
From: Tony Williams [Tony.Williams@rrc.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 9 September 2010 10:10 AM
To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Subject: Late submission
Attachments: Local Govt Electoral Review.doc

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find my submission to the Local Government Electoral Review Committee – at the Rockhampton hearing Ms Barbara Stone MP chair of the committee said that she would accept submissions up until the end of September.

Thank you for allowing me to make this submission.

Kind regards

Cr Tony Williams

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Rockhampton Region - an award winning Region - working towards the vision of becoming the most liveable community in the world!
Rockhampton Region received a bronze award at the prestigious International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom Awards), Rockhampton was named Queensland's Tidiest Town 2009 and Yeppoon Main Beach was named Queensland's Cleanest Beach 2009.

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9 September 2010

The Chair
Law, Justice & Safety Committee

Re: Review of the Local Government System (Excluding BCC)

By: Cr Tony Williams Rockhampton Regional Council

Electoral Divisions

- 1) From my experience talking with members of the community on a day to day basis, the comments I receive are that to change the current divisional system now after going through amalgamation is not what is wanted by the people.
- 2) The 10% margin appears sufficient.
- 3) Individual Councils **must** have the ability to decide whether they are divided or undivided – they know how to best service their areas. Rural areas feel they have lost their identities if the LG is undivided, as they have no one-personal representative to understand and pursue their needs.
- 4) The cost to run a by-election in an undivided Council is far more expensive.
- 5) Large Council's with populations of more than 100,000 residents and 10 Councillors show that Divisional system works well and is favored over Undivided system.
- 6) Rockhampton Regional Council has proven the Divisional system is able to work as do the electorates of State and Federal Governments.
- 7) Councils that have high populations have large numbers of candidates which will be confusing to the voters and will lead to informal and donkey votes. Divisions allow electors to know the candidates more than a list of 50+ candidates.
- 8) It is my belief after extensive consultation with the whole community through community catch ups that if the system is to change then ask the PEOPLE. (To change now after Amalgamation is not wanted)

Conduct of Elections

- 1) The ECQ should run the elections.

Candidature

- 1) I support the current system it works effectively.

Nomination:

- 1) The nomination process **appears to be working well**, so no change is necessary.

Residency

- 1) A candidate should definitely be required to live in the area he/she represents. It demonstrates loyalty to that area, and *remain* in that area for the full term.

Dual Candidacy

- 1) **No to dual candidacy.**

Mayoral Election

- 1) Mayors should be appointed by the people on a separate ballot paper. The Mayor should be answerable to the people, not the councillors. If the councillors so chose, the Mayor may lose his position with a simple resolution.

Campaign Funding & Disclosures

- 1) It is suggested all fundraising over a dollar value (eg in excess of \$100) should be declared along with the donor / organizer.
- 2) It would serve no purpose to have donation disclosures before and after the election, as anyone wishing to suppress information prior to the election, could simply delay the disclosure.

Electoral Signage

- 1) How-to-Vote cards should definitely be free from promotional content.
- 2) When voters are "harassed" at the entrance to a polling station, they often take a sample of each card offered, irrespective of their choice, so there is no offence. Having the card sample in the booths, along with faces, would simplify their choice, producing less Informal votes.

Voting

- 1) Compulsory should remain compulsory.
- 2) Multiple property owners in various electorates should NOT be allowed multiple votes. They should decide which one takes priority for their influence.

- 3) Optional Preferential voting is my belief because it gives the candidates the best chance of winning and give votes a greater value with their vote.

Yours truly,
Tony Williams.