



McKINLAY
SHIRE COUNCIL
CIVIC CENTRE, JULIA CREEK

Submission 073

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30 JUL 2010

Law, Justice and Safety
Committee

Correspondence to be
addressed to
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The Research Director
Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Friday, 30 July 2010

To the Research Director,

A NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL ACT:
REVIEW OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL SYSTEM

I am writing in response to the Law, Justice and Safety Committee June Issues Paper.

Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday the 13th of July 2010 moved the following resolution:

That the response to the 39 questions posed by the Law, Justice & Safety Committee in their review of a New Local Government Electoral Act contained in the Issues Paper dated June 2010 be forwarded as a response from McKinlay Shire Council.

Please find below McKinlay Shire Council's submission for the inquiry.

Yours faithfully,

Shane Cagney
Chief Executive Officer

"GATEWAY TO THE GULF"

Law, Justice & Safety Committee – Review of Local Government Electoral System

No.	Question	Response
1	Are the procedures for the division of councils adequate?	Yes
2	If the procedures for the division of councils are not adequate, what changes are required?	None
3	Are the error margins of 10% in local government areas with more than 10,000 electors and 20% in all other cases sufficient?	Yes
4	Should the mix of divided and undivided councils remain? If so, should the decision to divide a local government area remain with individual councils?	Yes. Yes.
5	Are there other matters the Committee should consider in regard to local government divisions?	Set a policy for guidance and standardisation.
6	Should the Electoral Commission of Queensland be responsible for the administration of the quadrennial local government elections or should this responsibility remain with Council CEOs?	CEOs.
7	If the ECQ is to be responsible for local government elections should the new Act allow more flexibility in regard to the conduct of the quadrennial elections than the current Act does?	No.
8	Is the time for the close of the rolls and the date of the elections appropriate?	Yes.
9	What changes, if any, should be made to the timing of local government elections?	The elections should be held after the budget is announced.
10	Is the nomination process adequate? Why?	Yes. Because it is open and transparent.
11	Does the current system encourage a diverse range of candidates to stand?	No.
12	Should a candidate be required to live in the local government area in which they stand for election?	Yes.
13	Should a councillor be required to live in the local government area for their whole four year term?	Yes.
14	Should a person be able to stand as a dual candidate for both mayor and councillor?	No.
15	Should the new Act allow mayors to be appointed by their fellow	No.

	councillors?	
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.
18	Should all disclosure requirements, such as values, disclosure periods and who must comply, be standardised?	Yes.
19	Should particular fundraising activities for local government elections be prohibited?	N/A.
20	Should how-to-vote cards be free from promotional content?	Yes.
21	Should how-to-vote cards be standard for all candidates? If so, should these be provided in all polling booths and postal vote packs by the Electoral Commission of Queensland?	Yes. Yes.
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?	Yes.
23	Should the placement and amount of election campaign material be standard across all local government areas?	No.
24	Should a 'media blackout' period apply for local government elections? Why? For how long?	Yes. Two days.
25	Should voting remain compulsory for local government elections in Queensland?	Yes.
26	Should the option of a postal vote be extended to all voters in every area?	No.
27	Should a full postal ballot be automatic for some local government areas? If so, why and for which areas?	Yes. Because of flooding in Northern and Tropical Queensland.
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? If this were altered what impact would that have on the administration of the elections in that local government?	Yes. Equal effect.
30	Should the new Act allow absent voting? If so, should this be restricted to absent voting within a local government area only?	No.
31	Should the right to vote in Queensland local government elections be extended to non-resident property owners within an area? If so, should this apply to overseas investors?	No. No.

32	Should voting rights be extended to non-resident occupiers (e.g. commercial lessees such as business owners who lease premises within an area but live outside of it)?	No.
33	Should multiple persons be able to claim non-resident voter eligibility for one property (e.g. two or more non-resident owners or lessees of a property)?	No.
34	Should people, based on the number of properties they own, be entitled to more than one vote per division?	No.
35	Who should be responsible for the creation, verification and maintenance of a non-residents' electoral roll?	Not required.
36	Which voting system is most appropriate for local government elections - Optional Preferential voting, Compulsory Preferential voting, First-Past-The-Post or Proportional Representation? Why?	First-Past-The-Post.
37	Would different voting systems work better for different sized local governments? Why?	Yes. The vastness and diversity of Queensland
38	Should Proportional Representation be introduced for Queensland local government elections? If so, why and (a) which model/s should be implemented? (b) how would this be implemented in divided and undivided councils? (c) should it apply for all councils? If not, which councils should proportional representation apply to?	No.
39	What other issues should the Committee consider in relation to this inquiry?	Not one size fits all.