



Submission 147

# Blackall-Tambo

## Regional Council

Exploring the past. Innovating the future.

Blackall-Tambo Regional Council

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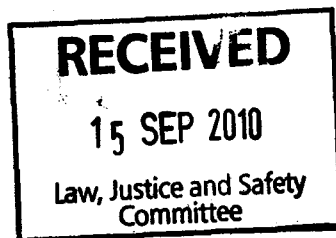
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10 September 2010

Ms Barbara Stone  
Chair  
Law, Justice and Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Dear Ms Stone

In response to advice from the Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships I am writing in regards to the issue of Councillor numbers for the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council.

The Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, which was amalgamated in 2008, is the only amalgamated Council region to have just four Councillors representing the entire community. On several occasions we have been reduced to just two Councillors for meetings - an incredibly low number to make up a quorum. We have had this issue as well in the event of wet weather, as three Councillors live out of town and have to contend with unsealed roads and impassable creeks. It does not take much rain to make the roads impassable especially in this, the wettest year we have experienced for many years.

The addition of at least two more Councillors would ensure the preservation of the democratic process as well as creating a far greater scope of ideas and debate around the Council table and would also extend representation in the community.

We are a Class One Council with remuneration accordingly allocated. Our male Councillors are all in full time employment, as the stipend paid at this Council level does not equate to a wage. The female Councillor and Mayor therefore do the representation for the bulk of the year. As I live 180 kilometres from our main Council office I am often unable to get home for some weeks - weather and commitments combining to keep me very busy.

We therefore request you to give consideration, through the Legislative Assembly considering changes to the State Electoral Act, to increasing the number of Councillors in the Blackall-Tambo region from four to six.

Yours sincerely

Jan Ross  
**MAYOR**

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**Cc** Hon Desley Boyle  
Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships  
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