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13 October 2004

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. <u>5</u>
Date Received <u>13-10-04</u>
Secretary <u>[Signature]</u>

The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

FEDERALELECTION-SENATEPAPER

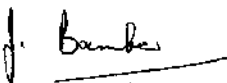
Yet again a Federal Election has been held where the Senate ballot paper is like a huge sheet. I understand that people nominating for Parliament dictate the length of the paper, but why oh why do electors have to number **ALL** boxes, as in Saturday's election numbering boxes 1 to 78, if they do not wish to nominate a party vote above the line.

I like to vote for people, and I strongly object to having to number all boxes up to 78. It is ludicrous! The Electoral Commission I am sure do not look at my ballot paper and take account of ALL the numbers to the end of the sheet. It is so time consuming too. I went to vote just after 8am on Saturday and had to queue, then spent 10 minutes grappling with and filling in my Senate paper, therefore holding up other people in the queue.

Why cannot we have the optional preferential system now in use in the NSW Parliament where only a few boxes need to be numbered?

Surely it is about time to introduce a better system than the one we have. It seems designed to force people to vote above the line. Is that the real reason this matter is not being addressed from election to election?

Yours faithfully,


(Mrs J Bamber)