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From: Frank & Palmira

Sent: Friday, 24 August 2007 9:38 AM

To: Committee, FPA (SEN)

Subject: Submission to enquiry

Dear Sir/Madam

I fully support the Federal Government's Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007 permitting the Australian Electoral Commission to conduct referenda at the request of Local Governments.

This will allow the residents of Queensland shires affected by the Beattie Government's forced amalgamations of councils an opportunity to express their views about this highly-dictatorial and unpopular move.

In a protest organised by the Noosa community, some 10,000 residents from across the state marched on Queensland Parliament earlier this month to voice their anger at the forced merger. Noosa residents will not accept the forced merger of their shire with the high growth areas of neighbouring shires Maroochy and Caloundra and have vowed to punish the Federal ALP candidates in key marginal seats if Noosa is not exised from the amalgamation process.

I suggest the referendum offered to Local Government Areas pose the simple question of whether the residents of that specific shire wish their LGA to become amalgamated with other shires.

For example, Noosa's referendum ballot paper may read, "Do you wish Noosa to be amalgamated with Maroochy and Caloundra as proposed by the Local Government Reform Commission?"

I support and applaud the proposed Bill as a means by which democratic processes may be restored to Queensland.

Yours Sincerely

Frank Wilkie