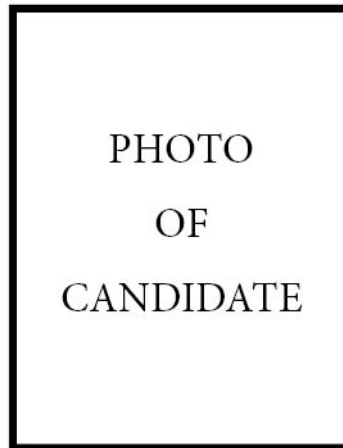


media release #3



GREG McMAHON

**INDEPENDENT SENATE CANDIDATE for QUEENSLAND
FEDERAL ELECTION - 2 JULY 2016**

Senate election ballot paper process undemocratic

“The processes by which the order of candidates on the Senate ballot paper was determined today is a glaring example of why the parties driving our government are losing the confidence of our community,” Independent candidate for the Senate Greg McMahon said today.

“The parties have legislated to try to keep Independents out of the Parliament by ensuring they are positioned last on the ballot paper,” Mr McMahon said.

“Independents are not given the opportunity to compete fairly with the parties in determining places on the ballot paper.

“They are simply placed last ... and in today’s case in Brisbane, 39th place after the parties had been allocated the first 38 positions.

“No wonder people have such a low opinion of politics, politicians and political parties,” Mr McMahon said.

“Twenty per cent of voters at the last election failed to submit a valid vote.

“And today’s ballot draw is simply an example of why.

“The parties do not want to hear independent voices in the Parliament. They regard Parliament as their personal territory and they believe they have a God-given right to run the Parliament to suit themselves,” Mr McMahon said.

“Anywhere else, disadvantaging a group of people like this, would be seen as discrimination,” he said.

At today’s ballot draw conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission in Brisbane, Mr McMahon was drawn in the No. 2 position amongst the Independents, and queried the AEC’s officials at the draw as to why he was not allowed to compete for position No.1 on the total ballot paper against the 38 parties who also had nominated.

He was told it was the law.

“This is a case of the major parties using the democratic processes of the Parliament to implement an undemocratic voting regime to punish Independents for standing and to disadvantage them in the political process”, Mr McMahon said.

“One of the parties at the draw stated their support for the position that I took,” Mr McMahon said.

“You would think that the major parties would see how they are alienating themselves with the voters with their electoral tactics, their campaigning styles, their superficial slogans and argy-bargy economics – the number of parties, 38, and Independents, 19, in the draw in Brisbane today speaks volumes about how the approach of the major parties, and the resultant health of our government, are being perceived by the Australian people.”

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