

## Geoff Breusch

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**From:** Geoff Breusch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 April 2016 4:13 PM  
**To:** Brendan Connell  
**Subject:** RE: Optional preferential voting

I have replied with "It's not something that's under active consideration at the moment" attributable to an AG's spokesman.

**From:** Brendan Connell  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 April 2016 1:18 PM  
**To:** James Sullivan <James.Sullivan@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Geoff Breusch <Geoff.Breusch@ministerial.qld.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Kirby Anderson <Kirby.Anderson@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Susan McGrady <Susan.McGrady@ministerial.qld.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Optional preferential voting

Sigh.

Can I leave this one with the AG?

**From:** Cameron Atfield [<mailto:catfield@fairfaxmedia.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 April 2016 1:15 PM  
**To:** Brendan Connell <[Brendan.Connell@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:Brendan.Connell@ministerial.qld.gov.au)>; Kerryn Manifold <[Kerryn.Manifold@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:Kerryn.Manifold@ministerial.qld.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Optional preferential voting

Good afternoon, gents

Yesterday, Labor's new BCC leader Peter Cumming had this to say in his inaugural speech as Opposition Leader:

"I believe we need a uniform voting system for all levels of government in Queensland.  
"There will be far more informal votes in the federal election in Queensland than in other states because voters have cast their vote in two consecutive optional preferential elections in succession, the state election in January 2015 and the council election in March 2016.  
"We should have a uniform voting system of compulsory preferential every time Queenslanders vote.  
"I have read that State Opposition leader Lawrence Springborg also supports compulsory preferential."

What's the government's position on this one?

cheers

Cameron

Cameron Atfield  
Political journalist, *Brisbane Times*  
Level 6, 340 Adelaide St, Brisbane QLD 4000  
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M: 0418 719 211  
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## Geoff Breusch

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**From:** Geoff Breusch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 April 2016 4:50 PM  
**To:** Kirby Anderson; Susan McGrady; Brendan Connell  
**Subject:** HIBs - [redacted] Out of scope [redacted] compulsory preferential voting  
**Attachments:** [redacted] Out of scope [redacted] 1404  
Compulsory Pref Voting.docx



**Queensland  
Government**

### Geoff Breusch

Senior Media Advisor

**Office of the Hon. Yvette D'Ath MP**

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and

Minister for Training and Skills

P 07 3719 7414 M [redacted] sch.4/3/3

State Law Building Cnr Ann and George Streets Brisbane QLD 4000 GPO Box 149 Brisbane QLD 4001



## COMPULSORY PREFERENTIAL VOTING

“It’s not something that’s under active consideration at the moment”

### BACKGROUND:

BCC Opposition Leader Peter Cumming has called for compulsory preferential voting to be made consistent across all levels of government in Australia during his inaugural speech to Council.

*"I believe we need a uniform voting system for all levels of government in Queensland.*

*"There will be far more informal votes in the federal election in Queensland than in other states because voters have cast their vote in two consecutive optional preferential elections in succession, the state election in January 2015 and the council election in March 2016.*

*"We should have a uniform voting system of compulsory preferential every time Queenslanders vote.*

*"I have read that State Opposition leader Lawrence Springborg also supports compulsory preferential."*



## James Sullivan

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**From:** James Sullivan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 April 2016 2:08 PM  
**To:** Brendan Connell  
**Cc:** Brooke Baskin; Geoff Breusch  
**Subject:** RE: Optional preferential voting

Can you give me a buzz when you can?

Thanks

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**From:** Brendan Connell  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 April 2016 1:18 PM  
**To:** James Sullivan <James.Sullivan@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Geoff Breusch <Geoff.Breusch@ministerial.qld.gov.au>  
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**Subject:** FW: Optional preferential voting

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**Laura Reece**

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**From:** Donna O'Donoghue  
**Sent:** Monday, 14 March 2016 10:17 AM  
**To:** Laura Reece  
**Subject:** Get Up

Out of scope

As to an inquiry into an appropriate electoral system, we had one. It was called the Fitzgerald Inquiry which recommended optional preferential voting with a strengthened committee system.

