

Question on Notice
No. 1011
Asked on Tuesday 7 August 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to his ministerial statement on 22 May 2007, when he acknowledged, 'there are currently more than 1200 local government councillors across the State, clearly this number is unsustainable'—

Will he outline (a) the total increase/decrease in the number of councillors, including the mayor for each local government election since the election of the Beattie Labor Government in 1998, reported separately, (b) the total increase/decrease in the number of women councillors and Indigenous councillors since the election of the Beattie Labor Government in 1998, reported separately and (c) how many councillors he believes is a sustainable number for a population the size of Queensland?

ANSWER:

(a) In 1998 there were 1174 councillors (excluding Aboriginal and Island (DOGIT) councils).

In 2007 there are 1125 councillors (excluding Aboriginal and Island (DOGIT) councils).

The decrease in councillors was due to determinations made by the Electoral Commissioner after electoral reviews conducted at the request of some councils prior to the 2000 and 2004 elections.

(b) In 2000 there were 328 (source Local Government Association of Queensland) women councillors elected (excluding Aboriginal and Island (DOGIT) councils). Data prior to 2000 is unavailable.

In 2004 there were 303 (source LGAQ) women councillors elected (excluding Aboriginal and Island (DOGIT) councils).

In 1998 there were 165 councillors elected to Indigenous councils (Aboriginal and Island (DOGIT) councils plus Aurukun and Mornington Island Shire Councils).

In 2007 there are 172 councillors elected to Indigenous councils.

The change in the number of Indigenous councillors was a result of the introduction of clan based elections for the Saibai Island Council (plus 4), the creation of the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council (plus 5) and a reduction in the number of councillors for the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council (minus 2).

(c) The Local Government Reform Commission recommended that at this time, the total number of local government councillors in Queensland should be 536 (plus Brisbane City Council). The Government has accepted this recommendation.