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| Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters |
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To the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

My name is Max Bradley; I manage a sheep station 'Bonton' in the centre of western NSW. I stood for the senate at the 2007 election.

When I went to primary school I was taught that we lived in a democracy, which meant that we as Australian's had a right to vote, for some one to represent us in the parliament, had free and fair elections, everyone's vote was equal and we can change the laws and rules by referendum.

As I went through High school very little was taught about politics and what I did learn was that what was taught was very labor orientated because most of the teachers were of that persuasion.

I now know that if this is what a democracy is we don't have one in Australia. We don't have a right to vote, we are forced to by law

Only about half the people who vote in an election end up with someone to represent them in the parliament and about half of this group have someone representing them in the government. With 13,000,000 voters this leaves 17,000,000 people without a representative in the government.

The elections in Australia are not free as we can only vote in a way put forward by the government. The system that is used favours the liberal labour corporation.

Fair they are not because the parliament made up of the liberal labour corporation has given their parties a huge advantage by restricting minor parties, groups and independents.

Our vote is not equal, because of senate system in Australia where each state has the same number of senators but a different number of voters and Tasmania get a set number of members in the house of representatives.

Referendum's are not fair when 11,717,954 voters can vote in favour and 1,313,377 can vote against and it not be pasted. This silly system has to be fixed.

Electoral funding has been put in place by the liberal-labor corporation to make sure that they become stronger to the detriment of the small parties, groups and independents. If we are going to have electoral funding then let it be fair to every one who stands at an election.

By having each person that is standing for the senate get 2000 signatures for a nomination, regardless of being a member of a party, a group or an independent. These nominations will be from the electorate for which the person is standing. Two dollars for each voter in the electorate will be divided by the number of candidates standing in that electorate, and payed to each candidate that has their name on the ballot paper. If a candidate does not receive two thousand votes in the election then the candidate has to pay back the money they received.

By having each person that is standing for the house of representatives get 500 signatures for a nomination, regardless of being a member of a party, a group or an independent. These nominations will be from the electorate for which the person is standing. Two dollars for each voter in the electorate will be divided by the number of candidates standing in that electorate, and payed too each candidate that has their name on the ballot paper. If the candidate does not receive 500 votes in the election then the candidate has to pay back the money they received.

Fixed terms of the parliament need to be put in place.

There should be a five year term for parliamentarians in the house of representatives, with the electors having the ability to recall there elected member and have a bye election.

A rotating system of elections is needed were the voters in one fifth of the electorates will vote every fifth year. Then there is an election every year for one fifth of the parliament. Voting should be on the Saturday before the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

The total number of electorates would be divided into five equal groups. At the first election all the electorates would vote, then after one year one of the five groups would have an election, then after two years a second group would have an election, until after six years the last group would have an election. On the seventh year the first group of electorates would have another election, and so on. This system would insure the there were always experience people in the parliament, and it will give the voters the power to control their elected member and the length of their term in the parliament.

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