From: David Moyle
Sent: Wednesday, 23 June 2010 6:36 PM
To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Subject: A New Local Government Electoral Act: Review of the local government electoral system
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I would like to support the idea of a 12 divisional system for Townsville on the following grounds.

The ECQ above all people should have realised the utter folly of having a huge council area with no divisions.

1. Starting with the drawing of the candidates and their position on the ballot form. The inequitable, primitive, un-random, archaic way that the selection was conducted using 19th century processes was embarrassing. 1 billon to one chances of consecutive team members being selected at the top of the ballot paper were in abundance, *the occurrence of the drawing of consecutive team members did not prompt the ECQ officer to re-shake the cardboard box* (a questionable result by many candidates) .
   ECQ conducts ballots for numerous reasons therefore they would have the use for and could easily justify the cost of appropriate ballot paper selection equipment.
2. Postal Voting - well - less said the better - except to say that "the public being the public" blamed the candidates for the ECQ delays of none delivery and non receipt of actual voting paper .
   This severely damaged any candidate who foolishly attempted to assist the Voters to fulfil their voting obligations.
3. The public who basically have no understanding of electoral structures and management, were keen to point out the lunacy of attempting to conduct an election covering such large area's with undefined representation and double digit numbers of candidates.
4. From the public's point of view it was virtually impossibility to select the right candidate, I might also add that many voters attended the polling booths with their list of the ballot position draw numbers of the candidates that they wished to vote, only to find that there were NO NUMBERS on the ballot sheet.
5. From EQC's point of view the task of unnecessarily counting 1 Million 260,000 votes.
6. With a 12 divisional system (first past the post or preferential) with 5 candidates and Voters only allowed to vote within their divisional boundaries,
   The ECQ would would only have counted 43,754 for each division and 525,045 for the whole 12 divisions which represents 48% of the actual votes lodged.
   So ECQ would have saved 58% of their work and counted 734,955 less votes.

   The ECQ As custodian of Queensland electoral system has a paramount obligation to put the democratic election of public officers above such political manipulation.
   The result of ECQ's inactivity in these matters is that 49 candidates many of unknown credentials and capability were selected in an unequitable primitive un-random method and presented to the public who thought it all to hard and difficult to decide and so consequently resorted marking their ballot paper in some form "Donkey fashion 1 down, 1 Up, Middle Down etc", even the most seasoned politically aware members of the public took 10 to 15 minutes to sort and select their preferred candidates.
7. Years of expertise and experience was lost to the community who are yet to realise what

they actual did. The electoral management of the council area was badly managed. I reiterate I believe that the following items should be addressed and written in to legislation prior the next elections:-

8   The Candidate registration fee should be brought in to line with current government fees and charges. For example a fee of $1000 with a guarantee of return 6 months after the declaration would be appropriate. I believe that a fee structure like this would:-
    1.   Discourage nuisance uncommitted candidates.
    2.   Reduce the number of Votes/Ballot papers that the ECQ would have to count.
    3.   Help reduce Campaign costs since there would be fewer candidates.

9   The Voting system should be optional preferential system, similar to the State Government Election format.
       This I believe would alleviate much of the issues associated with the "informal and Donkey Votes"

10 All electoral area's are divided in two equal divisions +/- (10%).
    To ensure that candidates are answerable to their local area and reduce the ludicrous number of votes to select a candidate of their choice, who may not know of or represent their local area..

11 Voting should be restricted to booths that are located within the Divisional Boundaries.
       This would once again reduce the ludicrous number of votes to select only candidates that live in their Division by the people that live in that division.

12   Finally some sort of qualification criteria for potential candidates introduced, so elected representatives have more to offer the community than being sufficiently "well liked" enough to receive the most votes. Also the concept of running "under a team banner" be examined, as it also contrives to manipulate the system to vote in a whole council of unknowns with a 'block' agenda from the outset, hence no democratic evaluation of council matters and decisions.

12/07/2010