

Merrylands NSW 2160.

2nd August, 2011.

The Members,
Panel of Constitutional Experts
Review into Recall Elections

Sirs,

I am a senior citizen of normal educational standard and intelligence. I am not a member of any political party or activist movement designed to destabilize government or anything else. Nor am I adverse to change where it is for the benefit of the community as a whole.

However, for the past eight years we have been following the disjointed, dysfunctional, incompetent and apparent corrupted process of a political system taken control of by arrogant, self effacing party based politicians more interested in their own personal and familial financial advancement than in the interests of the community that elected them, and at all levels of government and across parties.

Aided and abetted by a preferential voting system that allows domination by the two major parties and as we now see minor single issue parties and independents being elected as a voter protest to Govern and/or control the Federal, State or Local Governments contrary to the views and wishes of the majority of the community.

Where once we had dedicated, community minded citizens being elected to the various levels of government with interest in community affairs as a whole we now have politicians elected because they reached a senior position within the party branch based not on ability but on donations drawn to the party from self interest groups and individuals. No intelligence, character, ability, community interests or concerns necessary.

Because of the anomalies in our electoral system and the fact that at times a protest vote against either of the two major parties election results can be influenced and exaggerated in an unforeseen manner as we now see in the federal government where minority parties and individuals with beliefs and policies inconsistent to those of the general community become dominant and overriding against the wishes and to the detriment of the community as a whole.

The decisions of governments at all levels have a substantial impact upon the community both financially and physically that is varied by rules and regulations implemented under the broader policies announced in the lead up to elections but in ways that the community were not and could not have been aware of at the time of the election.

There is therefore a need for a mechanism within our electoral system that allows for disenfranchised electors, who have been seriously misled and/or lied to by Politicians merely to be elected, to declare their vote null and void and to request an election recall.

It is our view therefore that the NSW Constitution be amended to include a recall provisions on the written petition of and signed by two thirds majority of enrolled voters within the State.

It is further suggested that in conjunction with the Australian Electoral Commission, the New South Wales Electoral Commissions be responsible for the receipt of, verification of and actions on the provisions of any Election Recall Legislation and further that voting be by way of postal voting with the necessary checks and balances to ensure an honest poll.

We await your recommendations.

Kind regards

Brian Gray