

## Submission 092

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**From:** webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 July 2010 7:59 PM  
**To:** Law, Justice and Safety Committee  
**Subject:** ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into a new Local Government Electoral Act  
**ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into a new Local Government Electoral Act**

**Name:** Eric E. Dwyer  
**Email:**  
**Address:**  
**Suburb:**  
**Postcode:**

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

1) No

2) No. All local body areas should be undivided. See below.

3)

4) No. All councils should be undivided

5) All local government areas should be undivided. Few areas are so large that each individual candidate could not focus on responsibilities across the entire local government area. Many State and Federal members alone have vastly greater areas for which they are responsible than most local government areas. While differing population base may be of some consideration it is largely inconsequential in that larger population centres invariably have a greater number of councilors forming committees and make collective decisions and recommendations. Electors in any given local body area invariably have a wider interest in actions by council across the entire area than within the restricted area of a division only. Electors are affected by all actions across an entire local government area and not just those within a division. In a divided council electors are denied the right to hold all councilors to account and are limited to voting only one to council. An undivided council will ensure councilors maintain focus on the wishes of the electors in the entire local government area and not simply focus on satisfying a few to gain re-election.

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

6) The Electoral commission of Queensland should run all local government elections

7) Consideration should be given to the specific administrative responsibilities of local governments and the quadrennial period set to allow new councilors adequate time to fully understand their roles before undertaking established annual requirements such as budgeting.

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

8) No

9) Time elections to allow incoming councilors time to understand the function and processes of council before adopting a new budget.

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

10) No. The current bias whereby a candidate can be nominated by only 1 registered officer of a political party but requires 6 electors of the LG area or subdivision demeans the worth of electors in general. Over the comparatively confined areas of local government there is no need for a party political candidate or 'team' member. A candidate so aligned is likely to be influenced by an organization outside the local government area and by forces with no particular stake in the individual LG area. Such influence can limit creative individual thinking and force conformity within a particular agenda which can be counterproductive. Nominations should be the responsibility of the electors of the local government area alone and aligned candidates barred.

11) No. Where party political candidates, "teams" members and the like predominate good independent candidates can be disadvantaged or don't/can't get the same level of publicity or exposure. Additionally, good candidates can be lost or deterred from contesting a Mayoralty because they currently can not stand as a dual candidate.

12) Yes

## Gail Easton

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**Name:** Eric E. Dwyer  
**Email:** eedad@aanet.com.au  
**Address:** 28 Texas Rd  
**Suburb:** Jensen, Qld  
**Postcode:** 4818

### Divisions (Question 1 to 5):

1) No

2) No. All local body areas should be undivided. See below.

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4) No. All councils should be undivided

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12) Yes

13) Yes

14) Yes. In an undivided council the Mayor would be elected and his/her place as a councilor would be taken up by the highest polling of the remaining councilors to make up the required numbers.

15) No

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

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17)

18)

19)

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

20)

21)

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23)

24)

**Voting (Question 25):**

25) Yes

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

26)

27)

28)

29)

30)

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

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32)

33)

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35)

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

36)

37)

13) Yes

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15) No

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16)

17)

18)

19)

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

20)

21)

22)

23)

24)

**Voting (Question 25):**

25) Yes

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

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27)

28)

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30)

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

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33)

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35)

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

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37)

38)

Other (Question 39):

Other)

38)

Other (Question 39):

Other)