

68 View Street,
Lawson, N.S.W., 2783,
17th. January, 2001.

The Chairman,
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, 2600.

Dear Sir,

Following the 1998 Federal Election an inquiry into the conduct of that Election was held and, subsequently, a number of recommendations were submitted to the Australian Electoral Office. Could I ask how many of the recommendations were accepted and will they be incorporated into the rules governing any future election?

There is, though, one matter that does not appear to have been addressed. The Electoral Commission kindly sent me details of the votes cast for the respective parties in the 1998 Federal Election. It seems that, in view of the information sent to me, a majority of votes were cast in favour of the Labour Party, not the combined Liberal Party and National Party, and that, on a two party preferred system, the ALP gained 51% of the votes cast compared with 49% for the coalition.

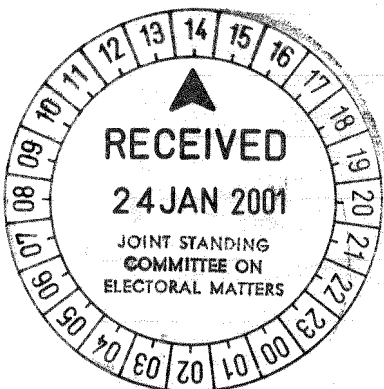
Despite this the coalition formed the government, not on the basis of the number of ~~xxx~~ votes cast in their favour, but on the number of seats won. Will this factor be considered for the next Federal Election? And, more importantly, will any steps be taken to ensure that the next Federal Government is elected according to the will of the Australian people?

Over the past months the present Prime Minister has been saying that he was "democratically elected". This statement is clearly incorrect if the total number of votes is the criteria. Under the present system of voting it is possible for any Prime Minister to be elected to that position simply because he or his party or coalition won a majority of seats.

But the question is - will any future Prime Minister represent the majority of Australian electors or a minority?
I look forward to receiving your answer.

Yours faithfully,

(Mr.) A.J. Beeney.



Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	156
Date Received	25/7/02
Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>

68 view Street,
Lawson, N.S.W., 2183,
10th. 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 of 4th. June, 2002.
concerning the above election. I have no objection to my
letter being considered as a submission to the inquiry.

Unfortunately I cannot confirm this in writing as I
am unable to write legibly with my right hand but, if such
confirmation is required to be signed then I will have to see
what I can do in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

(Mr.) A.J. Beeney.

