Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson says plans by the Government to introduce optional preferential voting should be shelved.

He says preferential voting means a voter can have an influence on who will be elected even when his/her first preference is not going to win.

That makes it a very valuable vote but it will be lessened considerably if the Government introduces optional preferential.

On the other hand, if the Government claims that this will reduce informal voting than you have to ask whether our education system is a complete failure.

Gerry says if a voter cannot count to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 which is about the most candidates you get out bush on a ballot paper you wonder about what numeracy skills have been imparted through our education system.

Fix the numeracy problem, not the voting system because the voting system is not the problem.