

# Democratic Audit of Australia

Ms Christine McDonald  
Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

8 June 2010

Dear Ms McDonald,

Please find attached the Democratic Audit of Australia's submission to your committee's Inquiry into the **Electoral and Referendum Amendment (How-to Vote cards and Other Measures) Bill 2010** and **Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Modernisation and Other Measures) Bill 2010**.

Yours sincerely

Professor Brian Costar

### **1. Close of Rolls Period.**

The Audit is on record as supporting the pre-2006 seven day 'period of grace', but only as an interim measure. Automatic enrolment of 18 year olds, automatic re-instatement of those removed from the roll because of mobility and even election-day enrolment would eliminate the need to 'close the roll'

### **2. Provisional Voter Identity**

The Audit contends that there is no need for provisional voters to present photo ID. The pre-2006 safeguards were adequate.

### **3. Electronic Updates**

The Audit supports the initiative, but c/f 1. above, only as an interim measure.

### **4. Enrolment Transactions**

The Audit supports the proposed administrative changes.

### **5. Endorsed candidates per division.**

The Audit supports the closing of this loop-hole and also recommends increasing the number of supporters of Independent candidates from 50 to 100. It is well recognised that the cluttering of House ballot papers with multiple candidates serves to increase informality in ways which effectively disenfranchise voters not fluent in English.

### **6. Sight –impaired Electors**

In principle the Audit supports the initiative, but notes that the trial conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) in 2006, while technically sound, the facilities for 'computer-assisted voting' were utilized by few voters and were expensive ( VEC, *Report to Parliament on the 2006 Victorian State Election*, 65-75.)

## **7. Workload Sharing**

The Audit supports the initiative, but has long advocated for a much more thorough reform of the DRO structure.

## **8. Enrolment ID**

The Audit supports the changes, but notes that it still assumes the continuation of a paper-based enrolment regime.

## **9. Provisional Enrolment**

The Audit supports the age reduction from 17 to 16, but would not support a reduction in the voting age from the current 18 years.

## **10. Electoral Rolls, related lists and ballot papers**

The Audit supports these changes.

## **11. Mobile polling**

The Audit supports these changes, but recommends that eligible prisoners be encouraged to access the postal voting procedures.

## **12. Homelessness**

The Audit supports these reforms, but notes that the majority of those who have itinerant elector status are not 'homeless' in the ABS meaning of that term.

## **13. How-to vote-cards**

The Audit supports the proposed changes, but recommends adoption of a version of Sections 77-80 of the Victorian *Electoral Act 2002* to further reduce the possibility of HTVs misleading electors in the casting of their vote. The Audit contends that the attached HTV distributed at the 2009 Higgins by-

election, by failing to include a flow of preferences, may have encouraged the casting of informal votes.

#### **14. Misleading or deceptive publication**

The Audit supports the proposals.

Advertisement

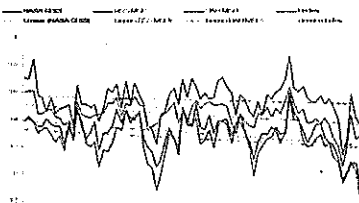
# CLIMATE CHANGE

## Have we been conned?

**1** Mark one in the top box:  
**Stephen Murphy**



Stephen holds a Science degree from Monash University with first class Honours.



Global warming stopped in 2001 - see for yourself!

(1) Frontier Economics report. (2) Google 'CRU hacked'  
(3) Draft Copenhagen treaty, will cost Australia over 10yrs

The emissions trading scheme (ETS) is Kevin Rudd's new tax on everything.

Is it estimated to cost every taxpayer:

**\$4,550** per year<sup>(1)</sup>

Why weren't we told about this?

Is the science really settled?

Some of the world's leading climate scientists have reportedly manipulated<sup>(2)</sup> data to create scary global warming scenarios. So much for peer review!

So why the rush to Copenhagen for a **\$70 Billion** photo opportunity?<sup>(3)</sup>

And exactly how much of our wealth, freedom and sovereignty does our Prime Minister plan to sign away?

**Climate Change is Natural!!**

**VOTE 1 Stephen Murphy**  
INDEPENDENT - Climate Sceptic

Thinking of voting Liberal?

Not happy with the ETS?

Send a strong message to Canberra and preference (1) Stephen Murphy first.

Visit <http://besceptical.blogspot.com>

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