

REPUBLIC OF NAURU
ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) NO. 2 BILL 2019

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable Baron Divavesi Waqa

12 July 2019

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I introduce to the House today a Bill for an Act to amend the *Electoral Act 2016*.

Mr Speaker, the proposed amendments to the Electoral Act are quite simple. The purpose of the amendment Bill is set out clearly in the explanatory memorandum.

The key amendments proposed in this Bill clarifies and tidies the existing provision on the process to determine which candidate is elected or excluded in a situation where one or more of the candidates receive an equal value of votes. The Electoral Commissioner is to determine by lot a candidate or candidates to be excluded using random methods such as tossing of a coin or drawing of names out of a container. The Bill also rectifies references in the current Act.

In addition, the amendment is to provide opportunity to the majority of the voters, if not all, can exercise their fundamental right to vote and choose their representative. Those who cannot be present, are given the option for early voting and this will also allow them to cast their vote by proxy.

Also, there is an amendment to increase the maximum number of proxy votes one can receive, from 2 to 4 proxies.

Mr Speaker, the explanatory memorandum details the provisions of the Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.

