



the

EGGLESTON

report

Senator Alan Eggleston: Working for Western Australia

December 2004

A great victory

"'tis not in mortals to command success, but we'll do more ... we'll deserve it" Addison, 1713

This quotation can be applied very well to the Coalition's stunning victory in the recent federal election, which is up there with the great victories of 1975 and 1996 in terms of resounding defeat of the ALP.

Our victory came down to two matters; sound economic management and the calibre of our leadership team. Accordingly, the people of this country wisely decided that there was no sense in substituting the steady, experienced hand of John Howard and the Coalition for the very real uncertainties and inexperience of Mark Latham and the ALP.

However, it is interesting that up to the last few days of the election campaign (before the 15 per cent of undecided voters fell in behind the Coalition after Latham's disastrous last-week performance) the polls showed the outcome could be close.

But what if the ALP had won? What would have been the impact on WA?

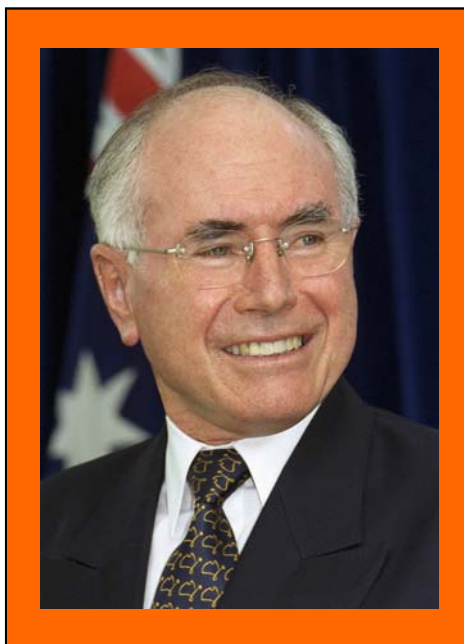
An ALP victory in Canberra would have had serious, adverse consequences in WA in two particular areas. Firstly, the industrial relations clock would have been turned back to the 1970s. Workplace agreements would have been abolished, secondary boycotts permitted, union officials would have had unrestricted access to businesses and most concerning of all, the ALP planned to introduce a Federal payroll tax. The second bad consequence for WA could well have been the early

imposition of a "one vote, one value" voting system on this state by the ALP Federal Government using its external affairs powers and acting in connivance with the WA Democrat Senator Andrew Murray, who introduced a bill to abolish the present electoral system in WA not long ago.

Thankfully, Senator Murray's one vote, one value bill failed on a technicality when he previously introduced it. However, had the ALP won the federal election there is no reason to doubt that Senator Murray would have followed through with his expressed intention to reintroduce his bill and one

vote, one value would have been imposed on WA with consequent reduced regional representation in the WA parliament.

Finally there are no grounds for the concern that some commentators have expressed that the Senate will be irrevocably weakened after the Government majority comes into force on July 1. The Senate carries out its "house of review" function through its committee system, which will remain intact and in practice little will change except that Government will win contested votes!



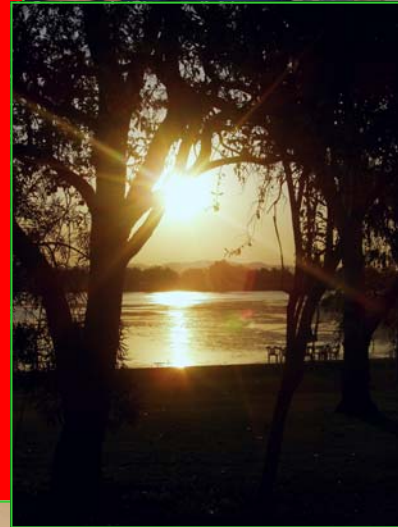
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Merry Christmas

It's been a big year in politics. Many people across the State have put in a great deal of work to ensure the victory we achieved on October 9. As we gear up for the festive season, it's a good time to look back over some of 2004's highlights...





NATIONAL TOTALS

Party	Votes	Percentage %	Swing %
Australian Labor Party	4,409,117	37.64	-0.20
Liberal	4,741,458	40.47	+3.39
The Nationals	690,275	5.89	+0.28
Democrats	144,832	1.24	-4.17
The Greens	841,734	7.19	+2.23
One Nation	139,956	1.19	-3.15
CDP Christian Party	72,241	0.62	+0.02
CLP - The Territory Party	39,855	0.34	+0.02
Citizens Electoral Council	42,349	0.36	+0.20
liberals for forests	8,165	0.07	-0.07
No GST	7,802	0.07	-0.05
Save the ADI Site Party	3,490	0.03	-0.02
Progressive Labour Party	3,775	0.03	-0.01
Lower Excise Fuel and Beer Party	2,007	0.02	-0.02
HEMP	787	0.01	-0.02
Non-Custodial Parents Party	1,132	0.01	+0.00
The Fishing Party	2,516	0.02	+0.01
Outdoor Recreation Party	3,505	0.03	+0.03
DLP - Democratic Labor Party	1,372	0.01	+0.01
Ex-Service, Service & Veterans Party	4,369	0.04	+0.04
Family First	235,315	2.01	+2.01
New Country Party	9,439	0.08	+0.08
Nuclear Disarmament Party	341	0.00	+0.00
Socialist Alliance	14,155	0.12	+0.12
The Aged and Disability Pensioners Party	285	0.00	+0.00
The Great Australians	2,824	0.02	+0.02
Independent	286,206	2.44	-0.27
Non Affiliated	5,830	0.05	-0.14
....	0	0.00	-0.35
FORMAL	11,715,132	94.82	-0.36
INFORMAL	639,851	5.18	+0.36
TOTAL	12,354,983	94.33	+0.05

Two Party Preferred	Votes	Percentage %	Swing %
Liberal/National Coalition	6,179,130	52.74	+1.79
Australian Labor Party	5,536,002	47.26	-1.79