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Law, Justice and Safety  
Committee

Submission 110

5 August 2010

The Chairman,  
Law, Justice and Safety Committee,  
Queensland Parliament, Parliament House,  
George St.,  
**BRISBANE** 4000

## **SUBMISSION ON THE ENQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL ACT- REVIEW**

I am the local Co-ordinator for the Nambour Heights Neighbourhood Watch Program (Nambour 2) and have been requested to reflect some of the community feelings on this proposed Legislation and amendments.

My name is John McGowan and I reside at  
Electoral roll.

and I am on the

### **Electoral Divisions.**

For our support in this neighbourhood watch area we rely heavily on feedback and updates from our local Councillor. If our representative were to be from an outside or outlying area and not "across" local issues it would be difficult to keep the local community well informed. Logically it would be more difficult for an "outsider" to attend evening meetings. As a local organisation we need to rely on the personal involvement of both Council and Police Service to maintain our very existence. Consequently, it is imperative that only a divisional system can work effectively in such a vast State as Queensland with its sparse population and huge areas- To us local knowledge means adequate representation. Local people need to be heard.

### **Funding**

All candidates should reside in their Division (see above) to be aware of community needs. If a candidate desires nomination as Mayor AND Councillor this should be encouraged as most Mayoral Candidates have a great deal of knowledge and experience in both business and community activities. It would be wasteful to deny this level of community spirit and business expertise to be lost to Regional Local Government if an unsuccessful mayoral aspirant was denied the opportunity to serve in Council.. Local Regional talent is difficult to persuade to serve Council in many capacities without our losing them. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to keep country folk in the country and away from city living and trades or professions.

Additionally in Local Government Campaigns, disclosure of donations over say \$1500-\$2000 should be compulsory and available to the public before voting day to allay any apparent suspicions of influence or power brokering allegations. Officers must be seen to be elected fairly.

### **Voting**

Pre poll, postal and absentee voting should be available in this electronic age. Voting should also be limited to residents within a Division. Property owners and investors whilst

encouraged for their fiscal concern in areas, and indeed welcomed and encouraged, any voting involvement by their very nature as property owners could be construed as a conflict with some local issues. Their very motivation to vote may conflict with local issues.

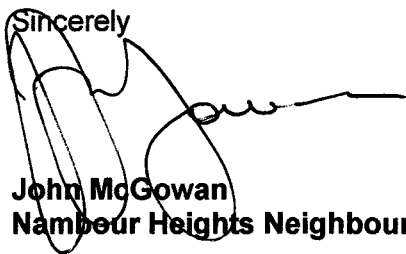
### **Advertising**

Usually Local Governments have fairly strict signage regulations and these should be applied to position and placement of signs. Media advertising is controlled by the mighty dollar and (as in funding above) this source must be divulged.

Thank you for allowing our small local group the privilege of submitting these important expressions in this relevant piece of legislation.

Most citizens never "get around to it"

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McGowan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**John McGowan**  
**Nambour Heights Neighbourhood Watch Program.**