

Dear DELWP,

Would like to make a submission to the review.

I agree with the majority of the discussion paper, the only issues I have are the material that is sent out in a postal election by the VEC and the method of voting.

In my view candidates How To Vote cards are not candidate information and should not be posted out with the electoral material being sent out by the VEC in postal elections.

If voting preference distribution is included in sent out material, it just encourages dummy candidates and favours party aligned candidates at the expense of genuine candidates.

People vote for individuals and not teams and we should do all we can to discourage dummy candidates.

In postal elections if HTV cards are include in the material sent out by the VEC, then a candidate doesn't have to be in the country to run a campaign.

Dummy candidates just have to provide a pretty picture a few nice words and pay their money and the preferred candidate gets their preferences.

In my this massively disadvantages genuine independent candidates who may foolishly decide to run an honest campaign and who wants to get elected based on their integrity and reject tactics to split the vote by running many dummy candidates.

Also agree that there needs to be standards in voting method, so if Federal and State elections are attendance, then Local Government elections, being an equal tier of Government should also be attendance.

At least Council should be able to maintain the option of having attendance voting, but I think attendance voting should be the standard.

Thanks.

Cr Tom Melican.

Banyule City Council.