

## **InToWin Australia - “A Platform for Participation in Improved Political Performance”**

### **Chapter 1 – An Introduction: The time has come to stop, to think, to act**

I am a happy man. I live in a lucky country. I was born into a wonderful time. I am grateful for the opportunities that have come my way. I have nothing to complain about.

So why do I find myself becoming increasingly frustrated? Why do I detect dark clouds on the horizon? What is challenging my happy state of mind?

Politics – bloody politics! I see too much evidence of waste, of inefficiency, of abuse of power and breach of trust. I see politicians who, far too often, exhibit an air of entitlement and a lack of focus, who confuse rhetoric with debate, who chase popularity over principle, and who appear to have lost the art of reasoned analysis and simple communication. And here is the problem – politicians can't be ignored. Why not? Well firstly, politicians fill our governments. That sounds obvious, but it wasn't always the case – once upon a time it was just people wanting to help their community, without regard for the party politics that dominates discussions now. Secondly, governments fill our lives – they reach in to each and every corner of our daily existence. I expect to see them pop up in the toilet soon, handing me their preferred toilet tissues, with instructions on how it is best used and the recommended form of disposal!

How and why has this happened? Well, we are all to blame actually. Every time someone raises an issue, a concern, a problem, we turn straight to the government – State, Federal or local – and ask – “What are you going to do about it?” - and they are all too willing to oblige. So it should come as no surprise that our incessant requests see governments continue to expand, by stealth and by design. They master the continual treatment of symptoms rather than tackle underlying causes; they repeat mistakes because they cannot acknowledge and learn from them; they prefer to tread water rather swim against the tide of popular opinion; and just like us, they point fingers rather than take responsibility.

So yes, I am frustrated. Frustrated because I see the lucky country and the fortunate times disappearing into the history books. And I feel powerless.

But then I realised - I'm not powerless. I have some ideas for change - I can lobby – I can debate – I can challenge – I can prosecute change and rally others to prosecute change with me.

The time has come to do more than just stop and think.

The time has come to act - Vive la evolution!!