

From: David
To: WA Electoral Reform Submissions
Subject: Legislative Council electoral reform
Date: Saturday, 5 June 2021 4:02:02 PM

Dear All,

Firstly:

Since arriving in this country in 1966 I have noticed that political parties connive to gain electoral advantage by corrupt use of the preferential system. The supposed reason for this system is that it allows a vote to have value beyond its initial purpose and therefore will not be "Wasted". This supposition is nonsense, and there should be no ability of political parties to trade votes between each other. For them to do so suppresses the growth of small parties, which the main, established parties are united in doing. This is unhealthy for democracy.

Secondly:

Introduce a system of proportional representation whereby every vote counts: should 10% of votes be for xyz party then 10% of seats go to that party. The fairness and simplicity of such a system could not be challenged, except by those embedded in the present cock-eyed system by which they gain advantage.

Other:

I believe that a rural/remote vote should have more weight than a city vote. This is because I see vast amounts of money spent in the city in order to make the city more populous (roads, subdivisions, etc) while rural and remote regions appear to be ignored. Only "Appear" because I am well aware that similar money is spent regionally as in the city. The point is that it has to be spread about a thousand times more thinly. This is demonstrated, for example, by road fatalities, health, life expectancy, education, smoking, ambulance services and so on and on. All the statistics point this way. If regional people now have votes worth double, then they are getting very little value from it, and their supposedly more powerful representatives are asleep on the job. Or perhaps the whole system is at fault. I raise these matters because they strike at the heart of what government is for.

Also, I have become aware in recent years that, in general, city people are less and less aware of the requirements of nature. Not only that but awareness of what nature actually is is shrinking. There is an increasing feeling that the city is all there is, and that things outside the city are unimportant to them. Or are insubstantial. Whereas nothing could be further from the truth, city survival depends on the regions. And by the city of course I mean Perth.

I further believe that an aboriginal voice to State Parliament would be of tremendous benefit to WA, as would a treaty. As things now stand, no aboriginal history (which is our history) is safe from complete destruction. The laws which have been allowed to pass through the Legislative Council to protect our history are completely meaningless. Ditto the forests, another catastrophic failure. In some things we only get one chance. If the Legislative Council does not use its teeth, or has none, we may as well get rid of it.

Yours faithfully,

David Booth,