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From: Barry Chapman [barrych@bigpond.net.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2008 2:19 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: Electronic voting at Election 2007

ATT: the Committee Secretariat

I am one who was fortunate to be able to vote electronically at the 2007 Federal Election.

I am totally blind and the 2007 Election is the first time in my 61 years that I have had the opportunity to cast a truly secret ballot during a Federal Election. This is something that most people take for granted, but until last year was not possible for me and others who are blind.

For me, the system worked well and I was able to vote independently with ease and with confidence, without having to rely on others to mark my ballot paper.

I commend the Federal Government for conducting the trial at last year's election and sincerely hope that electronic voting will become a permanent option for future elections.

Yours sincerely,
Barry Chapman