

Committee Secretary
 Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
 Parliament House
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INQUIRY - Electoral (Voter's Choice) Amendment Bill 2019

Please accept my submission to this inquiry

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I write this submission to support this bill to bring back Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) for state elections and further to prevent CPV and First past the post for local Councils. It is a no brainer . It is the right thing to do. It is the democratic thing to do .

In my joint submission to a previous Qld Parliamentary Inquiry on CPV for Local Councils , and I incorporate it into this submission - I provided an argument I had written -arguing that Compulsory preferential voting (CPV) for the Federal House of Representatives is unconstitutional . The link to that submission is here

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/EGC/2019/ElectoralOLA2019/submissions/003.pdf> A joint submission to 2 inquiries :

Economics and Governance Committee , Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/EGC/inquiries/past-inquiries/ElectoralOLA2019>

Economics and Governance Committee , Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/EGC/inquiries/past-inquiries/LGElectoralStg2ofBel2019>

The constitutional argument against CPV may even be stronger for state and local elections on proportionality grounds.

That said , I do not believe that the LNP who are the proponents of the bill had any democratic values in mind , even if they have stated that is the case , when they supported reintroduction of Optional preferential Voting in Qld.

Its is sheer political pragmatism . Its about numbers for them .

At the federal level for instance , their party is against optional preferential voting for the reps and at the 2019 Election pre-poll interfered with me informing people as to the state of the law . That they were entitled to optional above the line and to limit their prefs below to six if they wished . Because they had done a deal with another party.

I got dragged off by cops and charges were later dropped .

The former federal MP Christopher Pyne even stated on the ABC's Q and A once that they were against Optional Preferential for "stability" reasons . That is , if people weren't forced to vote for them they wouldn't . Election on a party ticket isn't a foregone conclusion and pollies could loose their jobs. This destabilises their comfy lives and they have to call in the jobs they were promised by either donors or companies who didn't want to be seen donating to people they needed decisions or tenders from earlier rather than later and it all comes out during election time when they pack it in.

Labor is even more cynical. Look at what was said by Anthony Albanese in 2013 for instance "That's why compulsory preferential (voting) is such a winner .It just stops these █████ from grand-standing the way they love to do by just saying 'vote one' . They have to make a choice, which is something they hate to do" (The Australian 23-4 -2013 p 18)

A simple look at the donations disclosures sites <http://democracyforsale.net/search-aec/> and <https://disclosures.ecq.qld.gov.au> and the the previous state and local returns stashed on the ECQ site at

<https://ecqgov.sharepoint.com/sites/publicaccess/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9lY3Fnb3Yuc2hhcmVwb2ludC5jb20vOmY6L3MvcHVibGljYWNjZXNzL0VvOVQxQlhZY1pKTHNHV2RmTTV5QVZrQk9KZW9HeEtPTGZWVy15V2tGSVHVVE%5FcnRpbWU9T29QbWJOeFcxMGc&viewid=68b0ab10%2Dfcdd%2D426d%2Db400%2Db0d2634a0616&id=%2Fsites%2Fpublicaccess%2FDocuments%2FDisclosure%20Returns%2FElection%20Disclosure%20Returns%2FLocal%20Government%20Elections>

- shows that parties appear to be getting donations from altruistic donors wanting the same thing from both sides.

And the Qld Integrity site www.integrity.qld.gov.au showing the names of lobbying firms , who works for them and runs them and who they represent , compared with the disclosure sites show that people who in the public eye had professed to be mortal political enemies on grounds of ideology and principle are working together as partners and passing money to there opposing parties .

Right now , there are party people in positions of political power donating to apposing parties . Clive Palmer did this with Mineralogy whilst being a life member of the Liberals/LNP.

All this shows that the politicking that goes on with the ALP and LNP is a bit like that Steve Martin Movie "Leap of Faith" but without the redemption.

Televangelists the lot of em. And CPV enforces therefore, a one party state. What is the difference between CPV and the Hong Kong system ?? Ultimately the party - not democracy wins .

For us lefties its about principle . Because of the nature of political party factional pre-selection processes , crooks get pre-selected in individual seats. And Compulsory preferential voting forces us to play "who is the better nazi and mafia crook" or our votes are informal. The laws tell us not to associate or consort with certain people , yet if they run we are forced to recognise them by marking their boxes or our votes are informal .

CPV was foisted on us because corruption is that obvious. And the international community needed the illusion of consent . The illusion of "2 party preferred" . This is when the actual reason for bringing back CPV is that there was a block that preferred neither.

Under CPV , people who may have had the most evil things done to them may have to preference their abusers ,oppressors or those that protect them .That is psychological harm for the purposes of The Qld Criminal Code Torture provision s320A .

To get pre-selected those people have to expend a lot of political capital do deals , invest emotionally and financially and maybe even quit jobs to run to get on the gravy train.

There is always a significant block of principled lefty voters who would not vote for crooks , NAZIS OR FASCISTS . Sometimes , choosing the lesser of 2 evils just doesn't cut it.

We know all sides want to crush us .They have said things like" protesters get out of Qld" and have encouraged violence through the media. You also seek to criminalise people who speak up more than once. We know each side has corrupt people . We know you will get kicked out later .

But in the meantime, if CPV is not overturned the only other avenue to get even with people you don't want to vote for is violence . Certainly people do have to be punished after the tables are turned later anyway like in any good revolution. And like any good revolution, the world will look kindly upon it EVEN IF YOU DON'T . This is why, I believe the High Court will find CPV unconstitutional.

In the meantime, do the right thing and get rid of CPVlike you give a toss !

Pat Coleman



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