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**From:****Sent:** Wednesday, 4 August 2010 2:28 PM**To:** Law, Justice and Safety Committee**Subject:** local government electoral act review

Dear Sir,

I wish to make submission to the local government elections review - apology for lateness but I didnt realise it was happening until I read the Townsville Sun newspaper yesterday afternoon.

I was an independent candidate in the last election and frankly undivided local governments discriminate against individuals as independents running for election to local council. It only allows political parties or allied teams of candidates to afford to run for election in any effective way.

Whereas a team or political party can divide up a local government area and each concentrate on campaigning and resourcing campaigning in smaller divided up sections, an individual, such as myself, has to campaign across the whole area - totally impossible. It also means that if anyone is serious they have to try to get sponsorship and donations to fund a campaign and which business or organisatino would do that for one person - they would prefer to fund a team.

I spent over \$10,000 of my own money (my family's) money and that was a drop in the ocean of what was needed to get my name out there. Yes I did well campaigning in the media and I attempted to meet people by sitting in shopping centres and markets though the proportion of costs I had to bear as compared with a team was high and I had to get public liability insurance on top of paying top dollar to set up a stand in a shopping centre to allow people in the electorate to meet and get to know me. Some organisations (some markets) run by Rotary expressly forbad any political stall in markets they ran which limited opportunities.

Divisions allow people who live in a particular area to campaign for that area and allow the people in that specific area to get to know the specific candidates who will be representing them. I believe it makes for more interest in the local government election process and reduces cynicism for and about the political processes. It allows people to feel they can have a stake in their local government and more of a voice in that they can lobby someone local to them to help them have issues addressed.

I live in Townsville.

Thank you for this opportunity to have a say and for extending the submissions process to the end of August.

Yours sincerely

Adrienne Isnard