



Submission 116

Address all correspondence to:
Gold Coast City Council
PO Box 5042
Gold Coast MC QLD 9729 AUSTRALIA

Councillor Dawn Crichlow OAM
City of Gold Coast
DIVISION 6

Southport Office:
Telephone: (07) 5581 6280
Mobile: 0414 180 677
Fax: (07) 5581 6899
Email: dcrichlow@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

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The Research Director
Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: ljsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Pursuant to your invitation, please accept this submission on the recommendations of the Local Government Electoral Reform.

I believe that the 2012 Local Government election for all Councils in Queensland should be conducted on an undivided basis, with the Gold Coast being represented by 12 Councillors plus the mayor.

I strongly agree with that, because I believe that the current divisional council is subject to undesirable parochialism that produces ineffective financial and administrative results which are not in the best interests of the wider community.

Under the current divisional system each Gold Coast City councillor receives an allocation (currently) of \$880,000. That's a total of \$12 million over the 14 divisions.

I submit that some councillors consider these funds to be a pork barrel for their personal use, to consolidate their position and garner votes for the future. This \$12 million, I believe, would be better spent on whole of city projects such as improving the city's public transport network and general city beautification.

A glaring example of petty parochialism under the divisional system occurred recently during an unnecessarily lengthy debate on the proposed purchase of Tipplers. It is always - *I know; you don't know; stay out of my division.*

In my opinion, an undivided council would be more likely to meet the important objectives of the Whole of City.

I respectfully ask you to take note of this submission.

Regards

DAWN CRICHLLOW