



**Queensland
Government**

Premier of Queensland
and Minister for Trade

Please quote: 40542/MK15/CALS/SAB

31 OCT 2003

Senator the Honourable Nick Bolkus
Chair
Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600




Dear Senator Bolkus

Thank you for your letter of 7 October 2003 requesting input into your Committee's inquiry into the *State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill 2001*.

In Queensland, the last electoral distribution occurred in 1999. There are now 89 electoral districts with an average enrolment of 26,723. Enrolment figures at 30 September 2003 show that less than five per cent of these districts have a higher than 15 per cent variation from the average enrolment.

In Queensland a redistribution can occur:

- when the number of electoral districts in Queensland changes;
- when the number of enrolled electors, for more than one third of the 89 electoral districts, is over or under the average number of enrolled electors for an electoral district by more than 10 per cent, and has been so for two consecutive months;
- one year after the third general election which was held after the last electoral redistribution, or
- seven and a half years after the last electoral redistribution was finalised.

The Queensland Government considers that the current system of electoral distribution in Queensland works well and accords closely with the principle of equal suffrage.

I trust this information assists the Committee in compiling its report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P Beattie', written in black ink.

**PETER BEATTIE MP
PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE**