I am taking this course as a free elective in an engineering degree, to become a more informed citizen in the politics of our country. To this end, there were a number of interesting points raised in the readings. The first of which is the concept of direct democracy as practised by ancient Greeks, where every eligible person is expected to attend political gatherings and vote on matters. This got me thinking about how detached we are from the process by instead using representatives (politicians). Can one electoral representative really vote on matters with the voice of their full electorate? I find it more likely that the party system is designed to do the opposite. Instead of the representative being the voice of the people, the people find it much more convenient to align themselves with a party that may match many of their values. The party also provides guidance on issues that people may not have thought about before. I believe that this takes away much of the need to inform oneself and think critically about the issues facing Australian society. Admittedly, direct democracy in the way it was practised by the ancient Greeks would be unwieldy with the size of our population, but e-democracy (participation via online submission) gives us an avenue to overcome this. Provided the appropriate secure infrastructure is implemented. If this were to pass I wonder how the role of politicians would change?