

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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*Senator John R. Coulter
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT.*

20 May 1988

U R G E N T

CONSTITUTION ALTERATIONS (FAIR ELECTIONS) BILL, 1988 OUTLAWS PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION VOTING

Offending Section of Bill should be removed

The above Bill, now before the Senate, states, Section 29 (2):

"The number of members shall be the same for each division of a particular State."

Thus, for States where the total number of House of Representatives members is a prime number, each division will only be able to have single-member electorates, as only single-member divisions would be able to have the same number of members.
or vote as one electorate.

Likewise, it would not be possible in any State to have (say) several 7 member and one or more 5 member divisions, as there would be a different number of members (7 and 5) in some divisions.

Also, if the Bill is allowed to stand in its present form, and the Constitution is altered at referendum later this year, Senator Macklin's Private Members Bill of 17 April 1986 for House of Representatives elections would be negated.

Your urgent support is therefore requested to seek to amend the Bill by deletion of Section 29 (2).

Yours faithfully,



J.T. Webber

President