

Gail Easton

From: Amanda Honeyman
Sent: Friday, 6 August 2010 8:42 PM
To: Gail Easton
Subject: FW: Law, Justice and Safety Committee - Issues Paper

From: Alison Newton
Sent: Friday, 6 August 2010 12:59 PM
To: Amanda Honeyman
Subject: RE: Law, Justice and Safety Committee - Issues Paper

Dear Amanda,

In reply to your email to Des Howard on 11 June, please find below Council's comments in relation to the Issues Paper:-

QUESTIONS

- 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? N/A
- 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? Council believes that Councils with a population less than 10,000 should remain undivided.
- 5) Are there other matters the Committee should consider in regard to local government divisions? No.
- 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? The responsibility should remain with Council CEO's.
- 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? If so, how? N/A
- 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? Council agreed that they should be held in October.
- 10) Is the nomination process adequate? Why? Yes
- 11) Does the current system encourage a diverse range of candidates to stand? Yes
- 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 councillors? 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? Full disclosure following the election.
- 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? Yes
- 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 but not for Councils with a population less than 10,000.
- 22) What promotional material, such as bunting (continuous signage) and coreflutes, should be allowed during the campaign period and at polling booths on election day? No promotional material should be allowed.
- 23) Should the placement and amount of election campaign material be standard across all local government areas? Yes
- 24) Should a 'media blackout' period apply for local government elections? Why? For how long? Yes. For a period of 24 hours.
- 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? Yes
- 27) Should a full postal ballot be automatic for some local government areas? If so, why and for which areas? Yes for Councils with a population of less than 10,000 people because of distances to polling booths.
- 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? Should the new Act allow absent voting? If so, should this be restricted to absent voting within a local government area only? Yes. Very little. No.
- 30) 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
- 31) 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
- 32) 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
- 33) Should people, based on the number of properties they own, be entitled to more than one vote per division? No
- 34) Who should be responsible for the creation, verification and maintenance of a non-residents' electoral roll? N/A
- 35) 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. It is the simplest system.
- 36) Would different voting systems work better for different sized local governments? Why? No.
- 37) Should Proportional Representation be introduced for Queensland local government elections? No

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?

38) What other issues should the Committee consider in relation to this inquiry? No

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