

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Supplementary Submission - Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022

Dear Committee Members,

I propose that the period for submissions be increased by at least four weeks. There was 14 days only from the date that this Bill was referred to the Committee to the date that submissions close and this is simply too short, particularly when the call for submissions has received no publicity and when citizens are distracted by Christmas. I have discussed this Bill with many and not one person had any knowledge of this Bill whatsoever and many had serious reservations that they were likely to express through submissions if more time was available.

Even given the extra month, the challenge to spread the word is daunting and perhaps the Committee could arrange some publicity. This should be possible at least with the ABC, given that it should be seen as a public duty, but I would then be concerned that the message may not be delivered without bias one way or another. To avoid the bias would require the 'Pros and Cons' to be prepared with the same diligence that [currently](#) applies to a 'Referendum Pamphlet'.

As can be seen, from my main submission, this Bill may have very serious consequences and I urge you to obtain as much public feedback as possible.

Thanks

