
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) Given the large areas covered by certain shires with some isolated population areas, Boulia Shire Council supports the use of divisions based on areas as opposed to quotas where there is a justifiable case
- 2) See Q 1
- 3) No comment
- 4) The decision on divided vs. undivided should remain with the individual Council
- 5) No comment

Conduct of elections (Question 6 and 7):

- 6) The current arrangements are appropriate with the Council CEO charged with the responsibility with the ability for the CEO to appoint an alternate Returning Officer
- 7) No comment

Conduct of elections (Question 8 and 9):

- 8) No comment
- 9) Boulia Shire supports a change in date from March to October for the election. This may avoid disruptions faced via seasonal flooding in North & Western Queensland. An election following a new budget will also give a new Councillor more time to acquaint themselves with Council's long term goals, strategies and budget constraints prior to setting operational plans and budgets. The ability still exists for a new Council to amend the existing budget should major directional change be required prior to the next budget.

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

- 10) Yes
- 11) No comment
- 12) Yes
- 13) Yes
- 14) No. The potential for recrimination and undermining may disrupt the Council should Mayoral opponents be on the newly elected Council.
- 15) No. Popular election of Mayor by the constituents is favoured

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

- 16) No comment

17) No comment

18) No comment

19) No comment

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

20) No comment

21) No comment

22) No comment

23) No comment

24) No comment

Voting (Question 25):

25) Yes

Voting (Questions 26 to 30):

26) Yes

27) No comment

28) Yes

29) Absent voting should only be allowed within a local government area (divided). While additional administration would be required a large number of voters would not be aware of the divisional voting restrictions

30) Absent voting should only be allowed within a local government area (divided). Absent voting across the state would create administrative difficulties for limited gain particularly if adequate easily accessible pre poll voting is available

Voting (Questions 31 to 35):

31) No

32) No

33) No

34) No

35) No comment

Voting systems (Questions 36 to 38):

36) Optional Preferential Voting. To ensure the most preferred candidates are elected. Preferences allow each vote to have an input i.e. stay alive until awarded to a preferred candidate or all positions are filled and is not exhausted if the initial preferred candidate is not elected

37) No comment

38) No comment

Other (Question 39):

Other) An alternative for deciding tied votes is required.