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Finance and Public Administration Committee  
Department of the Senate  
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23 August 2007

**Re submission to the Senate Committee inquiry  
Inquiry into Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites)  
Bill 2007**

Dear Sir/Madam

I am President of the Tewantin Community Association (TCA) and would like this submission included in the Senate enquiry re above.

The TCA is a registered community organisation which represents the business and resident community of Tewantin Noosa Shire Queensland.

We are democratically run organisation with a committee and paid membership.

On behalf of our Association I want to sincerely thank the Federal Government for overruling the draconian and dictatorial legislation passed by the Queensland Parliament which prevents myself and members of this community in being allowed a say in the future of this community by way of a referendum.

Further you have overruled the legislation which not only prevented our democratically elected councillors from participating in discussion on such a referendum, but which also threatened them with dismissal and fines for even expressing a view on the issue.

This legislation introduced by the government under the leadership of Premier Peter Beattie was direct attack on the democratic rights of the elected representatives of the people in Noosa and their community.

It violates the rights of Australians to freedom of speech and as such threatened the very democracy under which we chose to live.

In my view this action by the Qld Government is totally unacceptable unaustralian and undemocratic must be overruled in such a way the no other State govt in Australia can ever consider or contemplate doing anything similar to its people now or ever again.

It is completely appropriate for the Federal Government to become directly involved in this terrible situation and defend the rights of citizens to express

their view on forced amalgamation without fear or favour by way of a referendum.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your action on this matter and wish to support your legislation in the strongest possible way.

Yours faithfully

Rick Cooper  
President Tewanin Community Association  
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