



7 Allott Court  
Spring Gully  
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10 June, 2002

The Secretary,  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600.

Dear Sir,

**Inquiry Into the Conduct of the 2001 Federal Election.**


I refer to your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2002 and would like to revise my earlier letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2002-

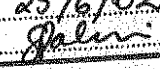
- (1) As the cost of the last federal election was in excess of \$100,000,000 I would suggest that the procedures be re examined to facilitate electronic counting.
- (2) As the size of the Senate and House of Representatives ballot papers have reached unmanageable proportions I submit that--
  - (a) The deposit be raised to \$ 10,000 for both Houses and that deposits not be returned unless a candidate secures 10% of first preference votes
  - (b) That if preferential voting is retained only a first and second preference be recognised and that the second preference value be only one half of the first preference.
  - (c) Bearing in mind modern means of communication that postal and absentee votes be cut off within four working days of the election. In this respect voters should be encouraged to vote before the election
  - (d) To avoid the donkey vote the Robson's Rotation System be adopted
  - (e) States be divided into no more than five regions to enable Proportionate Representation to be introduced in the House of Representatives.

I submit that the Committee recommend that The House of Representatives term be four years fixed and that the Senate be fixed at four years also. In short all Senators would go to the polls at the same time as the House of Representatives as currently applies in the ACT and NT. It is appreciated that this requires a referendum and in this respect I urge that an independent arbitor be appointed to ensure that claims made in the Yes / No arguments are reasonable and factual otherwise outlandish scare tactics will be used to sway the voters.

I have no objection to these suggestions being published.

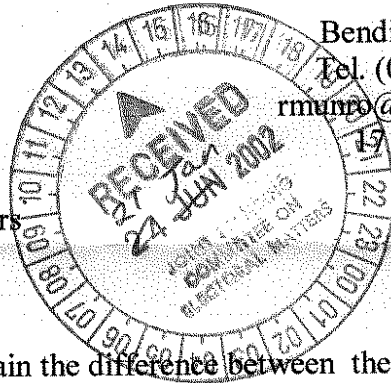
Yours sincerely,

  
Ronald F Munro

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	50
Date Received	25/6/02
Secretary	

Rec 21/1/02

7 Allott Court  
Spring Gully  
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Tel. (03) 5443 2080  
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19 January, 2002



The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600  
Dear Sir,

I would be grateful if you would explain the difference between the normal Proportional Representation system as used for the Senate elections and the Hare-Clark system as used in Tasmania and the ACT. In the case of the Senate the State is treated as one electorate. Is there any problems in using Proportional Representation in the House of Representatives for a larger state such as NSW or Victoria?

Has your Committee considered introducing The Robson Rotation System for both Federal Houses of Parliament?

The current ballot paper for the Senate has reached unmanageable proportions and the cost of printing etc must surely be reduced by raising the deposit for standing for either House to say \$10,000 and increasing the percentage before the return of the deposit to between 5 and 10%. If a person seriously expects to be elected they must have reasonable financial backing as at present they can get cheap publicity for the small cost of nominating.

I would also like to know when the counting system can be computerised so that we can have the results finalised within say three days of the election.

In this day and age it does seem ridiculous to wait such a long time for postal and absentee votes before the poll can be finalised. Why can't the information be sent by electronic means, counted overseas or at least require the votes to be cast prior to election day so that results can be sent by air to avoid the current delay.

The cost of the last Federal election exceeded \$ 100,000,000 and although the Federal term is far too short at three years it is more likely to be less than that. Have you considered a fixed term of three years with possibly some leeway during the last four weeks.

Apart from the fact that the Constitution so provides, what logical reason is there for the Senate term to be double that of the House of Representatives. Would it not be more logical for the whole of the Senate to go to the polls at the same time as in the Northern Territory and in the ACT

Yours sincerely,

*Ron F Munro*  
Ron F Munro

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
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