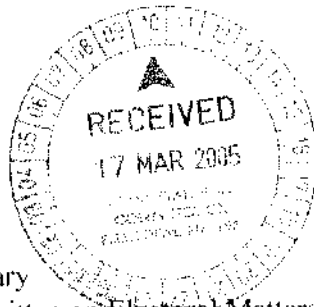


SUBMISSION NO. 41



Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	41
Date Received	17-3-05
Secretary	[Signature]

H.S.Chapman Society

H.S.Chapman
inventor world-first secret vote system
Victoria 1856



February 14, 2005
Ms B. Forbes Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House Canberra ACT

Dear Ms Forbes,

After careful consideration as to how best to solve problems of certain features of our present electoral administration that have caused common criticism, I suggest this Joint Standing Committee hold a special session or sessions on the viability of establishing a system of barcoding elections.

Such elections have been held in South Africa, Bahrain, Costa Rica, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The South African national elections since the first in 1994, would provide a good exemplar as it is comparable with its large rural areas and urban concentrations. Moreover the Chief Executive Office of *Skywire* in Sydney Graham O'Keeffe, an expert in this barcoding symbolic technology, was in South Africa during those introductory years and is thus competent to advise on its range of barcoding solutions. He points out that the infrastructure needed is now in place here.

My own interest was stimulated by the fact the suggestion surfaced from among the Divisional Officers themselves at a recent conference in Queensland, who are the ones most competent to advise on what would work in the hurly burly of an election. As cost always looms large in these matters, the Committee would be interested to know the DRO estimate of saving would be \$5,000,000 per election. Obviously one area of economy would be in printing with vastly less rolls needed. Another would be in the cost of transport of rolls to and from scanning centres. Another would be in removing error leading to objections. Portable barcode readers, which leave a paper trail and running audit, could also be leased for state elections.

Barcoded elections would depend on issue of voter cards with scrambled barcodes (like car engines) but, as almost everyone I have spoken to me for a decade says, why don't we have ID on voting? The fact that Ian Dickson sent out voter cards in his last NSW election without causing a ripple, and the Queensland government issues non-driver's ID may be relevant.

President Dr. Amy McGrath OAM Box 39 P.O. Brighton le Sands NSW 2216 ph 9599 7915 fax 9599 7916
E-mail amy.mcgrath@opie.net.com.au internet - www.hschanman.org.au