

I would like to express my support for this Inquiry, which I know was initiated in response to the penalty clauses in the Local Government Reform legislation recently passed by the Queensland State Government.

We have all learned from the QLD Local Government Reform process the dangers associated with any level of government having an unassailable majority with no effective opposition or any checks and balances. I suggest that, had the Federal Government not stepped into this process, the people of Queensland would have been forced to accept the draconian, unconstitutional legislation forced upon it by the Beattie Government. We would also have been forced to accept that we have no say in our own futures and that, in fact, trying to have a say was in effect a statutory offence.

The Queensland State Government has now stated that it will not act on its legislation's penal clauses. However, they are still enshrined within this legislation. I would encourage this Inquiry to examine whether the entire QLD Local Government Reform Act should be repealed due to its disregard for Australia's democratic principles. If the State Government then wishes to re-introduce the legislation, they should do so with a proper consultative process.

In the meantime, I am very supportive of the plan to allow voluntary Local Government referendums on Council Amalgamations. Particularly if they are held in conjunction with the Council elections, as this will minimise the cost to the community and to the Government.

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Regards
Alex Tymson