



Speech by

# Hon. Andrew Fraser

MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

Hansard Wednesday, 23 May 2007

---

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Local Government Reform

**Hon. AP FRASER** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport) (6.39 pm), by leave: Earlier in the debate much was made of the notion of the physical location of the Local Government Reform Commission and the ability to drop off a document. I would like to read from a media release issued earlier today that has attached to it a letter from the independent chair of the Local Government Reform Commission, Bob Longland. The media release is entitled *LGAQ misrepresents Local Government Reform Commission*—

The Local Government Association of Queensland has misrepresented the Local Government Reform Commission's advice regarding suggestions being hand delivered or couriered to the Commission.

The letter from Mr Bob Longland to Paul Bell from the LGAQ states—

Dear Mr Bell

I refer to a media release in your name which states 'the Commission was refusing to provide the address for courier or hand deliveries citing security concerns'.

This is incorrect and misinformation of this nature does nothing to assist people wishing to deliver courier bags or hand deliver documents. The fact the LGAQ's own submission was hand delivered to, and received by, the Commission illustrates the fallacy of your claim. The Commission's concern is statements like this simply serve to cause unnecessary confusion, where none previously existed.

The problem the member for Noosa had in delivering his submission says more about his ability than the independence of the commission. I seek leave to incorporate the media release and letter in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Local Government Reform Commission

Media Release

23 May 2007

LGAQ misrepresents Local Government Reform Commission

The Local Government Association of Queensland has misrepresented the Local Government Reform Commission's advice regarding suggestions being hand delivered or couriered to the Commission.

In an LGOOnline Article released by the LGAQ this morning, LGAQ President Paul Bell warned that the Commission was refusing to provide an address for couriers or hand deliveries, citing security concerns.

Mr Bell went on to say "This had effectively shortened submission times even further for anyone without access to email."

Local Government Reform Commission Chair, Bob Longland said, "The LGAQ are demonstrating a degree of duplicity—as they themselves hand delivered their suggestion to the Commission on Wednesday 9 May."

"The LGAQ acknowledged this publicly on Wednesday 9 May—Circular#: 2007—131 titled LGAQ delivered its submission to the Local Government Reform Commission today."

Mr Longland explained, "As with most city buildings now, security is a major concern—and any deliveries—whether they are hand delivered or couriered need to be pre-arranged with the Commission."

"Due to security regulations in the building, deliveries that are being hand delivered or couriered must be personally received by a Commission staff member.

"Otherwise, packages are sent to a scanning facility, and this can delay the Commission receiving the document by up to two days.

"When the person sending the document cannot provide specifics regarding the courier and time of delivery, the Commission suggests express post as an alternative—this generally results in the Commission receiving the document more quickly than if the document goes to the scanning facility.

"Since the Commission was established—suggestions from the community, local government and other organisations—have been encouraged and welcomed.

"Suggestions can be either posted or emailed, and if suggestions are particularly large they can be hand delivered or couriered to the Commission—as the LGAQ themselves have done.

"A number of organisations and councils have hand delivered documents to the Commission by pre-arranging a delivery time with Commission staff," Mr Longland said.

Queenslanders are urged to provide their suggestions on the formation of the State's new local government areas to the Local Government Reform Commission by 5pm this Friday.

Mr Longland said when providing suggestions, it is important people consider the Commission's objectives and Terms of Reference so their suggestions are relevant to the Commission's task which is to recommend ways to improve the current local government structure.

To date the Commission has received 5636 suggestions.

Suggestions should be sent to:

Postal: Local Government Reform Commission  
PO Box 16325,  
City East, Queensland, 4002

Email: [LGRC@qld.gov.au](mailto:LGRC@qld.gov.au)

To arrange a suggestion to be hand delivered or couriered to the Commission please contact 07 3224 8969.

Suggestions close 5pm, 25 May 2007.

---

Local Government Reform Commission

23 May 2007

Cr Paul Bell  
President  
Local Government Association of Queensland  
PO Box 2230  
FORTITUDE VALLEY BC QLD 4006

Dear Mr Bell

I refer to a media release in your name which states "the Commission was refusing to provide the address for courier or hand deliveries citing security concerns".

This is incorrect and misinformation of this nature does nothing to assist people wishing to deliver courier bags or hand deliver documents. The fact the LGAQ's own submission was hand delivered to, and received by, the Commission illustrates the fallacy of your claim. The Commission's concern is statements like this simply serve to cause unnecessary confusion, where none previously existed.

The facts are these, when Councils or individuals enquire as to how to get courier bags or hand deliveries to the Commission, they are asked the time the delivery is to be made and by which courier.

The reason for requiring this information is because courier bags or hand delivered documents that are not personally received by Commission staff are sent to a security centre for scanning before being returned to the Commission. This delays the Commission receiving this material for up to 2 days. A number of rural Councils have indicated they are not able to provide specifics around the courier and time of delivery. In these circumstances the Commission's advice is to Express Post them to the post office box so as to avoid the 2 day delay that comes with documents being sent off site for electronic scanning.

It would be appreciated if you check the facts regarding Commission procedures before putting out a media release which is conveying a false and misleading impression.

Yours sincerely

Bob Longland  
Chair