



The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
House of Representatives
P.O. Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

There are a number of issues regarding voting in Federal Elections that need addressing - urgently, by the AEC.

• Postal Voting

Ensure that POSTAL VOTES are sent to the applicants - POSTAL ADDRESS.

In remote Australia, a voter's postal address is often different to their physical address.

For instance, a voter may live on a property in the Blackall - Tambo Shire, but the mail service will come from Charleville, so the POSTAL ADDRESS is CHARLEVILLE.

To ensure that every eligible person who claims a postal vote, receives it in time, to fill it in, then return the ballot, so that it is included in the election, the AEC must allow sufficient time for ballots to be received and returned in remote areas.

Postal Ballots received from remote locations in the week following a Federal Election, must be included in the count, so as not to disenfranchise voters in remote areas of Australia.

Eg. I live on a property 85 kms from Blackall — 60 kms of the road is unsealed black soil road — impassable in wet weather.

The mail service is twice weekly, on Mondays and Wednesdays.

If it rains, the road is boggy, impassable, and a mail may not get through for a week, some times two weeks.

Some mail services run on Fridays or Saturday's. Therefore if a postal vote is LATE arriving at a voters address, then returned in a Friday's or Saturday's mail bag, the postal vote will be stamped by the Post Office on the

Monday.

If this is the Monday following the Federal Election, these voters are disenfranchised.

• Absentee Voting

Voters should be able to cast an absentee vote, in a Federal Election, at any polling booth, in any State or Territory, in Australia.

It is scandalous in this age of electronics, ~~and~~ ^{with} instant transfer of information, that voters can only vote absentee in their home State.

We Australian voters deserve better. Voting is compulsory!

• Mobile Polling Booths

It is absolutely essential that all hospitals and aged care facilities be mobile polling booths, so that patients and aged care residents are able to vote with ease!

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Yours faithfully,

Sonia Doyle

SONIA DOYLE (MRS)