Sent from my iPhone

## Laura Reece

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**From:** Donna O'Donoghue  
**Sent:** Monday, 14 March 2016 6:38 PM  
**To:** Laura Reece  
**Cc:** Angela MacDonagh; Peter Nibbs  
**Subject:** GetUp!  
**Attachments:** Mr Paul Oosting.docx



**Queensland**  
Government

### **Donna O'Donoghue**

Deputy Director of Policy

**Office of the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk MP**

Premier of Queensland and Minister for the Arts

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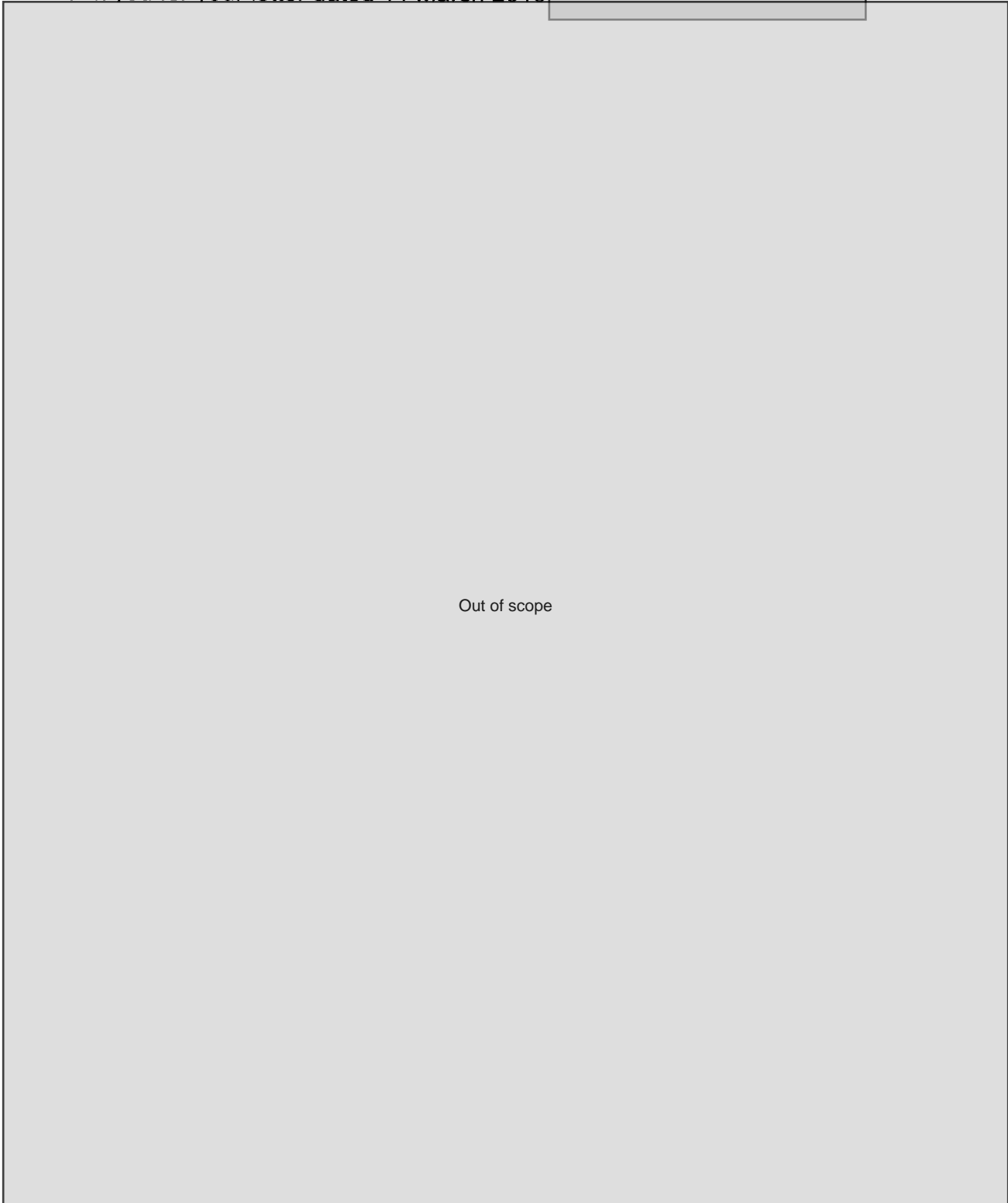
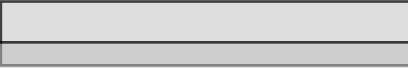
Executive Building 100 George Brisbane QLD 4000  
PO Box 15185 City East QLD 4002



