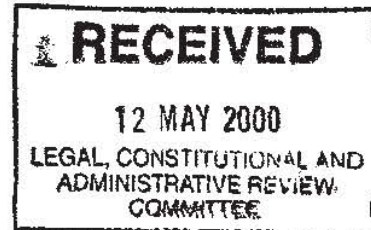


Submission No 34 1

John Walter

10 / 5 / 2000

The Research Director
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative
Review Committee
Parliament House, George Street
BRISBANE QLD. 4000



Dear Sir,

FOUR YEAR PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

On the first page of the background paper (bottom right corner) it says
"When a proposal to extend the term to four years was put to the people in 1991 it was defeated. However the case for a longer term remains valid."
This seems to be a good place to begin, as it seems to me that the democratic process is not good enough for the QCRC. They don't seem to know how to take "NO" for an answer.

They still insist that *"the case for a longer term remains valid"* **although there is absolutely no reasonable grounds to alter the present 3 year term, given that the people of Queensland have already had their say about it!** On the same grounds that a case may "remain valid", we might as well bring back the burning of witches, or throwing Christians to the lions, not to mention capital punishment, or the cat-o-nine-tails. One could say a case for any of these things is still "valid", depending upon your viewpoint.

The case against longer terms is much more valid, in my opinion!

If the political party system causes the important long-term policies to be neglected for short term political gains, then the party system is at fault, and the politicians' greed and desire to have their snout in the public trough takes precedence over their desire to serve.

The "importance" of some of these policies is only in the eye of the politicians.

The people are tired of starry eyed political zealots forcing their social philosophies down their throats, and who do little to truly represent their electorates, when the party policy takes precedent.

As most political "damage" (loss of traditional personal rights and freedoms) is done when parties impose their particular philosophy upon the people, the less time that is available for that, the better! Enough of social engineering! One of the reasons given for a 4year term is to avoid early, or "snap" elections, which is another problem with the "party system". This could possibly be overcome by having a **fixed 3year term**.

As the background paper says, Queensland is the **only state with 3year terms**, but Queensland is unique in being the **only unicameral state**. Queensland does not have the checks and balances of an "Upper House" or "Senate". **The only checks and balances come from public scrutiny and ballot**. If we are to retain some semblance of democracy in Queensland we need **no longer than 3year terms**, (preferably fixed), or Citizens Initiated Referenda, (preferably both)!

I would not like to wait longer than that to express my disapproval at what our politicians are imposing upon us from time to time.

I feel sure that the politicians, in their lust for power, would quake in their boots at the thought of CIR, but where are the checks and balances in a unicameral state?

As the committee are themselves all politicians, I feel sure that their recommendations would tend to increase the power of politicians, and decrease the democratic power of the people they are paid (extremely well) to serve.

Politicians are almost never voted in to power, they get there by the other fellow being voted out, and I would not like to have them feel too complacent, and safe in their jobs. Nobody else is, as a result of politicians doing their thing over the past 30 years.

Please excuse the brevity of this submission as I had little time to prepare it

John Walter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Walter", with a horizontal flourish underneath.