house of review in the Westminster system. The house of review was designed to give a voice to those that may be disadvantaged by the tyranny of the majority. Take the Federal Senate. If the goal of the Senate was to achieve electoral equality, then Western Australia would be stripped of its current twelve Senators to be replaced with a number reflective of Western Australia's population. In this case the state would be fortunate to have four Senators and the voice of Western Australians would be severely limited, despite a large amount of the wealth of Australia coming from Western Australia. Similarly, while regional Western Australia only accounts for 25% of the state's population, the majority of the state's wealth is sourced from these regions. These regions deserve to have an equal voice within our system of government, which is why the current system of selecting upper house members should be maintained, to make sure those who produce the wealth of this state have a strong voice in how this state is run.

2. A situation where a Legislative Council Member can be elected having gained less than 100 votes while other candidates that attracted far more first preference votes do not achieve a seat demonstrates that the current system of preferential voting must be reformed. The problem arises from above the line voting. By abolishing above the line voting the ability to do preference deals is taken away and seats are determined by the will of the people. The biggest hindrance to below the line voting has been the requirement to number every candidate. With the large number of candidates now running in elections this requirement is onerous and should be replaced with the requirement to number six candidates. As there are only six seats in each Legislative Council region this requirement will be reasonable and reflect the will of the people. The original purpose of the house of review in the Westminster system was to allow prominent members of the public to gain a role in government. Under the current system this ability is severely limited and favours party politics but if above the line voting is abolished it will become more feasible for prominent Western Australians to campaign and win seats in the Upper House, therefore adding to the diversity of voices within parliament.

Regards,

Adam Dusty