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**From:** Cherie Rivas

**Sent:** Thursday, 23 August 2007 2:20 PM

**To:** Committee, FPA (SEN)

**Subject:** Boulia Shire Submission to Senate Enquiry

Dear Senate Enquiry Committee,

On behalf of the Council of the Boulia Shire, I wish to make a submission towards the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007.

Although the Boulia Shire Council is not being amalgamated with any other Local Authority, we support in principle any effort by Council's which are being forced to amalgamate, to prevent that from taking place.

The Boulia Shire Council believes that it is the democratic right of every Australian to take part on a referendum or plebiscite, particularly if the issue relates to anything which may affect their way of life.

The forced amalgamations of Local Government's in Queensland will impact negatively on many small rural communities.

As can be evidenced in the attached document regarding the Boulia Shire Council, small communities and Council's are entitled to, and capable of self determination.

Considering our support of other regional and remote Council's who continue the fight against forced amalgamations, we also support their right to conduct plebiscites on behalf of their communities, without fear or threat from any other level of Government.

For that reason we support any effort by the Commonwealth Government to protect the democratic right of every Australian, and to enact the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007.

Should you have any further queries regarding Councils' stance upon this issue, please contact me.

Kind regards -

**Cherie Rivas**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Boulia Shire Council