



14 August 2015

Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Electoral (Redistribution Commission) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2015.

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is broadly supportive of an increase in the number of electoral districts in the Legislative Assembly, with the appropriate number of seats to be determined by the Redistribution Commission.

The LGAQ also supports the proposal to legislate for the Redistribution Commission to have the capacity, at its discretion, to amend the additional large district number, currently set at 2%, up to 4%.

In the 30 years since state parliament last expanded, Queensland's population has almost doubled from 2.5 million to 4.5 million. In 1985, MPs represented about 17,000 voters. Today, the average is about 33,000 voters per seat.

The LGAQ is also concerned that voters in rural and remote areas of Queensland are potentially disenfranchised due to the large size of the current electorates.

The LGAQ has long been concerned to ensure Queensland's population growth is properly managed. In 2010, the LGAQ commissioned a four-person expert panel to conduct a public inquiry on the need for a state population policy. In the LGAQ's view, ensuring Queenslanders have equitable access to representation in the Parliament must be part of any consideration of the impacts of the doubling of Queensland's population over the past 30 years.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacts the signature of Greg Hallam.

GREG HALLAM PSM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER