

Committee Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Re : Forced Local Council Amalgamations - Queensland

Senators

I am shocked by the Local Government legislation recently passed by the Queensland Parliament. The extreme disregard for common democracy has been outrageous and to then to deny, by stealth, the possibility of a referenda to hear the voice of the electorate is dictatorship.

The current Queensland Government ignored some 18,000 Noosa votes against amalgamation at the time of the last Federal Election, and also against amalgamation approx 34,000 submissions sent by Noosa residents during the Local Government Committee review process.

These Council amalgamations were decided on unsupported assertions and reject the majority will of the communities involved. This is bad enough but the last minute authoritarian amendments threatening councillors with fines or instant dismissal for supporting ballots on the amalgamations strike at fundamental principles.

Senators, I implore you to restore democracy to Queensland Local Government and support local council referenda on this issue. Failure to do so will cause public disquiet and unrest. This would not be the Australian way but without choices (read democracy) "the streets are the only choice"

Yours Faithfully

E R Realf