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Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	24
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Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>

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THE SECRETARY
 JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS
 PARLIMENT HOUSE
 CANBERRA ACT 2600
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DEAR SIR/MADAM,

ON ADVICE FROM A.E.C. DIRECTOR HELEN MONTEN REGARDING MY COMPLAINT OF ERRONEOUS COUNTING IN ELECTORAL PROCEDURES, I MAKE THE FOLLOWING SUBMISSION TO THE J.S.C.E.M.

MY SUBMISSION IS CLEAR AND SIMPLE, THE RIGHT TO VOTE NO CONFIDENCE, IN ANY AND ALL CANDIDATES AT FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

THE A.E.C. OFFERS THE ADVICE AND I QUOTE,
 "THE ELECTORAL ACT DOES NOT PERMIT A 'NO CONFIDENCE VOTE'. THE A.E.C. CANNOT PROMOTE A TYPE OF VOTE THAT IS NOT CURRENTLY PERMITTED BY THE ELECTORAL ACT."

I SUBMIT THAT THIS STANCE IS AN ERRONEOUS JUDGEMENT BY THE A.E.C. FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON.

THE COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL ACT 1918, DOES NOT, AND HAS NEVER, PROHIBITED THE USE OF A 'NO CONFIDENCE VOTE'. ON THE GROUNDS THAT, IF IT IS NOT PROHIBITED BY LAW THEN IT MUST BE PERMISSABLE BY LAW, THEN THE A.E.C. IS CLEARLY IN ERROR.

I WOULD ALSO SUBMIT THAT THE RIGHT TO VOTE NO CONFIDENCE IS IN CLEAR AGREEMENT WITH COMMON LAW PRINCIPLE, AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN MANY AND NUMEROUS EXAMPLES OR PRECEDENTS OF NO CONFIDENCE VOTES IN FEDERAL PARLIMENT ITSELF.

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FURTHERMORE I WOULD SUBMIT THAT THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE USE OF A 'NO CONFIDENCE VOTE' FOR GOOD REASON.

FOR UNDER A TWO PARTY PREFERRED ELECTORAL SYSTEM, WHEN THE ELECTOR(S) BELIEVE THE TWO PREFERRED PARTY CANDIDATES AND/OR POLICIES ARE INCOMPETENT AND/OR CORRUPT AND DO NOT WISH TO VOTE 'IN FORMAL' THEN THE ELECTOR(S) MUST HAVE THE CHOICE TO VOTE 'NO CONFIDENCE' IN ANY OR ALL CANDIDATES, OR BE FORCED NOT TO VOTE AT ALL.

ELSEWISE, THE ELECTOR(S) RIGHT TO BE CLEARLY HEARD AND VOTE, ACCURATELY COUNTED, AT THE MOST BASIC LEVEL, THE BALLOT BOX, HAS BEEN CLEARLY VOIDED.

TO PUT THAT IN ANOTHER, MORE SUCCINCT WAY. WITHOUT THE CHOICE TO VOTE 'NO CONFIDENCE', IN A TWO PARTY PREFERRED SYSTEM WHERE BOTH PARTY'S ARE CONSIDERED CORRUPT AND/OR 'INCOMPETENT', THE ELECTOR(S) CAN REASONABLY BE SAID TO HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CHOOSE THE MANNER OF THEIR OWN DEATH (FRYING PAN OR FIRE) WHILST THE THIRD AND MOST OBVIOUS CHOICE HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THEM.

THE FRYING PAN OR FIRE IS NO CHOICE AT ALL. THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE TO VOTE 'NO CONFIDENCE' IN THOSE WHO MAKE THE LAWS, IS REAL CHOICE.

ABOVE ALL, A 'NO CONFIDENCE VOTE' IS AN 'INVALUABLE' POLITICAL TOOL AVAILABLE TO ALL AUSTRALIAN ELECTORS. ITS SOLE PURPOSE TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE SO THAT THE ELECTORS REALLY DO GET THE GOVERNMENT THEY DESERVE.

YOURS FAITHFULLY
P. STIPHOUT.