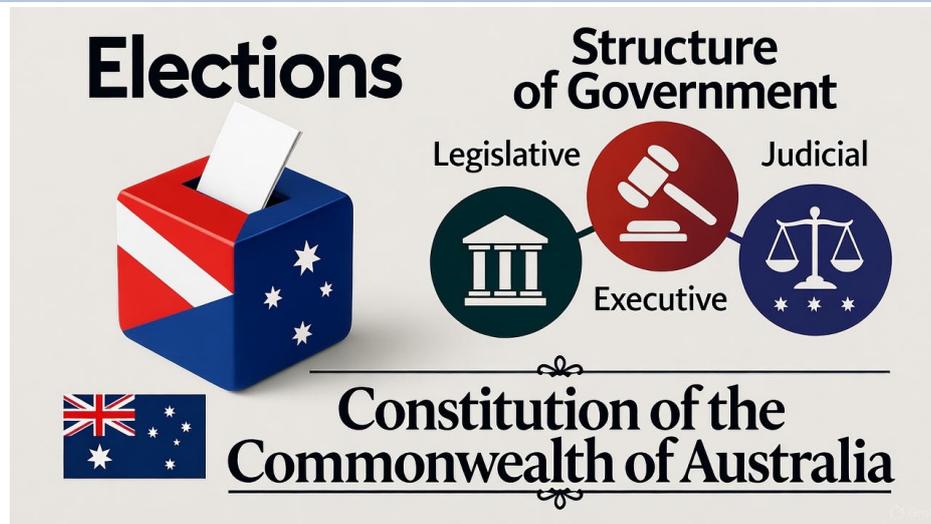


Presentation on Reforming Our Australian Democracy(ROAD)



Slide 1 of 42

Splash Screen

Disclaimer

The purpose of this movement, called, “Reforming Our Australian Democracy”, is to stimulate discussion on an Nation-wide basis about Electoral, Governmental and Constitutional reform so as to, eventually, arrive at a majority, national consensus as to what actions are needed to rectify a system of democracy which is not serving Australians well.

- **General Position of the ROAD Board.** The Board does not present itself as having the perfect answer to anything but we all agree there is an urgent need to review the present arrangements by which Australians are governed.
- **Conventions.** We intend to cause conventions at which “straw-men” will be proffered and, after thorough debate, consensus positions reached; leading to a series of Referenda aimed at effecting agreed reforms.
- **My Thoughts & Opinions.** What you are about to hear are my thoughts and opinions. They are intended to stimulate discussion. I welcome debate should you disagree, think these ideas could be improved upon or have other ideas you believe have merit. My wish is to harness the intellect of the nation to arrive at something which is better than any one of us could, on our own, conceive.

Slide 2 of 42

Here's a quick disclaimer: [point to slide and smile]

I'm a ROAD founder, but I do NOT speak for the movement. Everything tonight is my personal view – straw men to be debated, improved, or even discarded. If we all agree, someone isn't thinking. So please, feel free challenge anything I say – that's why we're here."

Something is badly wrong!

- 1) \$1.3 trillion public debt, profligate spending and nothing to show for it.
- 2) Electricity now many times more expensive than it was in the past.
- 3) COVID mismanagement and excess mortality coupled with WHO Pandemic Treaty.
- 4) Housing & rentals unaffordable.
- 5) Australia de-industrialised and not self-sufficient in liquid fuels.
- 6) Treaties that generally forfeit Australia's sovereignty – Activist High Court.
- 7) Suppression of free speech.
- 8) The danger inherent in Digital ID & a Central Bank Digital Currency.

Slide 3 of 42

If you talk to ordinary Australians – tradies, nurses, farmers, small-business owners, grandparents – the same question keeps coming up: “How on earth did we let things get this bad?”

Look at this list. In there you will find at least two or three things that keep you awake at night.

And the worst part? Labor, Liberal, Nationals – all the major parties have helped create this mess.

These are symptoms. Tonight I'm going to show you the cause: a democratic system that has always been dysfunctional and, is now, frankly, dangerous.

Until we address the cause, the symptoms will just keep coming – and get worse.

The Real Disease

A hopelessly flawed democratic system that consistently delivers:

1. Low-quality candidates, participating in;
2. Defective, overly expensive and even rigged elections, resulting in;
3. Low-quality politicians with ***far too much*** concentrated power...because of:
 - No effective separation between the Legislature, Executive & Judiciary, exacerbated by;
 - Constitutions that favour control by the political class at the expense of citizens' rights.

