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4 June 2002

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

Dear Secretary

**Submission - Inquiry into the 2001 Federal Election**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and the time taken by the Committee to consider these points which are not listed in any prioritised order. Several of these points may be more 'related matters' than focusing on the conduct of the 2001 Federal Election.:-

1. Broader opportunities should be introduced for all political parties to appear in a nationally televised debate(s).
2. I hold the view that less 'paper junk mail' should be received from the political candidates running for office.
3. Consideration should be given to introduce secure email voting facilities for electors resident in remote / isolated localities.
4. Political Parties and Candidates should be required to disclose fully, post-election, the source(s) and dollar value of all campaign donations received. This should be subjected to random Audit by the Election Commission.
5. I hold the view that 4 year terms for members of both houses, with elections held simultaneously, would be a cost-effective way to conduct the polls. The wider community appears 'tired' of the 3 tiers of government elections being held so regularly. By-elections could be 'held-over' until the next 4th year date and would eliminate resignation from office for political gain.
6. Convene a Referendum on *The Australian Republic* and the *Australian Flag* with the next Federal Election voting process. This would be cost effective and resolve 3 issues in the one exercise.
7. Introduce the concept of Elections to primary and secondary education curriculums so as to re-enforce the values of democracy to our young students. Many students are ill informed or ignorant of the parliamentary processes and career opportunities.

With thanks

David Combe

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
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Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>