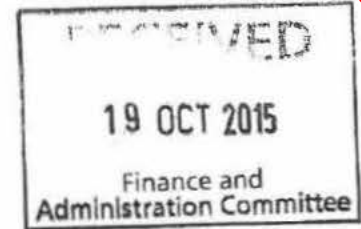


FROM: MR L Nightingale;



TO: Research Director;

Finance and Administrative Committee;

Parliament House;

George Street;

Brisbane;

Qld. 4000.

RE: Personal Submission For

"EXTENDING TO FOUR YEARS AND FIXING QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENTARY TERMS"

DATE: 17th October 2015.

Dear Research Officer;

I am currently the Vice President of Queenslanders for Constitutional Monarchy Inc and also President of the Democratic Labour Party Queensland Moreton Sub Branch.

This is my personal submission on this subject.

BACKGROUND TO THIS SUBMISSION:

In 2012 at the Brisbane Irish Club; Queenslanders for Constitutional Monarchy Inc (QCM) hosted a widely promoted "Democracy In Queensland Forum" which went all day and which had many speakers including prominent Academics and Citizens. The media chose to not attend.

After much study and discussion QCM came to the conclusion that the Westminster System of Government was not operating in the State of Queensland which greatly impacted the Constitutional Monarchy in Queensland.

The ethos of this British System gifted to us and forged from the fires of the British Civil War and many long conflicts which championed decentralised government with numerous checks and balances and which WW1 General Monash loved and fought for was now dead in Queensland! This realisation was shattering to QCM members but we had to face the reality.

In 2013 QCM organised a Public Forum in the Queensland Parliamentary Annexe with the Attorney General representing the Queensland Government of the day and about 80 people attending and with a number of speakers. I was chosen by QCM to deliver a "QCM Report Card" on the Westminster System in Queensland. The report among other things illustrated areas where the system was not operating and was dead in Queensland. The media chose not to attend.

No changes or reform occurred as a result of the efforts of QCM in fact the political system became worse with changes to further make life more difficult for minor parties in Queensland. We begun to wonder if God was dead in Queensland.

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN REGARDING THIS SUBMISSION:

FOUR YEAR TERMS

- (1) Due to this situation described in my background
- (2) and due to the centralised political system in Queensland at present where the Westminster System is dead
- (3) and due to an adversarial political culture of "winner takes all" in Queensland
- (4) and due to a voting and electoral system in Queensland which penalises minor parties
- (5) and due to no upper house to run a proper committee system allowing the lower house to represent the people of Queensland
- (6) and due to a fixed number of members of the Queensland Parliament that does not accommodate population growth
- (7) and due to the tears of my father's generation who sacrificed themselves fighting a misguided Imperial Japan when our freedom was challenged – Rest In Peace mighty generation

In my humble view giving a four year term is a serious mistake.

So I fully oppose four year terms for the Queensland Parliament which further entrenches the present situation.

FIXED TERMS

Parliament must have the flexibility to call an election at any time in order to operate lawfully and with integrity and be subject to the people in the true sense.

The Westminster System was designed to have non fixed terms so that the Governor can call an election if the Government decided to Govern illegally or similarly.

In my humble view giving a fixed parliamentary term is a serious mistake.

So I fully oppose a fixed parliamentary term for the Queensland Parliament which further entrenches the present situation in particular undermining Westminster and flexibility.

CONCLUSION

Power corrupts people and absolute power absolutely corrupts people so in Queensland's case we are barely better than an elected dictatorship at present hardly what my father fought for and definitely in no need of further ego inflating and arrogant power!

Yours Sincerely;

L. Nightingale,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. Nightingale". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line that spans the width of the page.