Slide No 4 of 42

Everyone can see the symptoms we just listed. But what's the root cause?

It's the system itself – a democratic model that puts unexceptional people into positions of enormous power with almost no effective checks or balances.

That's the root cause. Everything bad flows from this.

How did we end up with this system. The answer is, “Largely by historical accident rather than deliberate design”.

Flowing from that realisation...

We must reform:

1. the Electoral System;
2. the Structure of Government; and
3. the Constitutions at all levels within the Commonwealth to codify these reforms and limit the power of Government over the citizenry.

Slide 5 of 42

To fix our dysfunctional democracy, I suggest we must reform:

- 1) The Electoral System;
- 2) The Structure of Government and, finally;
- 3) The Constitutions themselves

Let's start with elections, something which, guided by common sense, would be the easiest of these three to reform in the near future ...

Part 1

Electoral Reform

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Starting now with Part 1: Electoral Reform.

The Goal of which is to get the highest-quality people into Parliament.

The Two Immutables

To get high-quality parliamentarians we need to have:

- Exceptional candidates willing to run
- Elections decided **ONLY** by informed, thoughtful votes

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Any fair-minded Australian wants the best possible people in Parliament.

That requires two non-negotiables:

- 1) exceptional candidates willing to run for office, and
- 2) elections that are decided **ONLY** by informed and thoughtful votes.

Finding High Quality Candidates

- **Counter the corrupting power of media, money & mobs.**
- Require **ALL** members of a political party's branch to vote in a preselection with protections against last-minute "branch stacking" plus all members vote for the political leader of the Party.
- **Make it easy** for a person to become known to the electorate (ie, not be so reliant on media, mobs & money – the 3M) by expanding the role of Electoral Commissions or some other organisation.

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Put simply, we must counter the effect of media, money and mobs. These three are used by a wealthy elite to shepherd the voting public.

One of the useful roles of political Parties is the vetting of candidates in a preselection but this is not reliable because of factional intrigues.

“What’s the biggest barrier today? It’s good people can’t get known without huge amounts of money or party backing.

What could help fix this?

Require all members of political parties to participate in preselections and election of Party leaders.

Require Electoral Commissions to provide a web-site that is a “one-stop neutral shop” for candidate information and the self-production of “How to Vote” aide-memoires. More on this later.

A more exact, simpler voting system

Replace clunky preferential with Points-Based Preferential

 1234567890		Please circle one number in each row to indicate your preference. No two candidates can have the same number.				
Candidate 1 	1	2	3	4	5	
Candidate 2 	1	2	3	4	5	
Candidate 3 	1	2	3	4	5	
Candidate 4 	1	2	3	4	5	
Candidate 5 	1	2	3	4	5	

Slide 9 of 42

Current preferential voting is complex, exhausting to count, and still favours the big parties.

Here you see a superior system of preferential voting that truly represents the preference of the electors and is fast.

In the example ballot shown here, there are 5 candidates:

- Candidate 1 is awarded a “3” by the elector, giving that candidate $6-3=3$ **points**. (Number of candidates+1)-3
- Candidate 2 is awarded a “2” which is $6-2=4$ **points**.... and so it goes:
- Candidate 3 awarded a “4” gets 2 points.
- Candidate 4 awarded a “1” gets 5 points; and, finally,
- Candidate 5 is awarded a “5” getting 1 point.

The candidate with the most accrued points is the winner.

This system is ideal for machine tabulation with regular manual checks by scrutineers to ensure that the machines are tabulating accurately.

A more exact, simpler voting system

		No OF BALLOTS WITH 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 IN THEM					
Candidate \ Vote		1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL BALLOTS
Candidate 1		30,000	8,600	5,000	30,000	27,400	101,000
Candidate 2		32,000	3,200	15,500	20,000	30,300	101,000
Candidate 3		17,000	13,000	20,500	25,900	24,600	101,000
Candidate 4		12,000	16,000	40,000	15,200	17,800	101,000
Candidate 5		10,000	60,200	20,000	9,900	900	101,000
TOTAL BALLOTS		101,000	101,000	101,000	101,000	101,000	
CANDIDATE							TOTAL POINTS
Candidate 1							286,800
Candidate 2							289,600
Candidate 3							274,900
Candidate 4							292,200
Candidate 5							371,500

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Following on from the previous slide we see two tables showing the results of such a system. Because the writing on this slide is so small that it is difficult to read, I have, in the next two slides, broken it into two parts so as to make it easier to explain.

