

27 AUG 2010

Law, Justice and Safety  
Committee

## LAW, JUSTICE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 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?
- 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? YES *THE VOTERS*
- 5) Are there other matters the Committee should consider in regard to local government divisions?

Because the new councils cover a large rural area to not have divisions could have all councillors in the city and services in the rural areas could be reduced.

In undivided councils there would not be enough votes to elect a councillor *from RURAL AREA*

Why is the Brisbane ward system kept and not subject to the same system as other Queenslanders

- 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 ECQ should be responsible for the administration of the elections

At the last election the returning officer did not allow a recount when the votes for mayor were within a margin of error.

- 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? Yes

- 9) What changes, if any, should be made to the timing of local government elections? None

- 10) Is the nomination process adequate? Why?

- 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? Councillors should live in the division they stand for

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?

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

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

NO funds from unions

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

How to vote cards should be posted in the booths where the voter lodges their vote

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? NONE

How to vote cards should be posted in the booths where the voter lodges their vote

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? NO

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 In rural areas where the voters decide

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? NO

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? YES

If so, should this be restricted to absent voting within a local government area only? NO

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? NO

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)? NO

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

34) Should people, based on the number of properties they own, be entitled to more than one vote per division? NO

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

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? Optional Preferential voting this system allows the most preferred candidate to be elected and not confuse the voters as this is the most used

37) Would different voting systems work better for different sized local governments? Why? NO . TO Confusing

38) Should Proportional Representation be introduced for Queensland local government

elections? NO

If so, why s the local government area.

Disadvantages of Proportional Representation can include (in elections where political parties dominate) the need to develop coalition governments due to no party gaining a majority of the vote. It can be argued that this can lead to problems in governance where the parties, often with distinct policies on certain matters, cannot agree. It can also lead to small parties holding the balance of power where the two major parties are opposed – however it should also be noted that any electoral system can potentially lead to this situation.  
and

(a) which model/s should be implemented? Optional Preferential voting

(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? YES

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

After speaking to councillors I am of the opinion that they no longer have the ability to be effective as the state government has placed to much power in the running of councils in the hands of non elected persons .

The state government should allow all persons in a council area to choose to accept or decline major changes to their lifestyle by local referendum . An example of this is flouride in the water system and dog registration that the state government is forcing on local government and the voters.

If you are to introduce a new system than it should be fair and equal and should involve all councils including the Brisbane City Council.

All Queenslanders should be given the right to vote on any changes that this committee see fit at a referendum at the next election state or local

Daniel Oram

27 August, 2010

