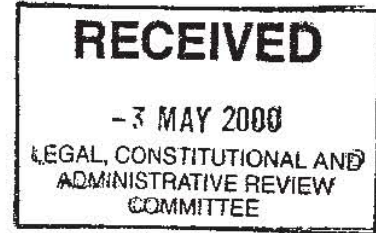


Wiif Robinson



Sunday, April 30, 2000

The Research Director
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House, George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000



Dear Sir

Submission No 9
Spec 28.1

Review of the Queensland Constitutional Review Commission's
Recommendations for Four Year Parliamentary Terms

Thank you for your letter 13 April, 2000 inviting me to respond.
Please find enclosed my five-page submission.

In summary, I cannot find justification in the arguments presented by the Background Paper to support the proposed increase to Four Year Parliamentary Terms.

However, I submit a paper which provides circumstances in which recommendation of the arguments in favour of an increase to Parliamentary Terms may be acceptable.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Wiif Robinson'.

Section 1 Introduction

Comment: No Comment submitted on Introduction

Section 2 The QCRC Report

Re: "When a proposal to extend the term to four was to put to the people in 1991 it was defeated."

Comment: Then the decision of the people (like a judge's) should be final—unless circumstances have changed, or new evidence has come to light, which warrant re-opening the case.

Re: "However, the case for a longer term remains valid."

Comment: This does not represent a change of circumstances, or new evidence, affecting the case, but only that those who propose the change did not get their own way the first time round.

Re: "It has been said that under a three-year term, the first budget is devoted to paying off the promises made at the previous election and the third budget to anticipating the promises to be made at the forthcoming election."

Comment: This is a replay of the record played at the last referendum, which the people rejected.

Re: "Queensland is now the only State that still has a three-year term."

Comment: A claim for an award based on what someone else has is not justification for it to be granted (otherwise we would all be paid at Politician award rates and superannuation terms).

Section 3 Present Position in Queensland

Comment: As the saying goes, "If it ain't broke, why fix it?"

Section 4 Position With Other Australian Parliaments

Comment: To request change based on "bringing into line with other States" is to write Queensland's own epitaph. A large list could easily be provided of matters which require national singularity (for one, a National Driving Licence), but to pursue this argument as a reason for change is to suggest that State Governments should be disbanded in favour of one Central Government.

Section 5 The QCRC Recommendation

Comment: That the motion has no merit on the arguments as submitted.

Section 6.1 Arguments For

Re: "The primary advantage of the QCRC recommendation is to allow a newly elected or re-elected Government further time to address issues which require long-term planning and implementation."

Comment (1): Nowhere is evidence offered that Queensland is lagging behind other States because of this. Quite the contrary, Queensland's present and future position is publicly talked up as being the leader in many initiatives. This negates this argument for the need to change the terms of parliament.

Comment (2): Long-term planning is a role for behind-the-scenes public servants. True vision covers 10, 50, and more years, therefore, whether the parliamentary term is 3 or 4 years is insignificant. Long-term plans should be clearly enunciated for the people to decide at election time, not (as this argument suggests) to achieve office and then start to plan.

Re: "The recent extension to four year terms of local governments in Queensland was supported by similar arguments to those above."

Comment: To raise this as supportive argument is hypocritical. Extension to 4-year terms for local governments was not instituted by referendum, but by stealth and abuse of power. Elected representatives made this decision to appease their vested interests—the people had no say in this decision.

Re: "There are likely to be fewer elections with consequent savings for the public purse."

Comment: Far greater savings could be made by -
 (1) On the one hand, by reducing the grossly over paid salaries, expenses and superannuation benefits incurred by State politicians; and,
 (2) On the other hand, by stamping out the ludicrous practice of paying local government elected councillors a full-time salary. This Queensland practice is both unique and parochial chicanery. Anywhere else, elected representatives to local government are paid on a (capped ceiling) expenses only basis—as a voluntary community service.

Section 6.2 Arguments Against

Comment: Well said! This section receives full endorsement.

Section 7 Entrenchment

Comment: No comment submitted on Entrenchment.

Section 8 Conclusion

Comment (1): Democracy - generally given the meaning, "a system of government by the people for the people". However, several factors (including, length of parliamentary terms, party politics, and treasonable action by the legal profession) have brought about a change in public perception. Democracy, as now practiced, has changed to mean - "a system of government in which people are compulsorily required to attend a polling both for the purpose of electing an oligarchy for a defined number of years".

Increasing the parliamentary term of office further divides the people from the original meaning of Democracy, and further diminishes the people's ability to participate in government decisions. Democracy is thereby destroyed.

Comment (2): Respect - a word denoting affection, appreciation, esteem. It is widely reported that Politicians (next to Lawyers) are the least respected people in modern society. (Reasons could be provided, but are not included in this submission). If Democratic government is to survive its meaning of "by and for the people" then respect for government by the people is a prerequisite.

Increasing the parliamentary term increases the mistrust people have for politicians (and their abuse of elected power).

Comment (3): Westminster System - a term denoting a system with Law and Government as separate entities. This system has already been severely fractured by the penetration of Lawyers into the "People's" House of Democracy, known as Government. This has been surreptitiously undertaken as a blatant act of treason and treachery. Its foray is to such depth that the ignorance of the People is now played upon to such an extent as to make it appear authentic. No Democracy, No Respect, No Westminster System (and all are necessarily integral) can function until these matters are corrected.

Consequently, no parliamentary term of office should be extended until -

- Democracy entails the true meaning of People participation in ALL decisions—by the People, For the People;
- Respect for parliamentary representatives attains the most significant status level in our society;
- Law and Government operate as separate entities—providing administration of Justice by the one and administration of the "People's" house of government by the other.

AS EDITED.



Wilf Robinson,
 Hervey Bay, 1st May, 2000