A more exact, simpler voting system Candidates' Ballots

Candidate \ Vote	No OF BALLOTS WITH 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 IN THEM					TOTAL BALLOTS
	1	2	3	4	5	
Candidate 1	30,000	8,600	5,000	30,000	27,400	101,000
Candidate 2	32,000	3,200	15,500	20,000	30,300	101,000
Candidate 3	17,000	13,000	20,500	25,900	24,600	101,000
Candidate 4	12,000	16,000	40,000	15,200	17,800	101,000
Candidate 5	10,000	60,200	20,000	9,900	900	101,000
TOTAL BALLOTS	101,000	101,000	101,000	101,000	101,000	

Slide 11 of 42

Note that, in this example, Candidates 2 and 1 scored the most primary votes under the present preferential voting system, Candidate 5 would be “washed out” with any preferences on candidate’s 5 ballots being distributed to the relevant remaining candidates. Candidate 4 would suffer the same fate as Candidate 5 and next comes Candidate 3. The winner would be either candidate 1 or 2 depending on how many preference votes flowed from the candidates that were eliminated earlier in the poll.

This system favours those candidates that accrued the most primary votes but does not actually accurately represent the preference of the electorate as I will now demonstrate.

Another aspect of this system is that it necessitates numerous recounts of the ballots as the candidates with lesser primary votes are eliminated. It can take weeks before the result is known.

Let’s now see what the results would be if we used the proposed points system.

A more exact, simpler voting system

Points accrued by each Candidate

CANDIDATE	TOTAL POINTS	Ranking	1
Candidate 1	286,800	4	30,000
Candidate 2	289,600	3	32,000
Candidate 3	274,900	5	17,000
Candidate 4	292,200	2	12,000
Candidate 5	371,500	1	10,000

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The points each candidate accrued under the proposed preferential voting system can be see here.

For your convenience, I've put next to that the ranking of each candidate on the basis of these accrued points. Candidate 1 came first, then Candidate 4, then 2, 1 and 5.

Next to that column I have shown the number of primary votes, ie, where electors placed a 1 in the box on the ballot for that candidate.

You can see that candidate 2 was the leader with 32 thousand primary votes with Candidate 1 being next with 30 thousand

But, on a points basis, Candidates 2 and 1 came third and fourth if the real preference of the electorate was quantified.

This proposed system of voting was actually developed by the French Mathematician, Jean-Charles de Borda, in the 1700's

The Question of Compulsory or Voluntary Voting?

The Virtues of Compulsory Voting are:

- Money matters less.
- Greater participation improves public awareness.
- Everyone participates → governments serve the majority, not just the most zealous or loudest
- Involving everyone has a moderating effect on the complexion of Government, ie, there are not wild swings of policy that could lead to instability.

Slide 13 of 42

Having dealt with the preferential voting system, let's look at the question of whether voting should be compulsory.

What are the virtues of compulsory voting? They are listed here.

Put simply money matters less in an election where voting is compulsory

Compulsory voting reduces the influence billionaires and single-issue zealots buying or hijacking elections.

Borrowing from Churchill quip regarding democracy, "It is the worst system until you consider the alternatives."

The One Disadvantage of Compulsory Voting

- **The ideal we seek is that mature informed electors cast a well considered vote resistant to money, mobs and the media(3M)**
- **Compulsory voting works against this ideal. Often uninterested voters determine the outcome of an election resulting in poor quality candidates being elected.**

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So what is the problem with compulsory voting.

The answer is, “The probability the uninterested voter will decide the outcome of the election.”

I think all reasonable people would agree with the sentiment that the outcome of any election should be the result of mature electors casting an informed and well considered vote.

Our challenge then, is how to reduce the effect that the lazy, uninterested, often ignorant and indoctrinated (but I repeat myself) will have on the outcome of an election.

Let's do that now.

Reforms that reduce the influence of Chance, Money, Mobs & Media on the outcome of an election

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I had a choice of cramming all that follows onto one slide or having a lot of slides which I, hopefully, will flash up quickly.

I've chosen the latter.

Reform No1

Electoral Commissions key players in levelling the playing field for under-resourced candidates!

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In previous presentations, I have gone into this subject in some detail but I am conscious of trying to keep this presentation as short as possible because of time limitations.

As I've mentioned earlier, electoral commissions can play a major roll in passing on information from candidates to electors and allowing electors to conveniently learn about the candidates running in their electorate or State.

Electoral Commissions could even provide a secure facility where electors could, in anonymity, create their own "How-to-Vote" cards to take with them when voting. The software facilitating this could also help them not cast an informal vote.

