

12 MAR 2009

LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
TEE



The Presbyterian Church of Queensland

ABN 43 015 755 489

35 Amelia Street
FORTITUDE VALLEY Q 4006

PO Box 1508
FORTITUDE VALLEY Q 4006
Fax: (07) 3852 1564
Phone: (07) 3252 1114

12 March 2009

Mrs Dianne Reilly MP
Chair, Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Mrs Reilly

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the preamble for the Queensland Constitution. Following a perusal of the discussion paper and the other documents referred to therein, the Presbyterian Church of Queensland does not believe that the case for the insertion of a preamble has been convincingly made. In the absence of such a case, the Church is opposed to the insertion of a preamble to the *Constitution of Queensland*.

If, however, a preamble is to be added, the following points should be noted.

- a. First, a preamble should not be included unless first approved by the people of Queensland in a referendum.
- b. Second, the Church would favour a preamble, which, following the language of the preamble to the *Australian Constitution*, acknowledges our reliance upon the blessings of Almighty God.
- c. Third, the terms of any such preamble should be very carefully drafted and strictly limited to an acknowledgement of the principle that the people of Queensland wish to continue to live as free and equal citizens under the rule of law and to be governed in accordance with the democratic processes contained in the Constitution. We would not support a preamble which went further than this.
- d. Fourth, there must be a clear statement in the preamble, that any such preamble not be used as an aid in the interpretation of the Constitution.

Yours sincerely

(Rt Rev) John Gilmour
Moderator, PCQ

(Rev) Ron Clark
Clerk of Assembly, PCQ