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24 SEP 2010

Law Justice and Safety Committee

R'pton Regional Western District  
Ratepayers Association  
C/- Secretary  
Vince Reynolds

21/09/10

The Acting Research Director  
Law, Justice and Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Renee

The members of the above Association wish to thank the Committee for allowing us the opportunity to present a submission on the review of the Local Government Electoral system in Queensland and in particular the Chair Ms. Barbara Stone M.P. who graciously allowed us an extension of time until the 30th September to allow our members to discuss the issues paper

We have endeavoured to answer to the best of our ability without knowing full details of the current Local Government act.

1. Yes we believe the procedures are adequate for division of Councils
2. We do not think the procedures need any change in reply to Question 6 & 7 except as stated
3. Yes current error margins appear adequate
4. If a council area covers both urban and rural areas divided Councils should remain. Elsewhere any change should go to public consultation
5. All regions should have the ability to decide if they are to become undivided or not. It is up to the individual Councils to determine this via public consultation for themselves. The default should be divided Councils
6. The Electoral Commission of Queensland should be responsible for Local Government elections, but they need to review some aspects of the last election conducted by them. They are a professional body and we feel that they can do a better job than the C.E.O of a Council
7. Answered above, but more flexibility required in allowing for example. If you find you are outside your division in a divided Council, you should be able to vote for your division candidates anywhere in your Council area
8. Yes, We agree that the time for the close of the roll is adequate
9. Local Government Elections should remain in March. New Councillors may be

concerned that their first major concern the Budget may be hard to understand but if you have competent staff and experienced Councillors to assist you it should not be necessary to move the election forward.

10. Yes the Criteria is adequate for Nomination as it covers a large range of disqualifications for eligibility to stand for Election.

11. Yes Currently it does allow for a diverse range of Candidates to stand.

12. Emphatically Yes you have much better understanding of local issues if you live in the area you wish to represent

13. If you relocate out of the division for which you were elected you should be required to resign your position. Your position should then fall to the next nearest candidate to you at the last election

14. No, to dual nomination: Mayoral & Councillor candidates have different requirements in ability (We Hope) If you wish to serve on a Council you should have a positive direction.

15. Our opinion is No. This may have happened in the past but we would prefer to elect the Mayor. We hold meet the Candidate meetings, where you can judge for yourself who you believe has the best ability to run your Council

16. Yes we believe the requirements for disclosure of campaign funding is adequate.

17 Yes Candidates should be obliged to make disclosures before, during and after an election period

19. As long as fundraising activities do not fringe on illegal activities none should be prohibited

20. How to vote cards should only provide personal details and achievements. (No wild promises, Vote for me and get a free Car)

21. How to vote cards need to be standardised and provided by the Candidate themselves. Not included in any postal vote packs by the E.C.Q. so as to retain their impartiality

22. We believe Posters only should be displayed at polling booths but restricted in their number and space required but should adhere to a regulated distance from the actual polling booth.

23. As stated above

24. Yes we believe a blackout period should apply, 24 hours prior to voting day. This will allow for a more level playing field, as all Candidates do not have access to the same funding for advertising.

25. Voting should remain compulsory as this method ensures more people then elect their preferred candidate.

26. The option fo postal voting should be allowed in all electorates as many rural and regional voters may find it difficult to get to a voting booth on voting day.

27. Yes particularly in large remote areas. Some Regional Councils should have postal votes available for their entire population of voters.

28. No we do not believe that pre-polling and postal voting be abolished

29. Yes voters can be adversely affected if they can only vote in their own division, we know that some in our own area were turned away from particular booths and forced to travel up to 30 klm to another booth, because of changes to boundaries of Divisions of which they were not aware, this then led to a lot of confusion and frustration. If the E.C.Q. were the sole body conducting elections we can see that they have the knowledge and resources to manage elections for the benefit of all voters in a particular Council area.

30. Yes the new act should allow absent voting throughout all Local Government areas in Queensland.

31. We cannot see any advantage for the average voter and resident in any of these proposals from 31 to 35.

32. We should retain the Status Quo.

33.

34 One Vote one Value for all, irrespective.

35.

36. We favour Optional Preferential Voting. The majority of people get their preferred candidate, a fairer system.

37. Voting systems need to be standardized throughout the State to prevent confusion by the voter.

38. We do not support the introduction of Proportional Representation, although some Candidates do have Political party Affiliation the majority of Candidates we feel vote in Council on their own views and do not wish to vote on party lines

39. We are of the opinion as any changes to the Electoral Act will affect all Queensland Councils, we would have preferred to see more committee members appointed from the rural sector of the L.G.A.Q. so as to get a more rounded view of all Queenslanders

Local Government employees should be allowed to stand for Council, State or Federal Governments but should only have to resign if they are successful in the particular situation for which they nominate. We see the potential loss of good employees thus leaving their Local Government area short of experienced personnel

Could you please acknowledge receipt of our submission. If you require clarification of any aspects of our submission please contact me at the address or phone number provided

Yours faithfully



Vince Reynolds  
Secretary/Treasurer