

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

From: Tony Wnuczynski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2015 4:48 PM
To: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Cc: Inala Electorate Office; Southern Downs Electorate Office; Nicklin Electorate Office
Subject: Number of parliamentarians

: Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to a recent news report regarding some members of parliament commenting that their electorates are too large geographically. Their concerns seemed to relate to the amount of travel they perceive is necessary to fully represent their electorate regardless of the number of constituents they represent. It must be noted that equality of representation is paramount in a democracy as is a review process. I would also emphasise that the Queensland government has no process in place to adequately review decisions made by parliament or its members.

I would make the following submission for due consideration.

All members of parliament are voluntary members who nominated themselves to represent their given electorate knowing fully the size and workload and travel required. Please do not increase the number of members in the current QLD parliament.

Please increase transparency and review procedures by establishing an upper house of parliament in QLD.

When this is done please approach the electorate with a political policy proposing the increase of members in the lower house.

The previous government demonstrated the need for an upper house by its disregard of proper consultation and review by approving the initial dumping of spoil on the Great barrier Reef and other questionable development approval to the extent that some of the approvals were retrospective as in the quarry development west of Brisbane. I believe many members could be used as examples of legislators who pass laws without proper socially acceptable consultation and appropriate review processes. Anti -association laws and prisoners wearing pink could also be questionable decisions by only one house without a review process. A further example is the approval and enormous expenditure on the proposed Traveston Dam.

The legacy of this current government could be the introduction of a proper house of review for Queensland thereby making all, and I stress all, members of parliament accountable to their constituents and electorates.

This would ultimately result in transparency and accountability at all levels of government including local government.

With respect and without prejudice.
Yours sincerely

Tony Wnuczynski