



Speech by

**Hon. Andrew Fraser**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA**

Hansard Thursday, 9 August 2007

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## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IMPLEMENTATION BILL**

**Hon. AP FRASER** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport) (11.42 am): I seek leave to table amendments to be moved during the consideration in detail stage of the Local Government Reform Implementation Bill currently before the House.

Leave granted.

*Tabled paper:* Amendments to the Local Government Reform Implementation Bill 2007 to be moved during consideration in detail and explanatory notes.

I circulate for the benefit of all members amendments that I will move during the consideration in detail stage of the Local Government Reform Implementation Bill during today's debate. The amendments provide for a number of clarifications and I draw the attention of the House specifically to the amendments proposed which will provide for councils that take action to conduct a poll or referendum about local government reform to be dismissed. These amendments confirm the ability of the minister of the day, through this parliament, to dissolve a council that acts against the Local Government Act. We have a clearly expressed view that the conduct of referenda is a waste of public money. They have no bearing on the outcome of the independent boundaries commission determination. There are no referenda at a state and federal level. This confirms that there will be no referenda at a local government level. Democracy requires independent boundary determination, not unconstitutional chicanery from a desperate Prime Minister. I commend the amendments to the House.