

Feedback favours eliminating voting regions in Upper House reform

The Victorian Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee has published public feedback on a discussion paper outlining options for Upper House reform.

The Committee is inquiring into possible reforms to Victoria's Upper House electoral system following its earlier recommendation for Victoria's Upper House to adopt a similar voting system to the one used for the Commonwealth Senate. This would include eliminating group voting tickets, allowing voters to indicate multiple preferences above the line.

The discussion paper outlines six possible new models to elect the Victorian Upper House.

Currently there are eight electoral regions for the Upper House, with five members elected for each region. The discussion paper outlines six new models for voting, including changing to four 10-member regions, increasing the size of the Legislative Council to 49 members and electing seven members from each of seven regions, as well as models where regions are eliminated and members are elected by the whole state.

More than 140 people provided comments on the paper, with some level of support expressed for each of the six proposed structures.

A structure in which members are elected from the state as a whole was the most popular option among those who provided feedback.

Some of those who commented also provided a variety of other structures not outlined in the discussion paper.

The feedback is available to read on the Committee's website.

The Committee will hold public hearings on the options at a later date and is due to report to the Parliament by December 2025.