

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
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To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into a new Local Government Electoral Act
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Divisions (Question 1 to 5):

1) Yes

2) Yes

3) Yes

4) No the community wants divided councils for better representation. No the Queensland government should make that decision not at the local level where they may be making the decision for self electoral reasons not for better representations for the local community

5) Yes in a non divided council if a councilor resigns the whole local council community has to vote where as in a divisional arrangement only that division need to vote which is a huge saving for cash strapped local councils in Queensland

Conduct of elections (Question 6 and 7):

6) The Electoral Commission of Queensland should be responsible for the administration of the local government elections they have expertise and experience and they maintain the Queensland Electoral Role.

7) NO

Conduct of elections (Question 8 and 9):

8) Yes they are and everyone is familiar with the timing and they are appropriate.

9) None

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

10) Yes, The most important point is they must actually reside in that address in the division.

11) Yes, but also I think that it limits some possible good contenders from councilors.

12) Definitely, that is the most fundamental rule for local government

13) Yes definitely else they won't be abreast community concerns and feelings and requirements.

14) Yes I think this could be achieved. In divisional type structure this could be done by first voting for mayor from the candidates, than if one of that divisional candidates was going for mayor the voting card could be filled out from one to the number of candidates standing preferential style. Then if that candidate became mayor the second highest preferential weighting would take the divisional seat. In an open council this would not be a problem, any eligible candidates for mayor can nominate for mayor and councilor if they wanted and the one with highest vote for mayor wins. Then all nominated for councilors except if one has gained the mayoral position will be added up and the highest vote getters will be allocated to the number of seats.

15) No

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

16) I think instant disclosure to the public domain would be good, and guidelines should be included to avoid possible perceived conflicts of interest i.e. developer donating to council for later favorable planning outcomes.

17) I think they should be made progressively and accessible to the voters to provide transparency in the process.

18) Yes then would be no confusion and no excuses for mistakes

19) Fund raising in areas of council business where there could be perceived a possible conflict of interest i.e. developer or council contractor.

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

20) yes

21) yes

22) I think promotional should be allowed, but on up to a leveled deemed appropriate. So they can any amount up to this level but no more.

23) I think that would be a good idea i am not sure how you would enforce it though.

24) I have no opinion either way on this issue it does concern me.

Voting (Question 25):

25) yes

Voting (Questions 26 to 30):

26) No only in remote areas or in extenuating circumstances i.e. health or old age etc.

27) I would not think so, unless no community centers in that the council region.

28) no

29) No i don't think it does

30) Absent voting should only be for the those people who normally reside there but are away at the time of the election.

Voting (Questions 31 to 35):

31) I personally think no. I think the role of local government is local community focused and should be there representing those people in that community and not necessarily the interests of outside the community or overseas interests that are there to exploit or make profit from the community.

32) No

33) No

34) If they reside in the community, there maybe some argument for it.

35) The council as they collect the rates and that information should be continuously forwarded to the electoral commission.

Voting systems (Questions 36 to 38):

36) Compulsory Preferential voting. I think the candidates would be more Representative of their vote in that division or local government. The voters largely more accepting of the councilor.

37) Yes in very small sized local governments first past the post the outcome would be more easily accepted

38) (a) Compulsory Preferential voting. (b) I divided councils the top two primary candidates would be calculated and preference votes would be distributed. In an open council it would be more difficult but the top number equal to the seats being contested are calculated than the preferences would be distributed. (c) I would be better to apply to all than it is standard through out the state and there would be no confusion.

Other (Question 39):

Other) nil