For this to be effective, it is necessary that the Electoral Commissions run regular advertisements advising voters of this information service & How-To-Vote facility in order to encourage its use.

As a further inducement for electors to use this this facility, they could receive an "express lane" ticket that would give them processing priority at polling places.

Reform No2 Ban Pre-poll

- 1) Ensures all people going to vote have been subjected to the full election campaign and are therefore informed to the maximum.
- 2) Makes it easier for minor players to compete
- 3) Significantly reduces the cost of election.

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The slide says it all.

Pre-poll should never have been allowed. The big parties love it but it severely disadvantages those candidates that do not have the same resources.

It is impossible for independent candidates and those belonging to the smaller Parties to man polling places handing out how to vote cards for two weeks on end.

Reform No3

Ban all Electoral Material and Campaigning near Polling Places

1. Neutralises the effect of the Uninterested Voter as they don't know who is running for election when they arrive at the polling place.
2. Reduces the effect of "Mobs".
3. Reduces the cost of running for election.

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Which brings us to reform Number Three.

Banning all electoral material and campaigning at polling places neutralises the effect of the uninterested voter who, in the last minutes before casting their vote, takes a "How to Vote Card" from one of the multitude congregating around polling places and then casts their ill-considered vote.

Most importantly, this would mean uninterested voters would arrive at a polling place and not have any visual prompts as to how they should vote.

It also eliminates the effect that mobs, gathered around polling places might have on the last minute decisions made by uninterested voters.

Lastly and importantly, it reduces the cost of conducting an election, plebiscite or referendum where, often, cost is a disincentive to holding them. Prepoll works against democracy and good government in every way but it does favour the major Parties which is why it was introduced.

Reform No4

Randomise Presentation of Candidates on the Ballots

1. Neutralises the Donkey Voter and further confuses the lazy, unprepared, uninterested voter.
2. Removes “Chance” as something that could influence the outcome of an election.

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This approach has been utilised before in Australian elections. It is called the “Robson Rotation”. There is, in fact, a discussion paper on this.

Robson Rotation is the practice of rotating the order of candidates' names during the printing of the ballot papers for an election, so that the advantage of being listed at the top of the paper is spread equally among all candidates.

An added bonus to this is that there is no time-wasting and expensive drawing of candidates from a basket to determine the order of presentation of candidates on a ballot.

Most importantly, coupled with another reform I shall deal with in the next slide, it further neutralises the lazy, ill-informed and uninterested voter.

Reform No5

No Party Name nor Logo on Ballot Next to any Candidate's Name

Coupled with:

- 1) the Robson Rotation,
- 2) no prepoll, and
- 3) no campaigning at polling places;
this further neutralises the effect lazy, uninterested voters have on an election's outcome.

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As the slide says, “Coupled with the effect of the Robson Rotation and no campaigning or electoral material at a polling place, plus no prepoll, this further neutralises the effect that the lazy, ill-informed, uninterested voter will have on the outcome of an election.

If an elector does not know which party each candidate belongs to, they have not done any preparation before coming to vote. We do not want this type of elector influencing the outcome of an election.

Reform No6 Allocate Public Land for Display of Electoral Material(Coreflutes)

Makes it easier for minor players
to compete.

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Self evident. At present Councils do not allow candidates to display their election coreflutes on public land. This means they have to seek the permission of landowners. In many cases, landowners are not keen to show any sort of preference to any candidates for fear they may cause offence to their neighbours.

Allocating public land by lot-draw overcomes this problem and helps candidates become known to the electorate. This is in the interests of all.

Reform No7 No Above & Below the Line Voting

Candidates run as Individuals on their own merits. Political Parties should not decide the order of presentation of Candidates for Election.

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Chapter 1, Part II, paragraph 7 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia requires that electors must vote directly for candidates.

With the present system of above and below the line voting, most voters, for convenience, vote above the line which results in political parties determining who will be elected to public office. This is against what the framers of the Australian Constitution intended. Since this system was introduced in 1984, there has not been one single truly independent candidate elected to the Senate. This is not good for our democracy as the Senate is supposed to be a house of review. When the same Parties are dominant in the Upper and Lower Houses, legislation is not critically and exhaustively reviewed. This is very bad for the people of Australia.

No8 Reform Donation Laws

Unions must hold secret ballots where a member indicates to whom they want their portion of the total donation to go.

The same should apply for publicly listed companies.

Remove ban on developers and people in Liquor & Gaming Industry.

