



Brisbane City

19 May 2000

Mr Gary Fenlon MLA
Chair
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Fenlon

**Re: Review Of The Queensland Constitutional Review Commission's
Recommendation for Four Year Parliamentary Term**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Queensland Constitutional Review Commission's recommendation that the maximum term of the Queensland Legislative Assembly be extended to four years with a fixed minimum period of three years.

At the time the proposed change of term from three to four year periods for Local Government was mooted, Brisbane City Council strongly supported effecting the transition.

The reasons that Council perceived the alteration as desirable would appear to replicate the reasons for such extension being granted to the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

Put simply, Council viewed the imperative for long-term strategic planning and implementation of that strategic planning as one of the paramount drivers for change.

It is a truism that time is needed to formulate, consult about, and reflect upon policies which deal with complex City - wide and local community issues. Realistically, inauguration of a Council requires a degree of induction and education to ensure that Councillors are able to contribute meaningfully to the Council debate. An obvious outcome of this learning period is an incursion into the limited time available for governance considerations. Hence, the extended period will enable Council to not only create but assess the impact of its policies, and through the medium of having sufficient time to explore implementation, better serve the people of Brisbane.

Council also recognises that stability in government assists not only the role of the government itself, but also the ratepayers as well as those users of Council's services who may be external to the City of Brisbane. Not only does government gain an advantage from a longer cycle, ratepayers and members of the wider community working with Brisbane City Council also benefit from the ability to plan and act in a known political environment.

Whilst this letter only briefly addresses the major issues which the Committee has identified, its purpose to record Council's support for the term extension.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JO' or similar initials.

John Orange
ACTING TOWN CLERK

Brisbane City Council

Submission No 56

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RECEIVED

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COMMITTEE