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**From:** Trish Radge

**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 August 2007 8:20 AM

**To:** Committee, FPA (SEN)

**Subject:** Inquiry into the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

We strongly object to a state government (particularly the Queensland government) having the power to sack or fine local councillors for holding a referendum.

The forced amalgamations of Queensland local councils by the Beattie government is wrong. The Beattie government is using bullying tactics to stop communities voting on an issue that effects every part of their life - their homes, their rates, their local environment and their local population. As a democratic society we have a right to vote for whoever we want, to protest against things we disagree with and to speak out without fear of reprisal. This right has been taken away from us when we are not allowed to vote in a referendum and indeed that the councillors who represent us are threatened with sacking and fines.

We strongly support federal legislation which will override the state governments removal of our democratic rights.

Yours sincerely,

Trish and Nick Radge

Trish Radge