

JGCEM.

Australian Electoral Commission
Canberra

Dear Sirs,

I wish to submit the following comments to your public enquiry on electoral matters.

1. The current methodology for the house of representatives is not fully democratic because all the votes cast are not counted.

2. The system is not strictly fair to voters because only a proportion have more than their first preferences counted and their second preferences then get equal value to the first preferences of other voters.

3. The reduced value counting method as used in senate elections is fairer and this principle could be also used in the method for the house of representatives and could also include all votes cast.

4. The suggested solution is to count all votes cast with value equal to the preference number reciprocal

i.e.	1 st preference	value	$\frac{1}{1} = 1.00$
	2 nd "	"	$\frac{1}{2} = 0.50$
	3 rd "	"	$\frac{1}{3} = 0.33$
	etc.		

First preferences only would be first counted and candidates with more than 50% declared elected.

If this is not achieved by any of the candidates then all votes cast would be counted with the reduced value method and the candidate with the most votes, declared elected.

This procedure is simple and although tedious, it is achievable with fast computers and both fair and democratic.

Yours faithfully

K. G. MARTIN.