Donations over a certain limit, say, Average Weekly Wage, should be publicly exposed but there should be no limits placed on donations.

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Here are some top-level reforms that should be made regarding donations.

No9 Modernise Voter Registration at Polling Places

Aim for a 2 minute registration as a KPI which will:

1. Reduce the cost of elections.
2. Reduce inconvenience for voters.
3. Encourage people to use Electoral Commission facility to create HTV leaflet to obtain an “Express Pass”.

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As most of you would know, on election day there can be long queues at polling places. There is no excuse for this. The reason for this delay is the voter registration process at the polling place. This should be automated with the requirement voters provide ID. I have numerous suggestions as to how this might be done. Time, here, does not permit me to go into the detail of this. Any person interested in this, please ask me later.

Reform No10

Review the Voting Age

This matter should be decided by the Australian People, not by politicians.

- Remember you want an informed, mature voter making a considered decision.
- At what age are people intellectually mature? (25 → 30 years of age)
- The “quid pro quo”. It is only fair that if a citizen is not allowed to vote they should:
 - not have to pay tax, and
 - not be eligible to be conscripted to serve in combat.

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Do you want your Government to be the result of voting decisions made by people who lack maturity? Is an 18 year old fresh out of High School mature?

At what age is a person likely to be intellectually mature? The answer according to psychologists is somewhere between 25 and 30 years of age. So should the age for voting be 25?

This is a decision that should only be made by the Australian People by way of a Referendum. It should not be left to politicians. In a Referendum, arguments are made for and against various propositions such that the people eventually make an informed decision as to what they think would result in a Government comprised of people of the highest calibre.

Finally, it is imperative that, if people cannot vote until they are 25, should they be exempt from paying tax and from being conscripted to serve in combat.

End of Part 1 Electoral Reform Part 2 Governmental Reform

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That brings us to the end of the 10 reforms to our electoral system. You might have others that you feel are important and we at ROAD look forward to those suggestions.

[If a long format presentation, you allow some questions and then break for refreshments

But first, I suggest we should take some questions and then a short break before going onto the next section which is Governmental Reform.]

I shall now we move onto the structure of Government.

The Major Defects of The Westminster System

There is NO independence between any of the branches of Government so power is too concentrated. Serious defects are:

- Elected politicians are not competent to run Govt Depts. (They cannot give 100% to constituents and 100% to Govt Dept. Something has to give!)
- The Public Servants often achieve high rank by never doing anything innovative and by “being a team player”.
- Unions are permitted in the Public Service allowing the Labor Party to be permanently entrenched in a vital organ of Government.
- Because of the Above & Below the Line Voting system no true independents have been elected to the Senate since 1984.
- As a consequence, the Bicameral System is neutered by Political Parties.
- Attorney General is a member of the Legislature, Executive & Judiciary

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This slide lays out, succinctly, what the problem is.

Politicians, in general, have little demonstrated skill to run businesses and the Government is actually a huge trillion dollar enterprise.

When people elect their representative, they do so, not for that person to be a cabinet minister, but to faithfully represent their interests and concerns. That person cannot devote 100% of themselves to their representational duties and 100% of themselves to overseeing a Government Department where, that person is expected to resign if something goes wrong in their portfolio.

Above and Below the Line Voting prevents independents from being elected to the Senate which then degrades its review function.

The present system is a recipe for mismanagement and abuse as we have seen with COVID-19, manufacturing industries, energy policies and the management of water rights in Australia. Australians are being sold out!

How to Fix

- 1) Elect the Governors & Governor Generals
- 2) Elect the Attorney Generals with caveat.
- 3) Let them select the Heads & Deputy Heads of their Departments from anywhere in the world.
- 4) All candidates for the Upper Houses must run as Independents.
- 5) Sole responsibility of members of the Legislature is to represent their constituents.

