

25 AUG 2010

Inquiry into a new local government electoral actElectoral  
Committee

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**DIVISIONS**

1) Are the procedures for the division of councils adequate?

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2) If the procedures for the division of councils are not adequate, what changes are required?

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3) Are the error margins of 10% in local government areas with more than 10,000 electors and 20% in all other cases sufficient?

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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?

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5) Are there other matters the Committee should consider in regard to local government divisions?

## **CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS**

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?

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?

8) Is the time for the close of the rolls and the date of the elections appropriate?

9) What changes, if any, should be made to the timing of local government elections?

## **CANDIDATES – REQUIREMENTS AND CONDUCT**

10) Is the nomination process adequate? Why?

11) Does the current system encourage a diverse range of candidates to stand?

12) Should a candidate be required to live in the local government area in which they stand for election?

13) Should a councillor be required to live in the local government area for their whole four year term?

14) Should a person be able to stand as a dual candidate for both mayor and councillor?

15) Should the new Act allow mayors to be appointed by their fellow councillors?

16) Are the requirements for disclosure of campaign funding sufficient?

17) Should candidates make disclosures before, progressively during, and after an election period?

18) Should all disclosure requirements, such as values, disclosure periods and who must comply, be standardised?

19) Should particular fundraising activities for local government elections be prohibited?

20) Should how-to-vote cards be free from promotional content?

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?

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?

23) Should the placement and amount of election campaign material be standard across all local government areas?

24) Should a 'media blackout' period apply for local government elections? Why? For how long?

## VOTING

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      Remote areas      Due to travel distance.

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?

30) Should the new Act allow absent voting? If so, should this be restricted to absent voting within a local government area only?

31) 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?

1) Most Definitely . 2) Perhaps a nominee who is an Australian Citizen.

32) 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)?

Only if they are the actual ratepayers.

33) 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. One vote ~~to~~ per ratepayer

34) Should people, based on the number of properties they own, be entitled to more than one vote per division?

[No.] - Rates are a form of taxation for L/Gov.  
- No vote <sup>entitlement</sup> equates to "Taxation without representation"  
- The number of votes should not <sup>be</sup> determined by the amt. of tax one pays

35) Who should be responsible for the creation, verification and maintenance of a non-residents' electoral roll?

CEO of council

## VOTING SYSTEMS

36) Which voting system is most appropriate for local government elections - Optional Preferential voting, Compulsory Preferential voting, First-Past-The-Post or Proportional Representation? Why?

37) Would different voting systems work better for different sized local governments? Why?

38) Should Proportional Representation be introduced for Queensland local government elections?

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?

## OTHER

39) What other issues should the Committee consider in relation to this inquiry?