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7 OCT 2015

Finance and
Administration Committee

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Research Director

Finance and Administration Committee

Parliament House

TENURE SUBMISSION

5 October 2015

George Street

Brisbane 4000

Madam or Sir,

It is heartening to have heard your Member for Bulimba, Ms Di Farmer advising us all on ABC Radio that submissions are sought on the subject of four year terms for the Queensland Government. Such a call encourages Australians to put down the beer for a moment and feel part of our much vaunted democracy. It ensures that the majority consider our valuable government representatives are no longer austere and arrogant as so recently has been the case. At least with a certainty of tenure individual members of parliament can more readily estimate the amount of compensation they may receive for the disruption to their normal family life that they endure. However making this call at all could be viewed by some as a public relations stunt because it is likely that the ruling party themselves rather than the public have a better idea how long it takes for newly elected members to become effective after acquainting themselves with the required protocols. In similar vein even a passing study of our brief history from the time of good Governor Phillip to the development of modern communications technology makes it obvious that your question is irrelevant because permitting the continuation of state and territory governments is not just a financial burden for Australians but an insult to their intelligence.

The first Australian government that we know about was created by English settlers not long after they got here. After travelling north on horseback they discovered that this was a huge country and, for communication and administrative purposes, they decided they needed more governments. The result is that today we have more public servants per head of population than any other country in the world. On account of some of our politicians trying to stay in office by continuing to bribe people with excessive social assistance programs (that only erode what fortitude citizens may once have had), most of our governments are in debt. At a time when our high wages practically preclude any manufacturing and the demand for our minerals has declined, any attempted continuance of this largesse would be a foolish descent into national insolvency.

The solution is simple. The internet trumps communication delivered by horseback. Although already very late in the day it should be realized that there is no need for state and territory governments whatsoever. With most government employees and politicians then on the unemployment benefit thereby returning the federal budget to surplus, an added bonus is that the vicious squabbling and blaming between state and federal governments over education and hospital funding will be a thing of the past. No. Fret not over the term of office of the one state government, but promote instead a sensible constitutional amendment that will remove all but the federal government where hopefully wisdom will prevail.

Yours Sincerely, Gordon W N Moore

