

QCM

P.O. Box 326
ASPLEY, QLD 4034

18 Oct 2015

Research Director
Finance & Administrative Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND 4000



SUBMISSION FINANCE COMMITTEE INTO FOUR YEAR TERMS FOR POLITICIANS

Dear Research Director:

It is my pleasure to submit this submission on the move by politicians to extend their length of service in what has been known since "FOUNDATION" as the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

In brief, we believe the move is unnecessary and will be seen as just another power grab by politicians who will financially benefit from this reform if successful.

We believe the people of Queensland would benefit greatly from political effort if it was instead generated towards the re-establishment of Queensland's Upper House, abolished in 1922 after a referendum asked that it be retained, and a decade before The Nazis abolished the German Upper House.

Politicians should now ask themselves why they want more time to accomplish what they want to accomplish when they obviously can't seem, by their own admission, to accomplish what they want in three years?

Yours for God, Queen and Country,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M Goldstiver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Merv Goldstiver
Secretary, Queenslanders for Constitutional Monarchy Assn (Inc.)
ATTACHMENTS:

SUBMISSION:

This incorporated association, hereafter referred to as QCM, is generally opposed to four year terms and fixed terms since they generally reduce people's intervention into government, there has been little demonstration that government in other States has improved because of lesser people's power, and because they lessen pressures on political survival of politicians, they simply encourage arrogance, which is demonstrated by political failures, singularly and collectively, to service or respond to electors.

QCM believes that Queensland should maintain parity with the Federal practice of three years unfixed terms because it generates flexibility and electoral options for electors free of party machines who may have their own corrosive agendas.

QCM commends those allowing this survey of public thought as a step in the right direction from suggestions that people shouldn't have a referendum on issues such as the return of the Upper House in the midst of an electorate which in 1991 has already spoken out strongly on the issue of extending terms from three to four years. Not content to take the public's will at value, some politicians seem ever willing to waste more taxpayer money at another throw of the political dice!

QCM believes that Members of the Legislative Assembly might well consider the confusion they are fomenting by adopting the "contentious" term "MP" as are some federal "MHRs" at Canberra who also are hiding behind the term "MP". That they are prepared to do this and cause deliberate confusion in the public eye doesn't speak well for the changes they now want in other areas, and the objective they are working towards.

QCM believes many of the constitutional and legislative reforms adopted since the early 1980s were self-serving party-political initiatives never endorsed or even addressed by the general public, and as such must now be examined by independent professionals to determine and address



/2

what changes have been made in the composites of legislation governing government, and the public to be so informed. We believe this will never happen because politicians generally are self-serving and always seek more power to enforce their belief structures. Hence, no further power should be given any political entity in government.

You ask "how and when a referendum should be put to the Queensland public?", and we suggest "never" until the full measure of referenda are put on the restoration of the Queensland Upper House. We note that most parliaments with a four year term have wisely kept their upper chambers as a protection against totalitarian instincts of politicians seeking their will over the long suffering public. Queensland has no such protection and the present bunch of politicians don't seem anxious to extend this protection. And we ask "why"?

The traditions of Westminster must continue to apply in Queensland, but we also acknowledge Queensland isn't operating under Westminster because we don't have an Upper Chamber---the fundamental key to Westminster. QCM supports the historic practices that a government must resign for another if it can't obtain supply, that it should resign if it loses a vote in parliament, that a deciding vote can be the Speaker, that the Speaker must be as independent as possible, that the P.M. is simply the first amongst many and certainly not a president, that the Governor's power remain intact, and so forth. When some politicians insist that they are operating under a "Westminster" system, they are persisting in a lie which is necessary if they are to continue to centralize power for their own, and party benefit. These changes suggested are a simple continuation of this lie! The benefit of this "lie" is an all powerful Cabinet....the extension of this is an all powerful premier!

The insane suggestion that fixed and longer terms would give political and economic certainty for the public is absurd when the only certainty is for the politician and bureaucrat and the public be damned! There is nothing in this suggestion to help the public except more spending, more costs, and more perks & salary for politicians. Public has always wanted



/3

reduce taxes, but progressively gets increased costs and taxes. With four year terms politicians can get away with the tax & regulatory robbery one extra year and put off judgment by the public one more year.

The latest example of this system in play is the huge hue and cry that rates wouldn't increase with a reduction of local governments. We now know the answer. All rates have jumped and continue to jump, and those responsible hope the voters will forget. This is arrogance, and it is the arrogance behind the push to increase terms and achieve fixed terms as part of a push to centralize government, and reduce access by the individual. Some politicians will jump up and down, but it is only because they have been caught out by the increasingly astute voter.

If politicians are genuinely concerned about electoral costs they surely wouldn't mind abolishing Electoral Commission of Queensland funding with public money for political parties based on votes received at an election. We see no justification for funding political parties to run their election campaigns. This new four year fixed term suggestion is just an extension of this sort of thinking.

That the Legislative Assembly has been elected on terms of three years since 1890, or some 125 years, invites the response that the Queensland Government would be turning back the clock with all that implies.

**THIS WAS ADDRESSED, DEBATED AND ADOPTED
AT A SPECIALLY SUMMONED MEETING OF QCM
ON 14 OCTOBER 2015 AT GEEBUNG, QUEENSLAND,
AND RE-AFFIRMED AT QCMs AGM ON 18
OCTOBER 2015 HELD AT THE SHERWOOD
SERVICES CLUB AT CORINDA, QUEENSLAND.**

