

Date: 24 August 2007

From: Chris Trevor – Federal Labor Candidate for Flynn

To: Committee Secretary, Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

Re: Senate Inquiry into the *Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007*.

1. I would like to firstly place on record my support for the *Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007*. I am of the opinion that the community should always have their voice heard on matters that will have a significant bearing on local communities. I believe that Forced Council Amalgamations will have an adverse effect on many communities in Flynn.
2. I advise the Committee that I am against forced council amalgamations. This has been both in my capacity as the Federal Candidate for Flynn and also as a proud Queenslander who values the importance of local government.
3. I commend the position that Federal Labor Leader Kevin Rudd has taken on this issue. Kevin Rudd, from the outset, made clear that a local choice and a local voice were vital for effective community representation. I am a person who values the input of the community and don't believe that they should ever be steamrolled over.

4. John Howard should be acknowledged for finally accepting the position that Kevin Rudd and I adopted as far back as May this year. Although his response in addressing this issue comes only weeks before an election, I do however acknowledge that it was the right decision for the Government to make.

5. In concluding, I support the *Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007* as it is the only sure way to guarantee that the voice of Flynn residents will be heard loud and clear.