

To whom it may concern

Please see the attached submission.

Kind regards

Tom Hoyer

## **Submission to:**

### **The Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform**

To begin, I am not convinced that our preferential or proportional system of voting at our elections is “broken” or is maladjusted in any way. Our democratic system of voting is arguably the best on the planet.

Equally, I am not persuaded by the ‘politics of envy’ when the Minister suggests that \$203,030-plus salary being received by an elected member is somehow inappropriate when received by a candidate who receives 98 votes.

The further suggestion that a single issue candidate cannot and will not demonstrate a wider participatory effort when ensconced in the Parliament is nonsense. Just like jury competence, or elections to a local government councillor role, each individual grows in the role and the broad obligation vested in the role when they represent all citizens.

Again, I am not convinced by the declaration that, “What has shocked political observers and led to a public outcry for electoral reform is that with the help of a trick known as “preference harvesting”, Mr Tucker will spend the next four years sitting in the Legislative Council”.

I can be corrected, but my understanding is that the voter, that’s me, has the absolute power at the ballot box. It is up to me to vote, after contributing a personal ‘due diligence’ to the candidate and party profiles prior to that moment at the ballot box. Admittedly, the 1<sup>st</sup> distortion of this obligation was when legislators responded to a lazy and apathetic voter population, by allowing an ‘above the line’ option. This I believe has contributed to the preference management by political parties and individuals.

Changing the system because someone got a seat from a base of 98 votes is a ‘knee jerk’ response by the ill informed and envious (with possible major party and other influences as well)

So, no I am not convinced that further responses and changes are required. The will of the voter has been demonstrated though the preference and proportional counting processes.

In fact, I would propose that no changes be made. However what is required is a much more robust education and information program provided to the voter.

- Maybe look at a much more deliberate curriculum change (starting in primary schools) in our schools, that highlight the voting systems and processes, the successes of our system and potential failures of that system when a commitment is not made to the voting experience.
- There should be a strong narrative funded and delivered generally and deliberately that alerts (and even alarms) the voter to their obligations and duties in our democratic system.
- The electoral commission and other political leaders have an obligation to uphold and strengthen the current processes, uphold the integrity of the democracy and not pander to the lazy and ill-informed or narrow political outcomes at the expense of the essential democracy we enjoy.

Thank you.