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LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
COMMITTEE

No 22

Brian Sheehy

The Research Director
Legal, Constitutional and Administration Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

03 April, 2003

Dear Sir/Madam,

As Research Director of the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee I have enclosed for your personal perusal a copy of my submission to the Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Participation in Queensland's Democratic Process.

Yours faithfully,



Brian Sheehy

A SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTICIPATION IN
QUEENSLAND'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

We can encompass representation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within our current Democratic system of government.

We do have Federal, State and Local authority levels of government. These provide for the election of single representation for groups of citizens divided into geographically located voting districts.

Local Government Authorities are recognised as the people friendly area of government – the introduction and learning process of the politics generally. It is the grass roots of governance and the place where we should start to give recognition and representation to our indigenous people.

Local authority areas could be established and defined as those areas where native title claims have been recognised.

Geographically this would hand representation and administrative control to duly elected councilors from the indigenous community within the local authority.

The local authority established would be subject to the controls of, and enjoy the same funding process, as any other local authority working under the relevant State Act of Parliament.

All this would probably result in the dismantling of A.S.T.I.C which would be welcomed by everyone.

It could also be suggested that any social security benefits that are currently exclusive to indigenous people would be paid only to those claimants whose residence could be proven to be within a native title area identified as a specific local authority.

A new voting system that is easily comprehended should be used for elections of all Councillors and Mayors of all local authorities.

The system known as the demerits system is foolproof, simple, quick and can not be manipulated. This example below explains how it works:

CANDIDATE	JIM	BILL	BOB	RAY	MAX
VOTER A	4	2	1	3	5
VOTER B	2	1	3	5	4
VOTER C	5	.003	2	4	1
VOTER D	3	2	1	5	4
VOTER E	1	5	2	3	4
TOTAL	15	14	9	20	19

Clearly Bob with 9 votes is the preferred candidate.

This submission details how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples could sensibly secure their right to self determination as a means of protecting the distinct culture of Indigenous peoples and still remain within our democratic process of government.