

*Tabled by Dept of Finance and Administration
Cairns 3/9* 009



Hon Andrew Fraser MP
Member for Mount Coot-tha

29134



**Queensland
Government**

24 AUG 2007



Minister for Local Government, Planning
and Sport

Hon Gary Nairn MP
Special Minister of State
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I refer to the call for public submissions by the Finance and Public Administration Committee of the Senate for its inquiry into the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007 as introduced by you.

The inquiry and the bill it purports to inquire upon are political stunts, and will not occupy the time and resources of the Queensland taxpayer.

You will be aware that the Queensland Government has publicly stated that the provisions prohibiting the conduct of polls by local governments will not be utilised and has indeed introduced legislation into the Parliament of Queensland to repeal the relevant sections of the Local Government Act 1993 (Qld), as amended.

I enclose a copy of that Bill for your benefit.

Given this position, there is absolutely no public benefit in the course of inquiry being undertaken by the committee. It represents an abuse of the majority the Howard Government holds in the Senate - when countless worthy proposals for Senate inquiries have been routinely cast aside by the government's numbers.

This inquiry is exposed for what it, in reality, always was: a sham, taxpayer-funded touring circus for Howard Government mouthpieces to peddle unconstitutional false hope.

Port Douglas and Noosa are, granted, nice places to visit; especially when compared to Canberra's wintry August. But the inquiry, like the bill itself, is just a cruel hoax.

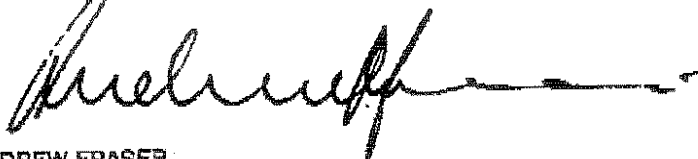
If this wasn't an attempt to divert attention from federal issues such as interest rate rises and Workchoices, the bill would provide that any taxpayer funded polls would not be conducted on federal election day. Of course, it doesn't. Therein lies the truth.

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This intervention - through which no offer is being made to actually change one boundary - is not about the votes of any shire in Queensland it is about the votes being sought by the Howard Government. It is a shameful abuse of taxpayer funds.

I call upon you to stop the further waste of taxpayer funds immediately.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Fraser', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANDREW FRASER