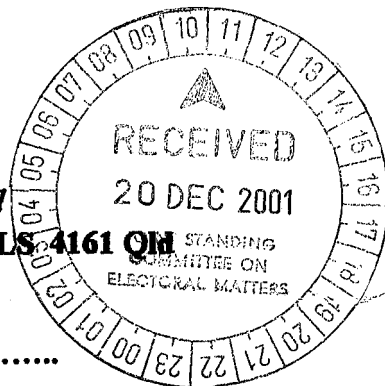


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GMT: 00:38

18 December, 2001
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The Secretary,
The Joint Standing Committee on
Electoral Matters, Houses of Parliament,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir, Madam or Miss,

I have long advocated the return of First Past The Post voting for Australian elections - I received a letter [copy enclosed] which just proves how dismissive is the system of contrary viewpoints. Senator ABETZ must consider I'm the Village Idiot.

His letter was patronising and reflects the 'we know what's best for you' attitude. The supporters of the preference system continually advocate the view that FPTP doesn't reflect a majority view. Anyone with a modicum of intelligence can see that the voter is compelled by having only one choice to make the most of his vote - he will either go with the flow and vote for a major candidate or he will have the courage of his convictions, as do I and vote for a minor even if I know that person can't win.

The duplicitous nature of the Preference system was seen clearly when Pauline HANSON had the highest individual tally in Blair, yet still managed to lose - how strange that was.

If an ALP candidate attained the highest individual tally, I would not mind - I have said as much to Mr SCIACCA, my Member of Parliament. It cannot be argued by anything other than blatant seeking of unfair advantage that FPTP is not a viable and totally fair system for everyone.

Some may be ALP voters but wish to tell their party they're upset - so they vote for someone else and pass the preferences on. Why not let them know the most direct way and give your first and only vote to someone else. The resultant count shows immediately what all the voters think of them.

My vote should be given once and only once • not handed about all over the place. It works in Queensland, where we have the option of leaving out preferences. The argument that an unrepresentative government results is tripe • try telling Mr BEATTIE, who promoted the Vote 1 Labor scheme, that he doesn't have a right to the government benches.

The Preference system is nought but a system designed to favour the major parties. It should be scrapped, along with Compulsory Voting.

Mr BLAIR, in the U.K., received a landslide win with optional voting • the argument by some that it favours conservative views is fatally flawed. As was said in the Middle Ages, that dog won't hunt.

That I would vote 1 for a minor party candidate and stand or fall by my decision is called ethics • something politics lacks.

Every candidate can win under PPTP • all it takes is for the majority of voters to allocate their first and only vote to one candidate.

Yours Sincerely,


[Roger E. DESHON] JP
NSW and Qld