

Submission 045

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**From:** Maria Bosworth  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 July 2010 9:36 PM  
**To:** Law, Justice and Safety Committee  
**Subject:** Fw: Law, Justice and Safety Committee Submission  
**Attachments:** Submission document.docx

The Chair  
Ms Barbara Stone MP  
Member for Springwood

Please accept my attached submission.

With respect

Maria Bosworth  
Councillor  
Hinchinbrook Shire

28/07/2010

## **LAW, JUSTICE and SAFETY COMMITTEE SUBMISSION**

**1. Are the procedures for the division of Councils adequate?**

**Yes.**

**2. N/A**

**3. Are the error margins of 10% in LG areas sufficient?**

**Yes.**

**4. Should the mix of divided & undivided councils remain? Yes.**

**If so, should the decision to divide a LG area remain with individual councils?**

**Yes.**

**5. Are there other matters the Committee should consider in regard to LG divisions?**

**No, issues arising should be dealt with by individual Councils unless they request assistance or other intervention.**

**6. Should the ECQ be responsible for the administration of the quadrennial LG elections or should this responsibility remain with Council CEO's?**

**Totally with the ECQ however, cost could become a factor.**

**7. If the Act allow more flexibility in regard to the conduct of the quadrennial elections than the current Act does?**

**Yes, the new Act should be amended to reflect adequate flexibility to conduct the election cost effectively.**

**8. Is the timing for the close of the rolls and the date of the election appropriate?**

**Yes.**

**9. What changes, if any, should be made to the timing of LG elections?**

**I believe October would be better suited and consideration to returning to a three year period (as does State and Federal) should be exercised.**

**10. Is the nomination process adequate?      Yes**

**11. Does the current system encourage a diverse range of candidates to stand?**

**I don't know it could be changed to encourage more candidates?**

**12. Should a candidate be required to live in the LG area in which they stand for election?**

**Only if and once they are elected!**

**13. Should a councilor be required to live in the LG area for their whole four year term?**

**Yes.**

**14. Should a person be able to stand as a dual candidate for both mayor and councilor?**

**No.**

**15. Should the new Act allow mayors to be appointed by their fellow councilors?**

**No.**

**16. Are the requirements for disclosure of campaign funding sufficient?    Yes.**

**17. Should candidates make disclosures before, progressively during and after an election period?**

**Yes, and further any candidate should be able to obtain details if requested.**

**18. Should all disclosure requirements, such as values, disclosure periods and who must comply, be standardized?**

**Yes.**

**19. Should particular fundraising activities for LG elections be prohibited?**

**Yes.**

**20. Should how-to-vote cards be free from promotional content?**

**Yes.**

- 21. Should how-to-vote cards be standard for all candidates? Yes.**  
If so, should these be provided in all polling booths and postal vote packs by the ECQ?  
Cards should only be included in postal packs if requested and not in polling booths.
- 22. What promotional material, such as bunting (continuous signage) and core flutes, should be allowed during the campaign period and at polling booths on election day?**  
Current conditions are adequate.
- 23. Should the placement and amount of election campaign material be standard across all LG area?**  
No.
- 24. Should a 'media blackout' period apply for LG elections? Why? For how long?**  
No real opinion but perhaps standardise with State and Federal elections.
- 25. Should voting remain compulsory for LG elections in Qld?**  
Yes.
- 26. Should the option of a postal vote be extended to all voters in every are?**  
Yes, if requested by the individual.
- 27. Should a full postal ballot be automatic for some LG areas? If so, why and for which areas?**  
Yes, if requested by the LG area. I believe cost, distance and weather (ie. Floods or cyclones) are all considerations.
- 28. Should the criteria for pre-polling and postal voting be abolished?**  
No.
- 29. Does the restriction on voters to attend only polling booths in a division in which they are enrolled adversely affect voters?**  
No experience in this instance.

**30. Should the new Act allow absent voting? If so, should this be restricted to absent voting a LG area only?**

**If postal voting is available this would be not applicable.**

**31. No.**

**32. No.**

**33. No.**

**34. No.**

**35. N/A**

**36. Which voting system is most appropriate for LG elections? Why?**

**In the case of electing the mayor and where the outcome of one councilor per division is required, Optional preferential voting is a must.**

**For undivided councils electing councilors, first past the post is adequate.**

**37. Would different voting systems work better for different size LG? Why?**

**I don't believe so. In fact I believe consistency is the key.**

**38. Should proportional representation be introduced for Qld LG elections?**

**No, far too complex.**

**39. What other issues should the Committee consider in relation to this inquiry?**

**Once the poll is declared, how soon can the mayor take the oath of office and assume the role, responsibilities and authority of his/her position as defined under the LG Act?**