



Serving Dalrymple

SHANE KNUTH MP

2016

Dear Madam/Sir

Consultation on the – Inquiry into four year terms

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide an alternate view to the argument around four year terms in Queensland.

I would like to register my opinions against the move to safeguard the integrity of the democratic nature of this state. We believe the current system must remain in place to ensure that the general public retain control over their elected representatives for many reasons. While I do acknowledge lengthening the terms of government would assist the business sector, we must take into account other factors and put the greater population first.

A three year term gives greater control to electors, the greater the accountability Parliamentarians, the greater the opportunity for true democracy. I believe lengthening the term of Parliament would tend to weaken this control, by giving the people of Queensland more infrequent opportunities to put their opinions forward. Governments also have the potential to be less responsive to the concerns of the public as elections are sparse.

Over the past few years we have seen massive landslides against majority governments, all due to the public's lack of confidence in government. Queenslanders have demonstrated their discontent with successive Governments far before their term was at its end. Extending this time would simply extend the amount of time an inappropriate government was in power without remaining accountable to its constituents.

While Queensland is one of the last jurisdictions in Australia to have three-year terms and we should also note we are the only one to be without an upper house of parliament. This leaves Queensland well without a legislative safe guard, without some transparency and as we have seen in the past. Queensland therefore has less ability to scrutinise legislation, unlike every other state right across Australia. While this Parliament does have an extremely active committee system I believe that it plays second fiddle with regard to having an upper house.

As such KAP will not be supporting four year terms.

Yours sincerely

Shane Knuth MP
Member for Dalrymple