

**From:** Coolum Residents Assoc  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 August 2007 12:28 PM  
**To:** Committee, FPA (SEN)  
**Subject:**

Committee Secretary, Finance and Public Administration Committee, Department of The Senate

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Public submissions have been invited regarding the current "Inquiry into Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007".

Coolum Residents Association Inc. (CRA) is a community group representing some 12,000 local residents of the Coolum area adjacent to Noosa Shire on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland whose charter is as follows:

- CRA represents the views and opinions of a complete cross section of the Coolum community.
  - It is a body charged with the task of maintaining and protecting the quality of life preferred by the majority of Coolum residents. We are the sounding board for those residents and will assist them in any matter that benefits Coolum's small town lifestyle as agreed in the area vision statement outlined by Maroochy Shire Council in its current Town Plan 2000.
  - The CRA achieves this by keeping a watching brief over councils, developers and other authorities and groups that could affect the goal of achieving the majority 'vision' for Coolum.
  - The Association believes in sustainable development as a key aspect of the community's vision for the town and its surroundings.
  - The CRA also works with other community groups where their decisions could enhance or impinge on the Coolum lifestyle.
  - The Association is a non-profit, non-partisan volunteer organisation. We do not take sides in any matter of religion or party politics.
1. **The Coolum Residents Association Inc. strongly supports introduction of an amendment to the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (the Act) to permit local authorities such as councils, and/or community organisations to be allowed to conduct a referendum or a plebiscite on matters affecting their broad community interest.**
  2. **CRA also supports an amendment to the Act preventing State or other governmental authorities from instituting fines, threats of dismissal or other forms of intimidation associated with this exercise of fundamental democratic rights.**

Yours sincerely,

Peter Brown, Secretary

**Coolum Residents Association Inc. PO Box 121 Coolum Beach Q 4573**

2007-08-23