

**THE WESTERN QUEENSLAND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

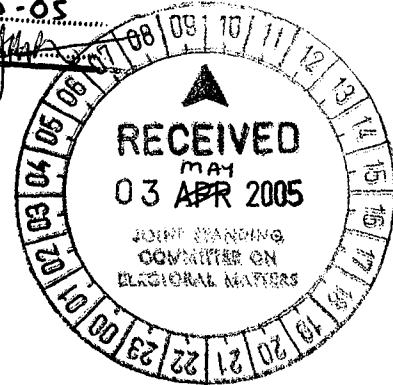
Incorporating the Shire Councils of Aramac, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Belyando, Blackall,  
Boulia, Diamantina, Emerald, Flinders, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Jericho, Longreach,  
McKinlay, Tambo and Winton.

Tel 0746546133  
Fax 0746546215  
Email [ceo@tambo.qld.gov.au](mailto:ceo@tambo.qld.gov.au)

PO Box 136  
TAMBO 4478

President: Cr Dougal Davidson  
Secretary: Mr Kenneth Timms

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral  
Submission No. 150  
Date Received 3-5-05  
Secretary



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Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Department of House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**PREPOLL OR ABSENTEE VOTING**

At the Executive Meeting of the Western Queensland Local Government Association incorporating sixteen Western Queensland Shire Councils the issue of voters being unable to cast their votes via absentee voting at polling booths within the Western Region was discussed.

It was resolved after extensive discussion regarding this problem that the Association contacts the Australian Electoral Commission highlighting the difficulties faced by the Returning Officers during the Federal Election with a view to introducing the option of "prepoll or absentee voting."

It appears ludicrous that voters wishing to cast their votes are turned away from the polling booths and directed to a centre several driving hours away to vote. Many prospective voters who are unable to reach the alternative booths leave their contact details with the Returning Officers for verification that they have attempted to vote and hence not attract a fine.

The Association wishes to lobby for the introduction of prepoll or absentee voting system to be made available in voting centres in the Western Queensland Local Government Association's region.

Your consideration of the above proposed options is requested.

Yours faithfully

  
CK Purdie  
Secretary