

The Secretary,
Joint Standing Committee
on Electoral Matters,
Canberra ACT 2600.



22 Reid Street
Beaumaris 3193.
31.7.2001.

Dear Secretary and Committee Members

Attached is a copy of my letter to the Australian Electoral Commission in relation to the recent Aston by-election, together with a copy of their reply, advising that such a change is outside the role of the A.E.C. Enclosed also with their reply were copies of the A.E.C. By-elections and Referendum Fact Sheets.

Page 7 of the fact sheet shows that in the May 1977 Referendums 73.32% voted in favour of Senate Casual Vacancies being filled by a person of the same political party for the balance of the term.

As per the copy of my letter attached, I respectfully suggest that the whole By-election process be reviewed to enable the House of Representatives Casual Vacancy to be filled in a similar manner to that of the Senate.

While I appreciate that the Australian Constitution Section 33, covers such a House of Representatives by-election, and that page 2 of the fact sheet indicates that an estimated cost of \$55 million for a "one question" Referendum, I still feel strongly that the matter be resolved as soon as practical.

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. 35
Date Received 17/6/02
Secretary Palm

I am of the opinion also that our two most recent by-elections, Ryan and Aston, will have cost the Government, and the people of Australia, already a large and unnecessary amount of concern, time, and expenditure that need not have occurred if some political party person replacement was the correct solution

I thank you for your attention

With kind regards
Yours faithfully

Stan McConnell.

22 Reid Street
Beaumaris 3193
18.7.2001.

Ms. Kathy Mitchell
Director Government and Legal
Australian Electoral Commission
P.O. Box 201
Kingston A.C.T. 2604

Dear Ms Mitchell

I really appreciated your reply to my last letter, 23rd March, enclosing a considerable amount of information in relation to previous elections, reports, inquiries, costs, etc. and, for that reason, I feel I am compelled to comment again - this time re last week end's Aston by-election.

Unfortunately this election came about as the result of the death of the sitting Member, Mr. Peter Nugent, who was elected to office at the last General Election as the endorsed Liberal Candidate for this term of Government. Therefore as Mr. Nugent was an endorsed major party candidate, and not an "Independant", surely, from a commonsense point of view, and, also in fairness to the people of Aston, the vacancy should be filled by a member of that major party for the remaining period of the Government of the day.

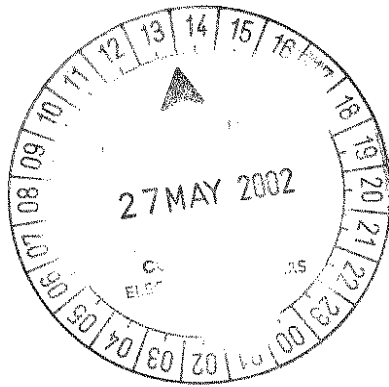
I fully agree that such a simple scheme would not be applicable if the seat were to be held by an "Independant" and I accept that in such a

case a by-election would be necessary. Quite obviously the direct replacement would not only save a considerable amount of public money but would eliminate all of the political and media hype which, to me, does far more harm than good.

I respectfully suggest that the whole by-election process be reviewed, not only in relation to the above, but, if it must be retained, then some system be found to control the number of candidates to be nominated.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely

Stan McConnell.



22 Reid Street
Beaumaris 3193.
20.5.2002.

Mr. Trevor Rowe
Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee
on Electoral Matters,
Parliament House
Canberra A.C.T. 2600

Dear Mr Rowe.

Many thanks for your recent letter 9 May 2002. I do appreciate that all of these matters are being reviewed and therefore take this opportunity to attach copies of two earlier letters I had written in relation to, not only by-elections, but our elections generally.

I thank you for your follow-up on these matters and look forward to any further news on the Committee's inquiry.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely

Stam McConnell.

22 Reid Street
BEAUMARIS VIC 3193

4 May 2001

Ms. Kathy Mitchell
Director Government and Legal
Australian Electoral Commission
P.O. Box E201
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Ms Mitchell,

Thank you for your comprehensive reply to my letter in reference to improving and upgrading our methods of election.


Quite obviously considerable research has been undertaken, both before and after the 1996 and 1998 elections, in relation to computerising the operation, but the main concern for its introduction relates mainly to (a) the certainty of identification at the booth and (b) the immediate striking out of the voter's name, at all booths, upon the issue of the ballot paper.

I fully appreciate that there are many difficult problems associated with some of the voter's capabilities, and understanding, of a fully computerised operation, but we should endeavour to progress step by step towards a more up to date, fault free, system.

I have read, with interest, all of the information that both you and the Victorian office, forwarded to me and I appreciate your prompt reply.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,



STANLEY McCONNELL

22 Reid Street
BEAUMARIS VIC 3193

23 March 2001

Australian Electoral Commission
Level 22, 2 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Commission Members,

Not so long ago I thought that the world over had a good lesson to learn from the recent appalling and long drawn out situation that the Presidential voting system had created in America, but here, right now, in our own country's Ryan by-election, I realize that we should take steps immediately to review, evaluate, and upgrade our own outmoded polling practices.

Fortunately we are committed to compulsory voting for our political elections and therefore, with today's advanced computer technology, we should be able to initiate a foolproof, non-manipulative method.

Such a system should be designed to eliminate the deceitful multiple and/or dead person's votes and should incorporate also the necessity for proper identification prior to receipt of the ballot papers.

Our present system with the many voting localities per electorate area, plus the absentee and postal voting alternatives has encouraged the "vote early and vote often" dishonest citizens to operate without detection, and in some instances, greatly affect the ultimate result.

Surely our country's major Management Consultancy organisations could pool their resources and promote an infallible voting and counting system that would ensure that the elected party be permitted to rule with a clear conscience.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,



STANLEY MCCONNELL



22 Reid Street,
Beaumaris 3193.
11th June 2002

Mr. Trevor Rowe
Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee
on Electoral Matters

Dear Mr. Rowe

I acknowledge, and thank you for your letter dated 4th inst. in relation to the "Inquiry into the conduct of the 2001 Federal Election" and advise that I have no hesitation in agreeing that any of my previous letters, and the matters contained therein, being used in the Inquiry.

This agreement shall apply to my letters dated 23rd March, 4th May, 18th July and 31st July 2001 as they relate, not only to by-elections, but more specifically to computerised updating of our formal Federal Elections.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely

Stan McConnell.