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**From:** TC Overson

**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2007 6:36 PM

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

**Subject:** Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007 - Submission

## **Senate Submission regarding- Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007**

**By – TC Overson**

**This amendment that the Australian Government has offered will give the people of Queensland their first chance to be heard on the issue of how they want their local areas governed, what they want from their representatives and how they treasure their sense of community and local character.**

**It may also pave the way to alerting the Federal Government and the public to the undemocratic methods the Queensland State Government has used to achieve their goals.**

**I believe that the activities, bills passed and laws amended by the Queensland State Government in the last couple of years, particularly those relating to the local government amalgamations, need to be observed closely.**

**When an elected government makes blatantly unjust changes to the law or to its people's rights and lifestyles then the people must have the scope to challenge and correct such wrongs. This government, in months prior to the release of the Local Government Reform Commission's report, passed an amendment in the Local Government And Other Legislation Amendment Act that made it illegal to challenge, appeal against or review the Commission's recommendations.**

**The amendment and future plebiscites you offer are vital and I hope they are just the first of many checks that will help limit the potential abuse of power in all levels of Government.**

**The Beattie Government has proved that they are undemocratic, untrustworthy and un-Australian. Help us show the Premier and his parliament that this is never to be accepted.**

**TC Overson**