

## **Submission on Legislative Council Electoral Reform.**

No one could say there is nothing wrong with the electoral system for the Legislative Council when a person can be elected with 98 votes.

How ever I am sure the system can be improved, without making wholesome changes.

I would like to make a few points to the enquiry

### **1) The review panel.**

All well Qualified people but none of them live outside the metro area How can they understand the country viewpoint?

### **2) Equality of Voting.**

Voters need equality of access to their representatives, not equal numbers in each electorate. There may be a lot more electors in city electorates but it is an easy task to contact your member with a short drive. Country people face a huge drive to contact their member.

### **3) Distribution.**

Although 70% of the state population lives in the city, the 30% in the country largely drive the economy. City people feed off each other while the country provides new money to help the economy.

### **4) Decentralisation.**

We need people spread out across the state. Country people miss out on many things the city has to offer. They need some encouragement to stay in the country.

### **5) Winning an Election.**

The present system didn't stop Labour from gaining control. Any party that has good policies and a good image will attract enough voters to elect a majority.

### **6) Problems.**

Problems in the country are hugely more diverse than in the city with many different industries and problems that need attention while in the city problems are largely health and transport. While there maybe increased numbers in the city electorates the problems are similar for each voter.

In summary the present system does need some attention to stop people winning elections with very low numbers but on the whole it is a reasonable system. With theoretical equality in electoral numbers country people will be grossly under represented.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Frank House