Mr Paul Oosting  
National Director  
GetUp!  
PO Box A106  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Dear Mr Oosting

Thank you for your letter dated 11 March 2016



Out of scope

Out of scope

Your letter also calls on me to commit to establishing an independent inquiry before the referendum is held on 19 March. The matters that such an Inquiry are to consider are:

- Which electoral system to elect the Queensland parliament would best serve all Queenslanders;
- Which electoral system to elect Queensland local councils would best serve all Queenslanders; and

It also found that the fairness of the electoral laws was widely questioned in Queensland, and that public confidence in the fairness of the electoral system is important to a restoration of social cohesion and respect for authority.

The Fitzgerald Report found that the electoral system in Queensland needed an independent and comprehensive review, and recommended that an Electoral and Administrative Review Commission (EARC) should be established to, amongst other things:

- Conduct a review of the electoral system, especially [redacted]  
[redacted] the basis of representation, [redacted]

Out of scope

[REDACTED]

The EARC conducted a comprehensive review of the electoral system in Queensland in 1990 in accordance with the Fitzgerald Inquiry recommendations. [REDACTED] recommended the introduction of single member electoral districts with equal

[REDACTED] optional preferential voting was further recommended as the preferable system for voting. Since 1992, State elections in Queensland have been conducted on this basis.

Given that it is now more than 25 years since EARC conducted its review, it may be timely to consider whether the electoral system recommended by EARC continues to provide the most effective system for determining political representation in Queensland. I am therefore prepared to commit to an independent examination of this issue.

Yours sincerely

Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP  
**Premier and Minister for the Arts**

## Laura Reece

---

**From:** Donna O'Donoghue  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 March 2016 12:05 PM  
**To:** Laura Reece  
**Subject:** FW: Draft GetUp letter  
**Attachments:** Mr Paul Oostin1.docx

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**From:** Donna O'Donoghue  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 March 2016 11:33 AM  
**To:** Peter Nibbs <Peter.Nibbs@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Angela MacDonagh <Angela.COS@ministerial.qld.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Yvette D'Ath <Yvette.D'Ath@ministerial.qld.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Draft GetUp letter



**Queensland  
Government**

**Donna O'Donoghue**  
Deputy Director of Policy  
Office of the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk MP  
Premier of Queensland and Minister for the Arts

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Executive Building 100 George Brisbane QLD 4000  
PO Box 15185 City East QLD 4002

Mr Paul Oosting  
National Director  
GetUp!  
PO Box A106  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Dear Mr Oosting

Out of scope

Out of scope

**Inquiry in to Queensland's electoral system**

Your letter also calls for the establishment of an independent inquiry before the referendum is held on 19 March 2016. The inquiry would consider Queensland's voting and electoral systems.

Out of scope

The Fitzgerald Report found that the electoral system in Queensland needed an independent and comprehensive review, and recommended that an Electoral and Administrative Review Commission (EARC) should be established to, amongst other things:

- Conduct a review of the electoral system, especially the basis of representation.



It also found that the fairness of the electoral laws was widely questioned in Queensland, and that public confidence in the fairness of the electoral system is important to a restoration of social cohesion and respect for authority.

The EARC conducted a comprehensive review of the electoral system in Queensland in 1990 in accordance with the Fitzgerald Inquiry recommendations. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Optional preferential voting was further recommended as the preferable system for voting. Since 1992, State elections in Queensland have been conducted on this basis.

Given that it is now more than 25 years since EARC conducted its review, it may be timely to consider whether the electoral system recommended by EARC continues to provide the most effective system for determining political representation in Queensland. I am therefore prepared to commit to an independent examination of this issue.

Out of scope

Out of scope

Thank you for your correspondence.

Out of scope

Yours sincerely

Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP  
**Premier and Minister for the Arts**