

SPEECH NOTES FOR NGA, Robert Ray

16 June 2010

THE PROBLEM

8 OUT OF 44

ALP 1 OUT OF 25- 4%- BELOW Glen Mc GRATHS BATTING AVERAGE.

CONS 7 OUT OF 19 – 36%

WHY?

33 YEARS SINCE THE LAST SUCCESSFUL REFERENDA –COLOUR TV
WAS JUST 2 YEARS OLD IN AUS.

WORRYING TREND-STATES VOTING YES

1906-1913 51.5%

1919-1937 42.9%

1944-1999 32.7

BEST YES STATE WA 23/21

DR NO STATE TAS 10/34

NINE REFERENDA PRODUCED A YES VOTE BETWEEN 49% & 49.8%

SUCCESSFUL REFS HAVE BEEN FINANCIAL MACHINERY ISSUES &
SENATE CHANGES.

BIG EMOTIONAL TOPICS HAVE ENDED IN DEFEAT : CONSCRIPTION,
ANTI-COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE REPUBLIC.

LOCAL GOVT ENTRENCHMENT- TWO MONUMENTAL FAILURES,
1974 AND 1988. Why?

THE GOLDEN RULE OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFS IS – IF IN DOUBT,VOTE
NO!!!

LET ME QUOTE A GREAT SOURCE FROM LAST YEARS ALGA CONFERENCE

“ THE UNDER-THE –RADAR APPROACH (THAT IS, BE LOW-KEY AND SNEAK THE CHANGES THROUGH) NEVER WORKS. IF THE PROPOSITION IS NOT UNDERSTOOD, IT WILL FAIL. IF THE PROPOSITION SEEKS SEVERAL SOLUTIONS IN ONE PROPASAL, IT WILL BE REJECTED. IF THE PROPOSITION IS LINKED TO OTHER UNPOPULAR MEASURES, IT WILL BE DRAGGED DOWN.”

KEY FACTORS

BI-PARTISANSHIP

TIMING- NOVEMBER 2012/ GFC/ VIC MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

PACKAGE OF 4 PROPOSALS- MUST AVOID A LEMON EG ENTRENCHMENT OF POLITICIANS.

FUNDING FOR THE YES/NO CASE- SPOILERS AND VANDALS.

POLLING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTRENCHMENT PROPASAL- VERY POSITIVE, BUT IT IS PRE SCARE CAMPAIGN. REMEMBER MARKET RESEARCH PROVIDES INTELLIGENCE NOT EVIDENCE.

THE POLLING

ONLY 22% OF THOSE POLLED COULD CORRECTLY ASSERT THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WOULD OCCUR WITH A MAJORITY OF VOTES AND A MAJORITY OF STATES.

FURTHER, WHEN ASKED WHETHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS RECOGNIZED IN THE CONSTITUTION 40% SAID YES OR DON'T KNOW.

LABOR VOTERS WERE SUBSTATIONALLY MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR CONSTITUIONAL CHANGE. ENCOURAGINGLY, 43% OF COALITION SUPPOTERS SAY SIGNIFICNT CHANGES ARE NEEDED AND ONLY 18%

SAY ITS WRONG TO TAMPER WITH THE CONSTITUTION.
BIPARTISANSHIP WAS SAID TO BE IMPORTANT ESPECIALLY BY
COALITION VOTERS.

FEW OF THOSE POLLED HAD ANY IDEA OF THE COST OF HOLDING A
REFERENDUM. AT THE HEIGHT OF THE GFC, 48% OF THE
ELECTORATE SAID IT WOULD BE SELF- INDULGENT TO HOLD A
REFERENDUM NOW.

THOSE WHO FAVOUR THE RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NUMBER 61% OF THOSE SAMPLED; 14% INDICATED A NO VOTE.

TASMANIA CAME IN TOP OF ALL STATES WITH 71%.

THE FURTHER FROM THE CBD THE MORE LIKELY SUPPORT FOR
RECOGNITION EXISTS- THE VERY REVERSE OF WHAT HAPPENED
WITH THE REFERENDUM ON THE REPUBLIC.

REALLY GOOD NEWS IS THAT ONLY 3% OF THOSE TESTED OPPOSED
THE DIRECT FUNDING BY THE COMMONWEALTH TO LOCAL
GOVERNMENT.

DEVELOPMENTS

FINANCIAL RECOGNITION

THE HOUSE OF REPS COMMITTEE

HEALTH AND WATER GOING SOUTH.

McCLELLAND'S VIEWPOINT

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE

KEY TARGET IN 2010

COMMITMENTS FROM MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE ELECTION
CONTEXT.

FUNDING FOR CIVICS CAMPAIGN/ EARLY 2012.

CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR PROPORTIONAL FUNDING FOR THE YES/
NO CASE.

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION/ JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

CONVINCE STATE GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL

THE REAL CHALLENGE

NEED TO CUT THE GORDIAN KNOT/ NEED SOME WINS ON THE
BOARD.

CREATE SOME EXCITEMENT AND ENTHUSIASM

DON'T TALK ABOUT REFORM/ MUCH ABUSED TERM THAT MEANS
YOU ARE ABOUT TO GET IT IN THE NECK.

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT MODERNIZATION/ PARTNERSHIP/
COOPERATION/ PROGRESS.

Rollies Lips

WE CAN'T LET ANOTHER 33 YEARS GO BY WITHOUT ENHANCING
OUR CONSTITUTION.