

**Question on Notice
No. 1007
Asked on Tuesday 7 August 2007**

MR RICKUSS asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport (MR FRASER) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the proposed amalgamation of Townsville City Council and Thuringowa City Council which will see 22 local representatives reduced to 12 in a new, undivided council and given the current Thuringowa City Council Local Government area has a large rural hinterland, including the localities of Mutarnee, Paluma, Rollingstone, Balgal Beach, Mystic Sands, Toomulla Beach, Bluewater, Toolakea Beach, Purono Park, Yabulu, Saunders Beach and Black River, represented by 3 Division 1 Councillors on that Council—

How will these communities be able to secure effective representation on a combined Townsville/Thuringowa Council, which will be dominated by the population located in the combined urban areas of these cities without divisions?

ANSWER:

The Townsville and Thuringowa City Councils were supportive of the new council being elected at large.

I am sure strong representation will be provided to each and every resident of the strengthened Townsville City Council.