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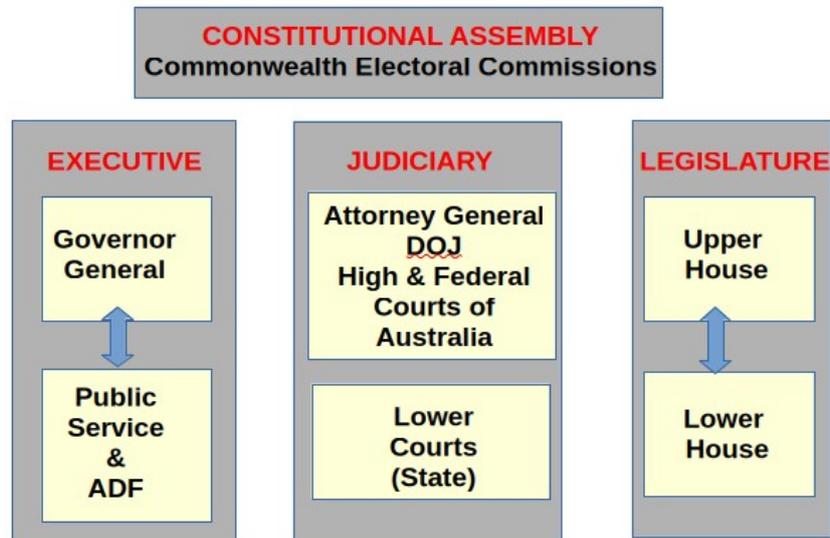
The solution is to popularly elect the Governor General and the Governors as well as the Attorney Generals. The Legislature should have no say in this. Attorney Generals must never have been a part of the legal fraternity.

The Governor General and Governors should pick from anywhere in the world people to be the head and deputy head of the Departments they comprehend.

To give a better chance of the Upper Houses of Parliament properly acting as a House of Review, all candidates running for the Upper House must quit any political Party or politically orientated organisation and declare themselves as being an independent.

Members of the legislature should have only one responsibility and that is to faithfully represent their constituents.

One Possible “End State”



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Here is a possible “End State” resulting in three independent branches of Government and all matters, where any member of those branches may be compromised, being handled by a fourth party, ie, a popularly elected Constitutional Assembly. In this model, the Constitutional Assembly would control the Electoral Commissions and refer all matters that cannot be resolved by the three branches to the people.

The Constitutional Assembly would also have the power to refer any member of the three branches to an Impeachment hearing by the lower house and a trial by the upper house in the case of gross misbehaviour in full view of the people.

The over-arching principle is that the people will have the final say on constitutional issues and unresolvable disputes between the three branches.

The Concept of a Constitutional Assembly

- We once had a privy council to which appeals could be made.
- No such recourse exists now.
- Executives, Politicians and Judges cannot be trusted with things that could benefit them.
- Branches are co-equal and therefore none of the Branches can rightly possess the reserve powers that Governors previously possessed
- Need a popularly elected body to control elections and referenda, disagree with High Court rulings which they believe run contrary to the wishes of the framers plus refer anyone in the three branches of Government for impeachment should any misbehave.

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Up 1986, there had existed an means by which the States could appeal against any action by the Federal Government to the Privy Council. The High Court of Australia was hostile towards this as was the Federal Government which, over the years, has accrued unto itself more and more power over the States.

The fact is the Legislature, Judiciary and Executive Branches of Government, which are supposed to be co-equal, can never be totally trusted. There must be a body above them that will arbitrate on matters where either or all three are not acting in the interests of the people or where a resolution to a problem cannot be resolved, in which case the matter must be sent to the people for a decision. If the Governors are popularly elected, they cannot be the ones to make that decision as a representative of an autocratic Monarch once could.

This gives rise to the need for a popularly elected Constitutional Assembly.

Questioning 3 Levels of Government

- Australia has 6 States, two territories and a Federal Government.
- This was not designed. It happened through expediency and evolution.
- Compare that to the 50 States that make up the United States of America.

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Australia actually has 2 tiers of Government. Federal & State. Territories are a special situation and their existence as Territories has to be questioned. Local Governments are administrative entities of the States.

The ACT was never to have any form of self-government, just like the District of Columbia where the US Capital, Washington, resides.

Importantly, what we have in Australia has evolved. It was never designed.

Australia has a similar land mass to the USA which is comprised of 49 mainland States. Could that be the reason why the USA is more developed and prosperous than Australia?

Some Guiding Principles for Establishing a Good Democracy

Guiding Principles:

- Government should be as close as possible to the people it serves.
- Government should facilitate and only as a last resort, regulate.
- Representatives cannot have two masters and be both representatives and leaders.
- Legislation should be a tortuous process where bills are exhaustively considered and only those things which are really important become law.
- Branches of Government must be co-equal so, through competition, they keep each other in check.

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Here are some principles that should be adopted if one is to have a system of democracy which faithfully serves the interests of the people.

Proximity is vital if representatives are to be in touch with their constituents and experience the consequences of their decisions.

It is not possible for an elected person to be a representative and an executive. The two roles are incompatible and the personality type needed for each role is dissimilar.

Always remember that it is the nature of Government to grow. Every law they pass infringes on the liberty of citizens and therefore should not be lightly agreed.

