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22 June 2004

YOUNG PEOPLE DISENFRANCHISED BY HOWARD GOVERNMENT

The Howard Government has shown their contempt for young voters with their plan to close the electoral rolls on the day the Federal election is called, the Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said today.

“This means that, unlike in previous elections, there won’t be any time for young people who have just turned 18 to register to vote.”

Previously the electoral rolls closed one week after the election was called and in the last Federal election during that week, the Electoral Commission processed 66,256 enrolments in Queensland alone and of this number, 7,715 were 18 year olds.

“It is utterly undemocratic for the Howard government to consider taking away our most important democratic right, which is the right to vote.

“Having spent nine years cutting off young people’s access to higher education and damaging the environment – things young people really care about – the Howard government will now prevent thousands of young people voting against him.

Ms Nolan recently made a speech in the parliament in favour of lowering the voting age to 17 to further enfranchise young people and to complement their civic studies in school.

“Young people care about the future, and no single thing will impact on that future more than politics.

“This is a blatant attempt by the Howard government to disenfranchise young people and I hope that sanity will prevail and that the Senate will reject this latest Howard Government attempt to hijack Australian democracy.”