

**From:** webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 July 2010 4:54 PM  
**To:** Law, Justice and Safety Committee  
**Subject:** ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into a new Local Government Electoral Act  
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**Name:** Fraser Coast Regional Council  
**Email:**  
**Address:**  
**Suburb:**  
**Postcode:**

**Divisions (Question 1 to 5):**

- 1) Yes
- 2) Yes
- 3) Yes, although some flexibility is required on how divisions are determined and an opportunity for Local Government to review these when proposed.
- 4) Yes and the decision should remain with the local government.
- 5) Alternative mechanisms to appoint Councillors to avoid the cost of a bi-election if divisions are not in place within a local government area. Review of the number of representatives per division

**Conduct of elections (Question 6 and 7):**

- 6) Responsibility for the administration of the election should remain with the Council's CEO. It is considered that this is a more cost effective and timely mechanism than having the election conducted by the Electoral Commission of Queensland.
- 7) No. Refer response to question 6.

**Conduct of elections (Question 8 and 9):**

- 8) Yes.
- 9) Local Government elections should be held in October/November rather than March. This will enable continuity of the previous Council in finalising and establishing the budget for the upcoming year providing sufficient time for a new Council to consider its strategic direction and objectives to setting its first budget.

**Candidates - requirements and conduct (Questions 10 to 15):**

- 10) Yes.
- 11) Yes however due to the size of the new Regional Council's and the cost of campaigning across a large area there may be a move towards candidates campaigning in groups or based on party politics which may erode the diversity of candidates.
- 12) Yes.
- 13) Yes.
- 14) Yes. This will ensure that Local Government does not lose experienced Councillors who wish to stand as Mayor but are unsuccessful.
- 15) No.

**Candidates - requirements and conduct (Questions 16 to 19):**

- 16) Yes.

17) No. All disclosures should be made after an election period.

18) Yes.

19) No.

**Candidates - requirements and conduct (Questions 20 to 24):**

20) No.

21) Standardisation of size of how-to-vote cards however not provided by ECO.

22) How-to-vote cards, coreflute signage, T-shirts however no bunting or continuous signage.

23) Guidelines on the placement of campaign material should be provided however not on the quantity as this will depend on the area of the local government.

24) No.

**Voting (Question 25):**

25) Yes

**Voting (Questions 26 to 30):**

26) Yes. however should be date stamped prior to the election. Options for e-voting should be investigated to provide flexibility for voters.

27) Options for full postal ballots should be available for local governments.

28) Yes. Pre-polling or postal voting options should be open to all voters prior to the election day regardless of any specific criteria. This will provide flexibility to voters.

29) Yes. If postal-voting is available or absentee voting at other polling votes the vote would be treated in the same manner as if the resident was out of the region on election day.

30) No to absent voting outside of the region. Within the region if the local government is divided. (refer Q 29)

**Voting (Questions 31 to 35):**

31) No.

32) No.

33) No.

34) No.

35)

**Voting systems (Questions 36 to 38):**

36) First past the post. (Simplest system of voting)

37) No.

38) No.

**Other (Question 39):**

**Other)** Consideration of voters requiring to present a form of identification at polling booths eg Drivers License.