Always remember “men are not angels!”

The Foundation for National Renewal (FNR)

- Registered with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission in 2000
- A not for profit, non-party-political, voluntary organisation with Australia-wide membership.
- It took a “Grass-roots approach” in trying to create a new Constitution for the Commonwealth.
- ROAD can be regarded as the child of the FNR

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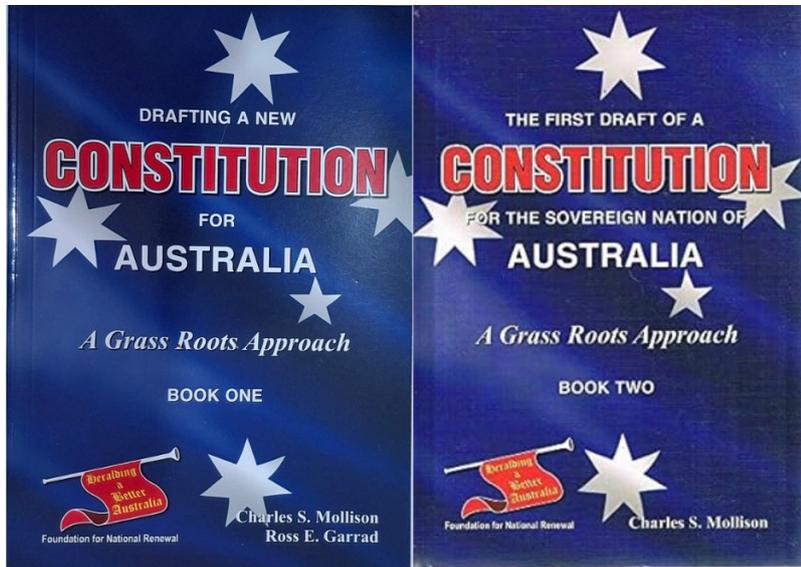
I will now introduce you to a significant organisation that is the predecessor of ROAD. It is the Foundation for National Renewal founded by LtCol Charles Mollison and Ross Garrad in the year 2000. In its hey-day, it had over 100 members.

Charles had a long and distinguished career in the Australian Army and was the Company Commander of A company of 6 RAR during the battle of Long Tan in Viet Nam. His company went to the rescue of D Company during that engagement.

FNR sought to create a new Constitution by taking what it called a grass-roots approach.

Charles is now a consultant to and member of ROAD.

The Work of the FNR



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Here are the two books which record the work of the Foundation for National Renewal.

Book 1 is a substantial piece of research being 492 pages long. It consists of a record of the deliberations of the membership on many different subjects which were seen to be of such importance they should be part of any future constitution.

Such things as:

- 1) whether there should be a preamble in the Constitution and what form it should take.
 - 2) Citizens' rights and responsibilities
 - 3) Elections
 - 4) The Courts and trial by Jury
- and so on. Each of these issue were investigated by posing assignments for the membership and, through that means seeking their opinion.

Book 2 is a distillation of the work and results of Book 1.

A Radically Different Approach

- Disperse the power and the population.
- Divide Australia into 96 Regions demarcated by ridge-lines, not rivers.
- Divide Regions into 50 electorates of approximately 5,000 to 7,000 electors; giving a total of 50 representatives in each region assembly.
- Elect one person from each Region to serve in a Federal Parliament. One person to be the Chief Executive and one person to be the Attorney General in each Region.
- No Federal Bill is passed without the agreement of the majority of the Regions – A truly bicameral system.
- The total elected positions under this arrangement is $50 \times 96 + 96 = 4896$.

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One of the striking things to come out of the FNR's musings was a radically different approach to the structure of Government.

As previously mentioned, Australia originated from one military detachment established near what is now Sydney. From there other colonies developed. There was no real planning.

Capital cities result in uneven sharing of taxpayer funds and actually stymie national development.

In this day of precision guided long range munitions, capital cities are a security vulnerability. 9 Thermo-nuclear devices would wipe out 78% of Australia's population and what little is left of its industrial capability.

Here's a radically different approach to the present three tiered system of Government operating in Australia.

No of Elected Persons in Australia

- At present:
 1. Local Councils ~5,500
 2. Territory & State Parliaments 621
 3. Federal Parliament 226
- **Total in present structure = ~6,347**
- **Number in new structure = 4896 (1,451 less)**

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At first glance the proposed structure may seem to be more bloated with elected representatives than the present arrangements. But in actuality, this is not the case. Indeed, there is a saving of over 1,451 persons.

