

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
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To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into a new Local Government Electoral Act
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Divisions (Question 1 to 5):

1) No

2) No.

3) No. More overlap should be considered when determining areas for divisions, due to the very small size of electorates. An order of merit should also be applied - example, 2 good councilors elect to stand for Kirwan area, and 2 poor councilors stand for Wulguru. Townsville would miss out on one good councilor and gain a poor one. Due to the lower numbers of candidates compared to state and federal elections, it is easier for Townsville residents to decide between candidates. On a larger scale (state and federal), I am not happy seeing areas of Townsville represented by candidates 400km away. Dawson and other electorates are big enough on their own without having to rely on Townsville.

4) Undivided councils should remain. Their choice to do so should rest with the individual councils. They should have the freedom to decide how to run their elections.

5) Yes. Media organisations should do more to remain apolitical, to give residents the freedom to determine which candidates might have more merit.

Conduct of elections (Question 6 and 7):

6) This responsibility should remain with the CEOs, with the option to defer responsibility to the Electoral Commission.

7) Unsure.

Conduct of elections (Question 8 and 9):

8) Yes.

9) None.

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

10) No. Residents should have more say in determining who their mayor should be, using preferences or other voting method.

11) No. The current system of divided councils encourages averaging down of candidate's collective merit.

12) Yes.

13) Yes.

14) Yes.

15) No.

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

16) No. Complete disclosure from all parties is required.

17) Yes.

18) Yes.

19) Yes, but which prohibited activities mentioned here are... vague.

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

20) No.

21) Yes.

22) Bunting should be banned!!

23) Yes.

24) Yes. Due to the competitive nature of syndicated journalism against councils' freely distributed newsletters, the apolitical nature of the affected media outlets cannot be assured.

Voting (Question 25):

25) Yes.

Voting (Questions 26 to 30):

26) Yes.

27) For rural areas, yes.

28) No.

29) This should be a matter for the individual councils. They should have the freedom to determine how they run their elections.

30) Absent voting should not be allowed, as other voting options, such as postal or pre-voting, should be used.

Voting (Questions 31 to 35):

31) No. To do so would allow large corporate entities, for example, to vote for government that would not necessarily have the best interests of the city in mind, only the self-interests of the company. This includes decisions for road infrastructure, zoning, planning restrictions, etc.

32) No.

33) No.

34) No.

35) N/a.

Voting systems (Questions 36 to 38):

36) Optional preferential voting.

37) Yes.

38) Proportional representation should not be introduced.

Other (Question 39):

Other) n/a