
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Advisory Report on the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

March 2016
Canberra

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ISBN 978-1-74366-459-9 (Printed version)

ISBN 978-1-74366-460-5 (HTML version)

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Membership of the Committee

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Deputy Chair Hon Alan Griffin MP (Deputy Chair)

Members

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Hon Gary Gray AO, MP	Mr Ian Goodenough MP
Senator Chris Ketter (to 24/2/16)	Senator Barry O'Sullivan
Mr Tony Pasin MP	Senator Linda Reynolds
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Senator Cory Bernardi	Senator Catryna Bilyk
Senator Joe Bullock	Senator David Bushby
Senator the Hon. Doug Cameron	Senator the Hon. Kim Carr
Senator the Hon. Jacinta Collins	Senator Sam Dastyari
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Senator	Zed Seselja	Senator	Rachel Siewert
Senator	Robert Simms	Senator	the Hon. Lisa Singh
Senator	Dean Smith	Senator	Glenn Sterle
Senator	Anne Urquhart	Senator	Zhenya Wang
Senator	Larissa Waters	Senator	Peter Whish-Wilson
Senator	John Williams	Senator	Penny Wong
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Terms of reference

On the 22 February 2016 the House referred the provisions of the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016 to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters for inquiry and report by 2 March 2016.



List of abbreviations

AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
AEO	Australian Electoral Officer
ALP	Australian Labor Party
ATL	Above the line
BTL	Below the line
DLP	Democratic Liberal Party
DRO	Divisional Returning Officer
EM	Explanatory memorandum
GVTs	Group voting tickets
JSCEM	Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters



List of recommendations

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The Committee recommends that the Government introduce a system of partial optional preferential voting below the line. It proposes that:.....	37
■ voters should be instructed on the ballot paper to mark a minimum of 12 preferences to vote below the line; and	37
■ a related vote savings provision for below the line votes be introduced to ensure that any ballot with at least six boxes numbered in a sequential order (starting at '1') be considered formal.	37
Recommendation 2	40
The Committee recommends that the amendments proposed in Recommendation 1 are incorporated into the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016</i> , and that the bill is passed.	40