A key advantage of the proposed structure is that electors would likely have a personal knowledge of their elected representatives.

The bicameral system is more likely to work as intended if the Regional Assemblies act as the guardian of the estate and also as a house of review as was intended by having a Senate.

Political Parties would not have anything like the same influence they do now on Australian politics and representation of constituents.

What is not revealed in this structure is a separate Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. As a consequence, this concept needs some polishing before it would be ready for exposure to the general public. **BUT IT IS FOOD FOR THOUGHT!**

End - Part 2
Governmental Reform
Part 3
Constitutional Reform

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That concludes the section on Governmental reform.

Are there any questions before we take a quick break?

What should be in a Constitution

- The Constitution is a **Master-Servant Contract**.
- **Codifies** Government structure, operation & dispute resolution.
- **Guarantees** the inalienable rights of citizens.
- **Limits the power** of the Government over “The People”.
- Requires all **States to conform** to this general structure.
- **Enforceable**. No one in Government should be immune from prosecution. There must be a codified way of handling suspected misbehaviour/criminality of any member of Government, including members of the Judiciary.

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This brings us to the point of what should be in a Constitution.

There has been much past discussion on a preamble to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, some suggesting “fluffy” words acknowledging the first inhabitants of this country. That would be a huge mistake as it would then be used by the nefarious to infer some special status to the relatives of these “first inhabitants” of this country. Instead, the preamble, like the US Constitution should make it clear that Government is the servant of the people and that the people are not the subjects of the Government. That should set the tone for what follows; namely the guarantee of the rights of the people, the limits of power of the Government over the people, the structure the Government must take and the critical processes, especially those relating to dispute resolution, between the three branches, that the occupiers must follow.

Essentials clauses in a Constitution - Rights

Guaranteed Inalienable Rights.

- Free speech.
- Bodily autonomy.
- No discrimination of any sort on the basis of race, sex or ancestry.
- No compulsory resumption of property without just compensation.
- No control of wages.
- No detention without a formal charge and a speedy trial by a jury of one's peers.
- Reasonable laws and punishments.

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Here are a list of some things that should be considered for inclusion into a Constitution. These are aimed at limiting the ability of any Government to abuse "The People" or cause long-term harm to the nation.

This list is not exhaustive and would be the subject of much discussion at the proposed Constitutional Conventions.

Essential Clauses in a Constitution – Limits of Powers

Limits to the delegated powers of the politicians:

- 1 No emergency may be declared without “The People’s” consent given by way of a binding plebiscite.
- 2 No sale or destruction of significant, publicly owned assets or infrastructure without “The People’s” consent. This creates the concept of “a Gazetted Asset”.
- 3 No binding international treaties affecting sovereignty without “The People’s” consent.
- 4 No discrimination of any sort on the basis of race, sex or ancestry.
- 5 A limit on public debt which cannot be breached without “The People’s” consent.
- 6 Term limits for all.
- 7 No tax on wealth, only on actual earnings. Levies strictly on basis of service received
- 8 No person in Government service (incl Defence Force & Police) may belong to a union nor strike.

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Here are a list of some things that should be considered for inclusion into a Constitution. These are aimed at limiting the ability of any Government to abuse “The People” or cause long-term harm to the nation.

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The 1999 Referendum Results should Australia be a Republic

Choice	Votes	%
✓ Yes	5,273,024	45.13%
✗ No	6,410,787	54.87%
Valid votes	11,683,811	99.14%
Invalid or blank votes	101,189	0.86%
Total votes^[2]	11,785,000	100.00%
Registered voters/turnout	12,392,040	95.1%

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I show this because some may say that what we aspire to is impossible to achieve.

In 1999 Australians voted on whether Australia should become a Republic.

The idea was that the President would be selected by a 2/3rds vote of the Parliament. No detail was provided.

Despite how badly the question was framed, it came within 5% of succeeding!

I mention this because, in my opinion, we are offering here a detailed concept of how Australians could arrive at a system of Government that is markedly superior to that under which we presently labour under. Given this, I believe that Australians, once fully informed, would overwhelmingly vote for what is being proposed.

Questions?

Elections



Structure of Government



Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia

Reforming Our Australian Democracy

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And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what “Reforming Our Australian Democracy” is about

What I have presented here is a top level view of what is a very involved matter requiring a great deal of debate and consideration.

Importantly it must be a product of the people of Australia and must eventually be agreed by the majority of Australians; most likely through a series of Referenda on contentious issues and finally, the finished Constitution.

I'll now invite you to pose questions.