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Submission to Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

By Denise Quintal

*Inquiry into Norfolk Island Electoral
Matters.*

March 22, 2001

BACKGROUND

I believe that what the Federal Government is trying to do is not a 'new thing' - it was the intention of the law when the N.I. Act was being considered and became the law when the N.I. Act was passed by Australian Parliament.

Citizenship was originally stated and became the law until 1985 when the '*Commonwealth*' at the request of Norfolk Island amended it in 1985.

Australian citizenship was provided for in clause 38 (a) of the N.I. Act 1979 '*in 1979*' and remained until 1985 when by instrument #65 of 1985 (Commonwealth) it was repealed.

CHANGE WITH or WITHOUT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION?

When you look at the latest version of the N.I. Act

Section: 38 **Qualifications for Election** it starts with (b)

After reviewing the previous N.I. Act it stated:

- (a) He is an Australian citizen or otherwise has the status of a British subject;

I really don't see the issue because it was originally there and was taken out.

I would say that if it was originally there and there was '*never an issue*' or '*proof of an issue*' then it should be replaced.

If anything I would like to see the replacement state -

(a) They be an Australian citizen

The change from 'he' to 'they' would be based on gender

NEW ZEALAND ELECTORAL POLICY

New Zealand citizenship is a prerequisite for election in New Zealand and logically if a New Zealander comes to a Territory of Australia they would acknowledge that they would follow the guidelines set down for that Territory by the Laws governing that Territory. And likewise for an Australian living in a Territory of New Zealand as confirmed above.

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The overall population on our 'State of the Nation' Friday morning radio broadcast by our Chief Minister states that the averaging population is moving towards 3000 on any given day.

We produce approximately 1 kg of waste per person per day

Today and tomorrow we have consumed approximately 6000kg of waste just sitting here discussing the 'Gaza Strip'

Considering that 'our planet' is working on a limited amount of natural resources - for *future generations*, it maybe a better approach to consider 'consolidation' in all areas and 'retain' the *status quo* and use our 'combined' energy levels to achieve a *global vision*.

To try and evolve into a mutually caring and thoughtful society built on a vision of sustainability - incorporating an element of respect for one another.

It maybe time to take responsibility for all of our actions and start aiming for a 'better' solution.