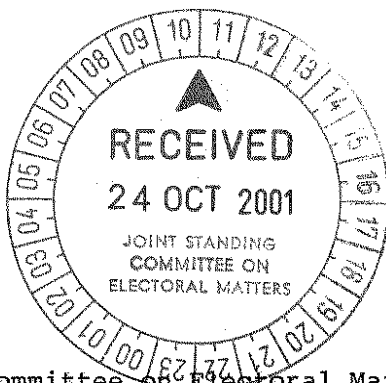


Mailing address:
Post Office Box 145,
ROSANNA. Vic. 3084



33 Alfreda Avenue,
ROSANNA. 3084

5th October, 2001

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600

Dear Sirs,

Early in August this year I wrote to the Australian Electoral Commission here in Melbourne and the reply from the Information Officer, Debbie Rizidis, on 30th August, 2001 suggested I should write to you with my concerns. I have been remiss in not writing earlier than this because now the Election has been called for 10th November time is short.

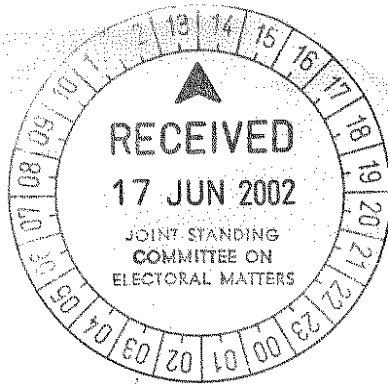
For many years I have been concerned that here, in the eastern States, our media either by radio, TV or daily news, as soon as the Polling Booths are closed and some of the voting figures can be analysed, this preliminary result forecast can be conveyed to the other States with a time difference - South Australia, Western Australia particularly with what will be a three-hour difference with daylight saving, and even Queensland where they do not observe daylight saving. I fully realise any early forecasts of a possible election result is far from definite, but to give "floating" voters even a sniff of the way things are looking over here WELL BEFORE the time for their Polling Booths to close, seems to me greatly unfair no matter which party would be chosen by the later voter. Three hours in the case of Western Australia is a big difference in time for the hour of decision for voters who, up to that time, have not decided which way to vote.

This has been my way of thinking for quite a number of years and prior to now I have never conveyed my concerns to the right people, so this is now written in haste for your consideration prior to the voting this year which, everyone expects, will be very close.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. A. Graham.

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. <u>36</u>
Date Received <u>17/6/02</u>
Secretary <u>[Signature]</u>



33 Alfreda Avenue,
ROSANNA. Vic. 3084

11th June, 2002

The Secretary,
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600

Dear Sir,

Inquiry into the conduct of the 2001 Federal Election

Thank you for your letter dated 4th June, 2002 following earlier correspondence regarding a long-time thought of mine regarding Federal ~~and State~~ Elections, not only the 2001 Election but for those past and for those to be conducted in the future.

I respectfully suggest my letter of my thoughts was only THAT and I did not imagine at any time it would receive the importance of a submission, and I would request that you only submit it for further consideration IF you consider it is of much importance. What I presented by letter on the previous occasion I shall type on a separate sheet and shall enclose it with this letter, but I shall leave the decision to be yours whether or not you wish to present it to the Committee. Actually, I feel quite overwhelmed that I have been receiving correspondence from the Parliament of this wonderful country of ours.

Yours sincerely,

Lorna Jean Roberts-Graham
(Mrs.) A. Graham

VOTING PROCESS AND TIME DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE
AUSTRALIAN STATES AT THE TIME OF ELECTIONS.

FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT HERE, IN THE EASTERN STATES, OUR MEDIA EITHER BY RADIO, TELEVISION OR DAILY NEWSPAPERS, AS SOON AS THE POLLING BOOTHS CLOSE AND SOME OF THE VOTING FIGURES CAN BE ANALYSED, ANY PRELIMINARY FORECAST OF A POSSIBLE RESULT CAN BE CONVEYED TO THE OTHER STATES WITH A TIME DIFFERENCE.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA IS NORMALLY TWO HOURS AND DURING DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME WOULD BE THREE HOURS.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS NORMALLY HALF AN HOUR AND DURING DAYLIGHT SAVING WOULD BE ONE AND A HALF HOURS,

QUEENSLAND DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN DAYLIGHT SAVING SO IF AN ELECTION IS CONDUCTED DURING THIS PERIOD IN THE SOUTHERN STATES THE DIFFERENCE WOULD BE ONE HOUR.

I FULLY REALISE ANY EARLY FORECASTS OF A POSSIBLE ELECTION RESULT IS FAR FROM DEFINITE, BUT TO GIVE "FLOATING" VOTERS EVEN A SNIFF OF THE WAY THINGS ARE LOOKING OVER HERE WELL BEFORE THE TIME FOR THEIR POLLING BOOTHS TO CLOSE, SEEMS TO ME GREATLY UNFAIR NO MATTER WHICH PARTY WOULD BE CHOSEN BY THE LATER VOTER.

THE ONLY WAY I CAN SEE THIS SYSTEM COULD BE RECTIFIED OFFICIALLY WOULD BE FOR THERE TO BE AN EMBARGO ON MEDIA DISCLOSURE OF EARLY FORECASTS UNTIL THE POLLING BOOTHS THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE COUNTRY HAVE CLOSED.

Lorna Jean Roberts-Graham

Lorna Jean Roberts-Graham

(Mrs.) A. Graham

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