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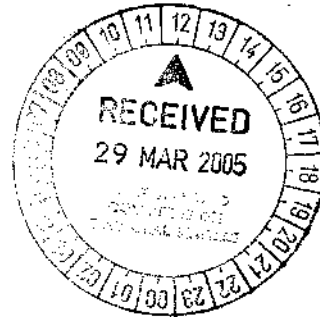
SUBMISSION NO. 86

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Submission No. 86  
Date Received 29-3-05  
Secretary

29 March 2005

Magennis Weate  
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Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Department of House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA



Dear Committee Secretary,

**Re: Senate Voters' Choice (Preference Allocation) Act 2004**

I would like to submit a statement of support for the above modification to the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

As a poll booth staffer and scrutineer during the 2004 federal election, I witnessed first hand the confusion, frustration and suspicion caused by the "tick one box above the line" Senate Ballot paper. Most parties on the booth did not know or have details of the preferences they were allocating, to the frustration of many voters. The option to complete the form below the line is obviously daunting and error prone – a balance is required.

The other issue is the number of informal votes for the Lower House submitted because only one box was ticked. The confusion in the voters mind because of the two systems (i.e. tick only one box for the senate, but number every box for the lower house) is ridiculous and easily solved. If we are going to force people to vote, at least we can do our best to simplify the process to ensure every vote counts.

Regards,

Magennis Weate